



THE MISSOURI SHERIFF



LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON

Sheriffs of Howard, Franklin and Barton counties followed paternal pattern of serving others

SAVING LIVES

Hero program seeks to reduce overdose deaths

TRAINING IS EVERYTHING

MSA expands education opportunities to deputies

OPPOSING SIDES

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

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TAKING A STAND



**We will protect
your families from
bureaucrats who
are failing us.**

As Missourians we will soon celebrate 200 years of statehood. And as we prepare for our bicentennial, we have the opportunity to celebrate the role of the elected sheriff throughout our long history. Since our founding, every sheriff has been proud to be the chief elected law enforcement officer, responsible for the protection and safety of our law-abiding citizens and their families. As the central cog in Missouri's criminal justice system, the sheriff and their deputies are responsible for the operation of the jail, providing court security, processing all court documents, and transportation and housing of state prisoners. These are the hidden responsibilities that separate the sheriff from other law enforcement agencies.

While many would think the sheriff would be respected for taking on all of these tasks, as required by state law, many bureaucrats in Jefferson City do not respect this role and have sought to minimize local control of public safety. The best evidence has been the lack of funding available to county taxpayers while state agencies have seen dramatic increases in funding. For example, in 1997, the state reimbursed local taxpayers \$26 million for housing inmates. Over time this has increased to \$34 million in 2019, an \$8 million dollar increase in 22 years.

During this same time frame, the Department of Corrections and Public Safety budgets have increased \$1 billion dollars! An \$8 million increase compared to a \$1 billion increase clearly shows bureaucrats have been able to convince our state representatives that the money is better spent on Jefferson City initiatives rather than continuing a strong public safety partnership between state and local agencies.

I am not convinced our taxpayer dollars are better spent in this way. For example, DOC now releases most inmates after they have served only one tenth of their original sentence. It seems their first priority is to

calculate how soon they can release an inmate, rather than account for the public safety factor in our local communities. DOC does not even attempt to contact either local prosecutors or local law enforcement to help determine if an inmate should be released early. With an \$800 million budget I think they should be doing better.

Further, the Missouri Supreme Court has now decided that the criminal court system does not have the authority to collect jail board bills from criminal defendants. Instead, the collection must occur in civil court, and must be done by the sheriff. While no sheriff believes in debtor's prison, once a person commits a crime, they have to repay their debt to society, and this includes the cost of incarceration. Now, the taxpayer not only pays for the defendant to be brought before the criminal court, they must now pay for the cost of civil court as well.

Because of these drastic decisions, it is critical that Missouri citizens let their state representatives and senators know that they support the rule of law. Sheriffs across the state have formed a new organization, Missouri Sheriffs United, to help fight Jefferson City bureaucrats who continue to erode the rule of law and take away local control of our own public safety.

As your sheriff, we will continue to do everything in our power to not only protect your families from the dangers we face, and when necessary, we will protect your families from bureaucrats who are failing us in Jefferson City.

David Parrish

**Lewis County Sheriff and
MSA President**

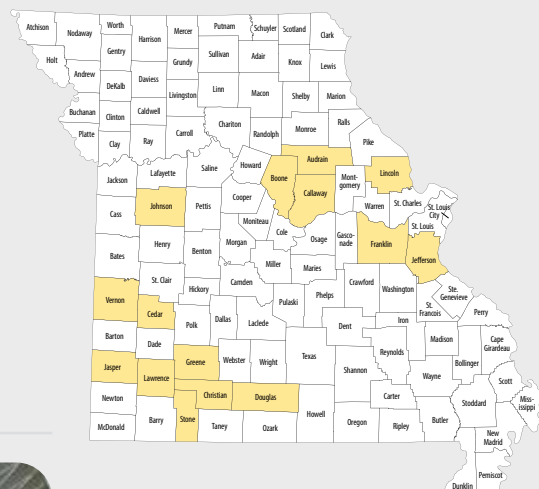
Around the State

A NATURAL TRANSITION

Deputies from the Christian County Sheriff's Office recently attend a Career Fair held on the grounds at Fort Leonard Wood to share how the Career Skills Program can help them transition back into the civilian workforce.

Deputy Thomas Buchness, one of the deputies who worked the booth, discussed how he was able to intern with the sheriff's office through the program the last 11 weeks of his military career. At the end of that internship, he was offered a job and accepted it. He's been with the sheriff's office since June 2019.

Sheriff Brad Cole said he is always seeking exceptional employees who are looking for a new path to serve their community as they re-enter civilian life.



Battle of the Bags



The Douglas County Sheriff's Office held its 10th Annual Coats for Kids Fundraiser in September. In recent years, they've raised enough money to distribute more than 150 coats and hoodies to kids in their community who need them.

Sheriff Chris Degase wanted to try something new this year so instead of the softball tournaments that were held in the beginning, or the 5k Walk/Runs held in recent years, he proposed a Cornhole Tournament. It was a huge hit with more than 40 teams from local churches, the police department, assisted living communities and area schools participating.

Randy Lawrence from Custom Cornhole Boards of Ava made and donated boards to use as prizes. However, winners Dusty Plumb and Bill Long continued the giving by donating the boards back to be used as prizes in a raffle, with proceeds going to the Shop with a Cop program in December. Sheriff Degase said because of the response to the Cornhole tournament, he plans to schedule another in November to raise money for the Shop with a Cop program. Those interested in participating should call 417-683-1020 for more information.

Can You Hear Me Now?

Deputies with the Greene County Sheriff's Office recently attended training in Oklahoma for the Central States Communications Vehicle Exercise. The GCSO's Mobile Command Unit (MCU) was one of many communications vehicles and aircrafts brought to the exercise by the more than 30 jurisdictions that participated.

The MCU is a purpose-built vehicle, acquired from the Missouri Department of Public Safety under a grant. The equipment on board is funded almost entirely with grants that are awarded annually through the Department of Homeland Security.

The MCU provides numerous field communications capabilities, including on-site patching of up to three radio channels. The MCU contains a multi-line phone system supported by a dual-carrier cellular modem that provides secure wide-area WiFi wherever it is deployed. It also has on-board satellite communication capabilities and a video system with a high-powered zoom camera mounted on a 58-foot mast.

The MCU can provide support for small and medium scale incident command without requiring refuel or resupply for at least 24 hours. It is capable of providing limited support for large scale incidents and was put to use following the tornado that hit Joplin in 2011.





DEPUTY RECOVERING

Deputy Justin Henry, a seven-year veteran of the Jasper County Sheriff's Office, was shot and injured in the line of duty on Sept. 12.

While Henry was approaching an unoccupied stolen vehicle at a residence east of Joplin, a subject stepped out of a garage and began shooting at the deputy. Henry was struck in the lower leg. He and another deputy returned fire. The subject was later located in the garage with an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound.

Just two weeks after the shooting doctors released Henry to light duty and he is expected to make a full recovery.

GAME CHANGER

The Jefferson County Sheriff's Office has been upgrading technology thanks to passage of Proposition P last April. While the department had already committed to technology enhancements, the funding increase propelled many of the projects to be completed sooner than expected, according to Sheriff Dave Marshak.

Every sheriff's office vehicle is now equipped with a new GPS-enabled in-car Panasonic computer.

"We contracted with Turn-Key Mobile and Panasonic for all of our in-car systems and are very happy with our decision. This is a game changer for our deputies now that they have the tools they need at their fingertips," the sheriff said, adding that once a deputy is signed in at the beginning of the shift the options are endless. Each computer has numerous software applications like POWERDMS, a document management system that tracks all the officer's internal training, policy reviews, tests, and provides access to the department's



1,100 + pages of policies and procedures.

"In addition to our CARE report system and Records Management System, all the officers have access to Microsoft Office suite, LEWEB, REJIS, DOR, CJIS, MULES, and the internet if they need additional search options. Essentially, if there is a software program or tool we can give the officers, they have it. Phase II next

month will include the installation of the GPS mapping component so Jefferson County 911 will dispatch the closest car, have knowledge of resources, and give the supervisors insight into how their resources are deployed," he said.

In the spring of 2020, Phase III will be completed. Sheriff Marshak said Jefferson County has contracted with LOGYSIS for a new Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system. In addition to having real-time intelligence, the system extracts data from the CARE and Records Management System so deputies have information related to their calls or investigations.

"The system will auto populate pre-loaded intelligence like which officers are CIT trained so they can be dispatched to a mental health crisis instead of a regular deputy. In addition to the many features you would expect, crime mapping and intelligence will be at the next level. We continue to invest in our organization and are excited about where we are heading."

Celebrating Leadership

Lawrence County Sheriff Brad DeLay was recently presented with the Better Business Bureau's (BBB) Trust Award for the Springfield/Southwest Missouri area, which encompasses 26 counties. The Trust Award honors a business or nonprofit leader whose honesty, integrity, transparency and impact make the area a better place to live and do business. The BBB presents the award each year to celebrate leaders in the community who are positively impacting trust.

It was presented to Sheriff DeLay by Stephanie Garland, director of the BBB, and David Oliver, anchor of KOLR 10 News in Springfield. Photo by Stephanie Michelle Photography.



KID COUNTRY

The Vernon County Sheriff's Office is fully invested in its youth. Deputy and K9 Officer Justin Ehrsam, Deputy Lisa Tiber, Deputy Zesar Huerta and Sgt. Dan Miller have spent many hours visiting classrooms, teaching DARE and working special events to build relationships, mentor and teach the youth how to be good citizens.



Limitless Radio

The Audrain County Sheriff's Office recently added "Tango-Tango" to its smartphones.

According to Sheriff Matt Oller, the app allows their smartphones to integrate with their two-way radio network through equipment hooked to a "donor radio" that's on their system. This allows their smartphones to double as two-way radios.

"We found that command staff and detectives don't typically carry radios during their normal daily routine. However, we also know that on more than one occasion command staff have been out of the area in meetings or training or detectives have been on investigations and have needed to monitor or communicate with deputies in the field or with our dispatch center but weren't able, either due to not having a portable or being out of range. This app allows them to use their cell phones as a portable when needed and also allows us to access our two-way radio system anywhere in the U.S. that has cellular phone service. So far, the system has proven itself useful and we believe it will enhance officer safety," he said.



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

Fuzzy Feeling

In November the Greene County Sheriff's Office will hold its second annual No Shave November. Last year Sheriff Jim Arnott was just one of many who sported a new look. Each employee wishing to participate this year will have to donate \$1 for each day they do not shave. The donations from this event will be used to purchase Christmas gifts for the children at the Harmony House, which provides emergency housing to families escaping domestic violence. The sheriff's office also selects two families in their community and delivers Christmas gifts to their children.





MADD RECOGNITION

Boone County Deputy Steven Verble (right) was presented with an award by MADD at the 2019 Heroes for Heroes law enforcement recognition event for his dedication to impaired driving enforcement. Heroes for Heroes is a program sponsored by the Central Missouri Mothers Against Drunk Driving Chapter. He wasn't the only deputy recognized that night. Awards also went to Sgt. Donald Dame – Callaway County Sheriff's Office, Deputy Dave Barrett - Cole County Sheriff's Office, Deputy Weston Browner – Miller County Sheriff's Office, as well as several troopers with the Missouri State Highway Patrol and officers with municipalities and universities in mid-Missouri. MADD works with victims and their families to navigate the court system and deal with grief and loss. The organization also monitors courtrooms and annually reports on how individual courts and prosecutors are dealing with under-the-influence cases.

MEDAL OF VALOR

Sgt. Shawn Fields with the Stone County Sheriff's Office received the Governors Medal of Valor for his response during the Branson Duck Boat incident in July, 2018. Fields was off-duty and working security at the Showboat Branson Belle when a severe storm with near-hurricane force winds quickly developed. Observing that a tourist duck boat was in trouble as it attempted to return to shore, Fields ran down a set of stairs and across the deck to the back of the showboat, positioning himself beside the paddle wheel. He notified dispatch that the duck boat was sinking and that he was going into the water in a rescue attempt. Fields removed his duty gear, stripped down to his pants, grabbed a life jacket and, without concern for his own safety, dove into the turbulent water, helping pull multiple people to safety. Unfortunately, he also removed several of the 17 victims who did not survive the tragedy. Missouri Public Safety Director Sandy Karsten said, "In the midst of a dangerous, unrelenting storm, Sergeant Fields took immediate and decisive action. Without specialized equipment, he bravely risked his own life by jumping into roiling Table Rock Lake to save lives."

The Medal of Valor, the state's highest public safety award, was presented to Fields and 17 other first responders and six civilians by Governor Mike Parson.



Lincoln County Earns Award

Sheriff John Cottle and the men and women of the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office received the 2019 Outstanding Agency Award for their involvement in Special Olympics. The sheriff's office is one of Eastern Missouri's largest fundraisers for Special Olympics and is extremely active in the lives of those afflicted with disabilities. The LCSO's staff works with other first responders to host fun and competitive softball games and partners with local business to raise funds for larger national events.



Outstanding Commitment and Service



The Child Safe of Central Missouri 2019 Outstanding Agency Award went to the Johnson County Sheriff's Office Detective Division in recognition of its service to children. The award was presented in September at Child Safe's "Night of Gratitude," held to thank everyone who plays a role in keeping children safe.

The detectives said it was a great honor to accept the award on behalf of the men and women of the Johnson County Sheriff's Office who are continuing to fight for the

safety of children in their community.

Child Safe of Central Missouri, Inc. is a child advocacy center located in Sedalia that is committed to serving children who are alleged victims of sexual abuse, severe physical abuse, exploitation and other traumatic events that involve a crime. They also provide advocacy for the child and their non-offending family members. Their mission is to respond to and prevent child abuse, help families heal and restore childhood hope. Their goal is to limit the number of interviews a child is subjected to by bringing together all disciplines involved in a child-friendly setting in order to minimize trauma to the child.

Child Safe serves Benton, Carroll, Chariton, Cooper, Henry, Hickory, Johnson, Lafayette, Linn, Morgan, Moniteau, Pettis and Saline counties.

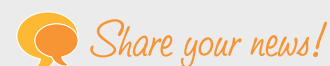


Saying 'Goodbye' to a Good Man

Leon Dwerlkotte, who served as Cedar County Sheriff from 2013 through 2016, passed away in September after a short illness.

A resident of Cedar County since 1969, he worked in law enforcement for more than 25 years in several different capacities including deputy, DARE officer, dispatcher, federal corrections officer and military police. One of his greatest accomplishments was being able to bring a new jail to Cedar County in 2014 to replace an aging jail that had been built on the upper floor of the courthouse. Most recently, he had been working as a deputy with the Polk County Sheriff's Office.

Sheriff Danny Morrison described him as "a true hero that touched the lives of many people," adding that he will be greatly missed by all.



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



PUPPY LOVE

Students at Auxvasse Elementary School got a special treat when Sgt. Corey Schmidt and K9 Krieger with the Callaway County Sheriff's Office visited their classrooms. They were accompanied by Callaway County Deputy Zach Carey, who serves as school resource officer for the North Callaway R-I School District.



SCHOOL DAYS

Kids aren't the only ones in the classroom this fall. K9 Zen and his handler Deputy Tommy Connell, the newest addition to the Greene County Sheriff's Office K9 Division, have also been learning how to work together to apprehend dangerous criminals and detect hidden narcotics. They will be working throughout Greene County as well assisting surrounding agencies when needed. The GCSO K9 teams are funded entirely by donations of everything from the purchase of the K9, to training, food, vet bills and daily maintenance for the K9.

Setting an Example



Callaway County Sheriff Clay Chism was presented with the Fulton Rotary Club's G.W. Law Award, which recognizes a law enforcement officer for embodying the club's ideal of "service above self."

He was nominated for the award by Callaway County Ambulance District Director Charles Anderson who wrote: "In addition to performing his job at the highest level, (Sheriff Chism) goes above and beyond in service to the community."

He also cited many of the sheriff's achievements including updating outdated equipment, adding K-9 units and advancing evidence processing, while also

patrolling the county's roads and interacting with the public.

"I do not believe in the history of this award you'll find an officer more deserving," Anderson said.

Sheriff Chism said he was honored to receive the award, adding "Nineteen years of giving assistance to this county has been nothing but an honor."

He is the 21st recipient of the award, named for George W. Law, a lieutenant colonel in the Confederate Army who was elected sheriff of Callaway County in 1872. He was killed Aug. 15, 1873, by a mob as he transported a convicted thief to a train station.



Staying Safe

Franklin County Sheriff Steve Pelton and Lieutenant Michael Richardson recently conducted a security seminar at Ridge Church for members of area faith-based organizations. The sheriff and lieutenant explained why it's important to have a plan in place, they shared signs they should watch for and talked about Run-Hide-Fight. Badge of Hope Ministries organized the event.



SONRISE SHOWS APPRECIATION

Sonrise Baptist Church came to the Christian County Sheriff's office on September 11 to donate items to show their support to the patrol deputies, jail and campus staff members. They've made this an annual event and also invited members of the sheriff's office to an Ozark High School's Tailgate and Football game where they were honored at half time.

Turning the Page

Sheriff Steve Pelton, Major Trevor Wild, and Former Sheriff Gary Toelke gathered to congratulate Deputy James "JP" Lashley on his retirement after 32 years of dedicated service to the Franklin County Sheriff's Office. Sheriff Pelton said Lashley's incredible contribution is responsible for making the DARE program the great success it is today. "He is greatly appreciated, as is his family's dedication and their sacrifices made throughout the years. Deputy Lashley will be missed by many and we wish him the best as he starts a new chapter in his life," he said. "Congratulations again, well deserved!"



HOWARD COUNTY SHERIFF MIKE NEAL

SHERIFF MEETS, OVERCOMES CHALLENGES

Howard County Sheriff Mike Neal never planned to follow in his father's footsteps but looking back he knows he did just that.

His dad, Paul Neal, worked 15 years protecting and serving the citizens of Columbia as an officer with that city's police department. He changed careers only when it was ordered by his doctor after a heart attack. Today, after nearly 28 years in law enforcement, Sheriff Neal recalls how, as a kid, he enjoyed hanging out at the PD, listening to the stories and rubbing shoulders with some of Columbia's finest.

After he graduated from high school and served a stint with the U.S. Navy and his dad left law enforcement and started a home repair and construction business, Sheriff Neal just assumed he'd work for his dad. And he did for a while – until a friend who was working as a deputy sheriff with Howard County told him they needed help and asked if he'd be interested.

"I started riding along with him to see what all the job would entail. It brought back a lot of memories and that's all it took. My first day on the job was January 1, 1992," he said. "Randy Yaegar was sheriff at the time and he sent me to the Law Enforcement Training Institute at University of Missouri that same year. I started in the jail but in November, was moved to the road."

He said he enjoyed the job but left it for about a year and worked for his dad, keeping his hand in law enforcement as a reserve for New Franklin Police Department. It wasn't too long after returning to the sheriff's office that Yaegar retired and Charlie Polson was appointed sheriff.

Sheriff Neal worked for him for 14 years, the last 10 of which were as chief deputy.

"Then in 2012 I decided to run for sheriff. I think the day I won was one of the happiest days of my dad's life. I ran

as an Independent – not as a Democrat or Republican – because I don't think a judge, prosecutor or sheriff needs to be party affiliated. We're here to serve justice – not politics," he said, adding that he was re-elected in 2016 and plans to run again in 2020, again as an Independent.

Since taking office one of the biggest changes he's made – one of his biggest accomplishments – is adopting a records management system and jail management system. The new systems allow him to electronically tap into or share information with other law enforcement agencies in real time and eliminate many of the redundancies that come with the outdated pen-and-paper method of reporting and file-cabinet storing.

With 470 square miles and 500-some miles of gravel roads, Sheriff Neal said having four-wheel drive vehicles is a "game changer" so he also worked to acquire more for his office.

"When I took over we had one, four-wheel drive vehicle – the truck the sheriff drove. We now have five," he said. "I know how valuable four-wheel drive can be because I'm a working sheriff. I work patrol, I answer calls, I transport inmates. I also work in the jail and I am bailiff in court – I do everything the deputies do in addition to doing my job."

To keep his 28-bed jail running as smoothly and safely as possible, he has been sending his staff to a 40-hour Intro Corrections Course provided by the



Missouri Sheriffs' Association and Missouri Jail Operations and plans to continue until everyone who deals with inmates has attended. Because he believes consistency is key, he also recently developed an inmate handbook which was required reading for all jail staff, and provided to all inmates and also posted on the kiosk, also recently added to allow inmates to order commissary.

"But I only have one jailer per shift and when you have 24-25 inmates and one jailer passing out meal trays and meds, it can be overwhelming at times. And if that person goes on vacation or calls in sick, I have to pull a deputy off the road or work the jail myself," he said. "That's why I'm hoping to address pay increases for my staff with my county commissioners. I really wish commissioners could attend jail liability training so they could better understand what we're up against."

Sheriff Neal said he's thankful that Paula, his wife of 38 years, and their two sons and daughter have always understood what he's up against and have been supportive through it all.

"I love what I do and I enjoy being able to help people. I always have. On occasion you can even see how you've made a difference in someone's life – sometimes just by listening. Sometimes people just don't know where to turn and when we can connect them with services they need, it can change the whole family dynamic. At the end of the day, when you can help somebody, it makes it all worthwhile."

● By Nancy Zoellner-Hogland

FRANKLIN COUNTY SHERIFF STEVE PELTON

A MAN OF HIS WORD, SHERIFF KEEPS PROMISES

“We are stronger together.”

Franklin County Sheriff Steve Pelton said that’s been his motto since taking office.

“I believe that if we want to cut crime, we need to partner with the community and share information – let our citizens know when crimes occur. That way, they’ll know to take precautions – to make sure they lock their cars or their doors – but they’ll also know to be watchful and share anything they see with us,” he said. “That partnership allows us to better serve them.”

Sheriff Pelton was raised with a philosophy of service to others. It was instilled in him by his family. His grandfather, father and brother served in the military, so as a teenager he deliberated between the military or law enforcement. He chose to serve on the home front in the community where he grew up and where five generations of his family have lived.

After graduating from high school, he got married, worked during the day and took criminal justice classes at East Central College at night. He also paid his own way to get POST certified through Columbia College’s law enforcement program. When he turned 21, he applied for a position with the Franklin County Sheriff’s Office, got hired and has been there ever since – with the full support of his wife, Carla, and his family.

“It’s a commitment you make to your community but it’s also a commitment your family makes and from Day 1 my wife has been my biggest supporter. My three kids are all grown now and I even have three grandkids, but they also always supported my decision to serve our community – even when it meant missing out on time with them,” he said, adding that his faith in God has also been invaluable. “In this job, you see the worst of the worst. It helps put things in perspective.”

That’s why, in addition to serving

his community, Sheriff Pelton also serves other law enforcement officers as a chaplain with the Meramec Area Chaplaincy Coalition, giving support whenever and wherever it’s needed.

He started his career as a detention deputy then transferred to the patrol division after a couple years and was the field training officer there.

“After a couple years of working the road I was promoted to supervisor and worked my way through the ranks to lieutenant as a division commander over patrol and SWAT operations, so I held the title of SWAT commander. Then in 2016 I was elected sheriff, so I’ve spent all my law enforcement career – more than 28 years – with the Franklin County Sheriff’s Office,” Sheriff Pelton said.

He decided to run for the top spot when former Sheriff Gary Toelke announced he was retiring in order to continue the path of excellence that had been established by his predecessors, but also to make that path even better, “just as those before us wanted to always be improving. I’ve been blessed to have the full backing of the community as I’ve worked to accomplish that. To be able to live and work in this community is a reward in itself but our citizen support puts it over the top.”

Sheriff Pelton said another “reward” is also his greatest asset – his staff, who he said is professional, dedicated and who does the best job they can to bring justice to victims.

“However, similar to other law enforcement offices, my biggest challenge was recruitment and retainment. We were a training ground. Our deputies were crossing the county line to take jobs making \$10,000 to

\$15,000 more a year – and I couldn’t blame them for wanting a better life for their families – so we went to the voters with the sales tax initiative. It was overwhelmingly approved by the voters and put an end to that by providing funding to increase salaries while also allowing us to build a new jail and expand services,” he said.

“Promises made during the campaign have been promises kept.”

Expansions included adding K9s to combat the drug problem, partnering with probation and parole to conduct compliance checks, and implementing a cold case investigation unit “because we believe every victim deserves justice.”

With today’s technology a lot of children fall victim to predators on the internet so we also added trained detectives to address internet crimes against children and we implemented a youth intervention program. We believe in teaching the DARE program but we also know that when students go into high school they’re really challenged, so we partnered with our schools to get into the eighth grade classes to reinforce how to say ‘No,’ how to avoid peer pressure, the importance of seat belt use and not texting and driving, and the dangers of social media,” Sheriff Pelton said.

They also expanded the Neighborhood Watch program. Pelton said when he took office they had three active groups. “We now have 14 that are ‘solid.’ We have really embedded ourselves into this community – especially with our youth – because we know they are our future. I want Franklin County to remain in good hands long after we’re all gone.”

● By Nancy Zoellner-Hogland



BARTON COUNTY SHERIFF MITCH SHAW

GIVING HIS ALL TO THE COMMUNITY

Barton County Sheriff Mitch Shaw's father used to work as an electrician and lineman during the day and volunteer as a reserve at night. One fateful evening in 1996 the young Shaw, who was attending Missouri Southern University during the day, unloading trucks for Walmart at night and assuming that, like his dad, he would work as a lineman, decided to tag along with his dad and a deputy. They ended up in a high-speed chase.

"All I could think was 'Wow – this is exciting!' I decided that night to attend the academy and be a cop," he laughed. "Of course, the job turned out to be more than just fast car chases, but that's how it started."

Bill Griffitt, a distant cousin, was sheriff of Barton County at the time so he talked to him about a job and was told to attend the academy, then get back with him after finishing. "So, I enrolled, but before I even graduated he called me and said he had a position open in the jail if I wanted it."

After graduation, the job was waiting for him, he took it and worked as a jailer for eight months before transferring to dispatch. Then late one night the sheriff called and asked him to be at the office early the next morning.

"When I got there, he asked if I was interested in being the next road officer. I answered, 'Well, heck yeah!' He handed me keys, a shotgun and told me I was working the road that night. I was a nervous wreck! I had all sorts of things going through my mind, but as it turned out the night was pretty uneventful," he said.

When Sheriff Griffitt decided to retire in 2004, he filed for office but was defeated so he took a position with the Lamar Police Department. He ran again in 2008 and won. His reason for running was simple.

"This is the community I was raised in and I care what happens here. I wanted to be available when needed and felt I could do a good job," Sheriff Shaw said, adding that since taking office, he's added computers to the vehicles and implemented a CAD system. "We also have a new dispatch system but we

still need to upgrade radios so we can communicate better. I would love to go to the MOSWIN system because it would allow us to communicate with every agency across the state that uses it – right now we're like an island – nobody else can hear us. Unfortunately, it's expensive and we don't have the money."

His biggest goal is to build a new jail and increase salaries. He said the current facility was built in 1939 to accommodate 18 to 20 detainees – their daily average – "but I've had as many as 35 at one time and it was horrible! I've been working with architects and talking to people in the community about the need so after I work out the details, I'll get it on the ballot and we'll go from there. Hopefully we can also include an initiative that will allow better wages for employees. We're a small department - I have an administrative assistant, five fulltime deputies and two fulltime jailers. Jailers start at minimum wage but have health insurance. Part-timers start at \$8 an hour so full-timers who don't need insurance have dropped to part-time to make more."

The low pay has also caused high turnover because deputies work long enough to get trained and gain experience, then go to a municipality where salaries are higher.

"I've been fortunate to be able to hire guys from this community who have a vested interest. I'd just like to get them better pay so they'll stay," he said.

The sheriff also struggles with new guidelines that won't allow him to hold those who have been charged with non-violent crimes. The community got a good look at the consequences of that court ruling when two men charged with arson and burglary were released, only to set six more fires – one at a building that had historical and sentimental significance. He also hurts when a member of his community hurts.

"When you go through the academy, you think about the high speed chases and putting bad guys behind bars, but you never think about being first on the scene of a heart attack and doing CPR until the ambulance arrives or telling parents you found their child's body," he said. "I'm thankful I have the support of my wife, Amy. One of the craziest days I've worked was the Joplin tornado. I got the call that they needed help and Amy went too, but I wish she hadn't."

The first call was a man who had been pinned under a Suburban. The fire department got him out and put him on a backboard in the back of my truck. Amy rode with him, holding his hand all the way to the hospital. We heard later he didn't make it. That was hard for

her but she saw what this job entails and understands why some days I don't want to talk," he said. "My son is supportive as well. I'd like him to become a football player because I think he's that good, but I read a paper he wrote where he said he wanted to become a law enforcement officer. I can't tell you how proud that made me feel."



● By Nancy Zoellner-Hogland



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Kimberly Luttrell, Pulaski County

GOING ABOVE AND BEYOND

Without question, Kimberly Luttrell enjoys working the road. However, this young woman, who went to work at the Pulaski County Sheriff's Office straight out of high school, also has a passion for digging deep to discover the missing pieces to the crime puzzle – so much so that she hopes someday that will be her life's work.

"I am a very nosy person," she laughed. "But I think it comes with the job. My chief deputy calls me 'Garcia,' a character on Criminal Minds, because I can find anybody. You give me the information, I'll find them. I won't quit until I find them! I've been assisting the major case squad and the detectives by pulling intelligence – compiling information on suspects, victims and witnesses – and I really like the challenge, so my hope is to eventually investigate cold case homicides. I don't know why but I really want to give closure."

Luttrell first came to the sheriff's office through a work study program at her high school. After graduating in 2008, she was asked by then-Sheriff J.B. King to stay and work fulltime. She started as a dispatcher but in 2014 was promoted. In addition to serving as administrative assistant to the sheriff and keeping his schedule straight, over the past five years she has also handled CCWs, paid the bills, supervised dispatch, filed grants, taken care of payroll, logged receipts and expenditures, overseen the MULES operators, logged all exparte orders and summons, researched and compiled Sunshine requests, and submitted reimbursement requests for inmate boarding. In her spare time she has also planned the Special Olympics parade and assisted with their track meet.

After realizing there wasn't much room for further advancement, she enrolled



in the Missouri Sheriffs' Association Training Academy and graduated in June as a POST-certified law enforcement officer. As a result, Monday through Thursday she works in the office and Friday she works the road with Sheriff Jimmy Bench, who is training her.

"Although I'm not crazy about the paperwork I really enjoy my job, but I love the road because I like the fast pace and the feeling that I'm making a difference," Luttrell said.

Sheriff Bench recently recognized her dedication by naming her "Employee of the Month."

"Deputy Luttrell has been with our department for over 10 years and has been stellar in her performance in whatever position she's been in. She is hard working and a team player with everyone in the department. She has great potential in law enforcement and I know she will go above and beyond in her

service as a deputy," he said. "She also has the sheriff's department's best interest in mind whatever her task may be. I wish I had more applicants with her attitude and skills in the field of law enforcement."

The sheriff isn't the only one impressed with her work. Luttrell said her daughters think she's the coolest.

"Especially my youngest daughter. I occasionally bring her to the sheriff's office and she has to visit with everyone and get candy. She loves to see me in my uniform and loves to see the lights on the patrol vehicle! All three of my girls attended my graduation from the academy and they were all smiles. But I had perfect attendance and during school didn't get to spend a lot of time with them, so they may have been smiling so big because they knew that was behind us," she laughed.

● By Nancy Zoellner-Hogland



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Will Akin, Clay County

PREPARING HIS COMMUNITY

Will Akin has worked at the Clay County Sheriff's Office for the past seven years, but he took a somewhat circuitous route to get there.

"I flew a Blackhawk helicopter for the U.S. Army for eight years, but at 26 was diagnosed with Adult Onset Asthma and was permanently grounded. I was told to find a new job and I chose law enforcement. I attended the academy in 2003 and spent the first five years of my career in Arizona with the Phoenix P.D.," he said.

He later moved to Indiana, working for the South Bend Police Department for one year before heading to Afghanistan where he spent the next three years working as a police advisor. It was there that he met Paul Vescovo.

"He told me he was going to run for sheriff in Clay County and invited me to come along and help him. He won the election, so I moved my family to Liberty, Missouri, and came on board as a lieutenant in the Field Operations Division."

When the sheriff agreed to take over Emergency Management three years later, a new division encompassing the 911 Communications Dispatch Center, media relations and Emergency Preparedness was formed. Akin agreed to oversee it and was promoted to captain. His new position came with a title – division commander for the Clay County Sheriff's Office Emergency Preparedness Division and director of Clay County Emergency Management. Because he didn't have much experience in that field, he started attending every emergency management training he could find, he became an emergency management liaison, he got involved in regional emergency management

committees and he joined the Southwest Missouri Incident Support Team in Springfield. Today he does his best to share that training with others.

"When the tornado hit Smithville in 2017, we learned that the small business community plays a huge role in the recovery process after a disaster, so I meet with business owners every chance I get," he said.

For National Preparedness Month he created five emergency preparedness videos and posted them weekly throughout September on the Clay County Sheriff Emergency Management Facebook page.

"They were pretty low budget. We used iPhones and free apps to record them," he laughed. "But we weren't trying to be fancy – we just wanted to get the information out to our community. We've gotten such great feedback and the analytics showed 2,000 to 3,000 people watched the full video clips, so I'm pleased with the response."

As public information officer for the sheriff's office, in addition to talking about emergency preparedness, Akin takes every opportunity to make presentations on topics like staying alive in an active shooter situation, intruder awareness and recognizing and avoiding scams at every opportunity. He said that's actually been his favorite part of the job – but that shouldn't come as a surprise. For the past two years, he's been working on his doctorate in Education and Ethical Leadership and will graduate next May. However, he has no plans to go into education. Instead, he hopes to be elected sheriff of Clay County in 2020. He made his decision to run when Sheriff Vescovo announced this would be his last term.

"I've lived in a lot of different places, but I feel like this is 'home.' I love it here, my wife Jennifer and my son love it here, so I hope to stay," he said, adding that he's running with the full support of his wife. "She's a full-time student and I think she sometimes feels she has little to do with my career, but I continue to let her know she has everything to do with my career because without her support, none of this would be possible."

The sheriff had nothing but good to say about his Emergency Management director.

"Captain Akin rose to his present position as the result of his effort and integrity. His career, relatively brief as it is with the Clay County Sheriff's Office, has already left its mark upon Clay County. Will exemplifies the highest ideals and standards of public service," Sheriff Vescovo said.

● By Nancy Zoellner-Hogland



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Maxine Mullins, Saline County

GO TO THIS JAIL FOR THE FOOD

When you walk in the door of the Saline County Jail and smell meatloaf cooking, you know Maxine Mullins is in the kitchen. She has been the head cook at the jail since 2007 and figures she's made her specialty hundreds of times since she started.

"It's a favorite – that's for sure! Everyone from the sheriff to the inmates request it – oh – several times a week," she laughed, adding that people are always asking for her recipe. "But I don't really have one. I learned to cook at an early age from my grandma and mom. And growing up with six siblings, I got plenty of practice, but I also learned to cook with what we had on hand so one time I might add one ingredient and another time I might add something else."

Mullins said all that cooking over the years helped prepare her for this job, where she typically feeds 50 to 70 inmates and corrections staff. Although the majority of the meals are made from scratch, she draws the line at biscuits. "If I made those from scratch, I'd be in the kitchen forever!"

In addition to her most-requested meatloaf, she also makes tacos, ham and beans and spaghetti – the same kind of food most people whip up in their kitchens each evening – for dinner. She just makes larger quantities.

"That was a little difficult at the beginning. I started with the amount I'd use to feed a family and then just multiply it out. I've never run out of food but did – and still do occasionally – have leftovers. When that happens, I put the food in containers and mark the date so the guys working overnight can come in and get something to eat," she said, adding that when her day is done at the jail she goes home to cook for her husband, David. "His favorite is lasagna. Thank goodness it's not meatloaf!"



Mullins said because, just like at home, she sometimes gets tired of fixing the same things, she Googles recipes, avoiding anything with costly ingredients to stay within budget. She also searches online or calls the hospital's dietary department for special diets.

"We feed them good and that makes me feel good because they're all somebody's child. Our sheriff believes it cuts down on fights when they're not all 'hangry.' I've even received thank-you notes from inmates over the years and I save all of them. One person wrote that he'd hit rock bottom and the only thing he had to look forward to was the food. Another thanked me for taking pride in my work and caring about them. That person said they knew that when they took the lid off the tray, there would always be something good inside. I had my own house cleaning business but I wanted to do something different so

I answered an ad in the paper and got the job. I've loved it from Day 1 and feel like I'm doing my small part to make a difference," she said.

Sheriff Cindi Mullins had many good things to say about her cook.

"She works very hard to make sure we are within our budget even when the inmate count gets high. She is creative with what we have and when she tries something new, she pays close attention to how well it is received because she doesn't like waste. In a place where it's fairly easy to throw something out of a can, she takes time to actually cook. Instead of just making a cold bologna sandwich, she will fry the bologna or make it into a grilled sandwich with cheese. Even though we don't do fancy meals, she makes sure what we serve tastes good," she said.

● By Nancy Zoellner-Hogland

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Guiding Youth *in the* Right Direction

Capt. Aaron Brown, who oversees road patrol, investigations and the jail at the Johnson County Sheriff's Office, always knew he wanted to work in law enforcement. As a young boy, he carried a small notebook and pen with him and he'd walk around behind his sister Nicole, writing down every bad thing she did. Then he'd go tell his mom all about it.

"I knew even then I wanted to be a detective. My mom appreciated it – my sister did not," he laughed.

Fast forward several years. Brown had never lost sight of his dream to work as a peace officer so when he learned that Henry County Sheriff's Office was sponsoring an Explorer Program, he joined. The program was led by Sheriff Kent Oberkrom, with help from his wife Diane, who both had been Explorers when they were younger.

Brown said the program was even better than he could have imagined. He and the other members learned how to take fingerprints, how to use the radios and how to conduct traffic stops. On occasion, they were invited to accompany the sheriff to Jefferson City to see how laws were made. They got to wear uniform shirts bearing their Explorer Post number and were allowed to help at parades and other events around town, picking up trash and directing traffic.

"It was community policing, which is really what the sheriff's office is all about, and Exploring made us part of the sheriff's office – as much as we could be without being POST certified," Brown said. "It really gave me an idea of what the job is like on a day-to-day basis and I loved it and stayed in it all the way through high school." With eyes on the future, he enrolled in University of Central Missouri at Warrensburg, majoring in Criminal Justice.

He did a stint with campus security during the school year but summers were spent interning at the sheriff's office, learning all facets of the job. After graduating from UCM, he completed the law enforcement academy in Warrensburg, then, just as he had hoped, Sheriff Oberkrom asked him to join the Henry County

Sheriff's Office as a patrol deputy. He was soon promoted to supervisor over the road patrol, then made sergeant over the Narcotics Division. After about a year and a half, he left to take a job with Johnson County handling the same types of calls – just on a larger scale.

"I'm so thankful that I got to take part in the Explorer

Program. Because I had already set my sights on law enforcement, I think I would have ended up in that field anyway, but the experience really broadened my horizon and deepened my love for law enforcement even more. There's no doubt that was the start to my career," he said.

Crisli Pitford, who just graduated this spring from the Missouri Sheriffs' Association Training Academy and went to work for the Jefferson City P.D., also got her start in the Explorer program, this one sponsored by the Lake Ozark Police Department. She was 15 at the time but realized she wanted to work in law enforcement a couple years earlier after a positive interaction with police.

"I wasn't making good choices at the time and a couple cops talked to me. They caused me to think about what I wanted and where I was headed. One was my school resource officer so afterwards,

I watched him more and saw the impact he was having and decided that I also wanted to have a positive impact. When the Explorer program started, it was at just the right time for me," she said, adding that as cadets, they were expected to attend monthly meetings and work a set number of hours each month, which was never a problem. "I think we all lived for that time! We learned about records, the 10 Codes, we went to the range, we learned how to fingerprint the old fashion way on cards and we got to ride along. I feel like I had such an advantage when I attended the academy because I had that background and knew what to expect."

She didn't necessarily expect some of the excitement she experienced as an Explorer Scout – but she enjoyed every minute.

Although officers made it clear that they'd drop her off if they got a dangerous call, that never happened.



Aaron Brown

"I was on a ride-along one night and as we crossed Bagnell Dam, there was a truck in front of us that had some issue. The officer ran the plate and it came back stolen. He waited until we passed the high bluffs to activate the lights and because there wasn't a safe place to drop me, he quickly ran through what I should do if things went bad. Fortunately they didn't," she said.

On another ride-along, about the time the officer activated his lights, the car took off – but headed down a dead-end road. The driver and passenger bailed out and took off on foot.

"I asked if I could chase one but he said 'No! You stay in the car!' I was bummed out," she said laughing. "That's one of the first things I thought about at my graduation from the academy. Now I won't have to stay in the car anymore."

Sheriff Oberkrom, said, like Brown and Pitford, the program also guided his path.

"I really enjoyed it and it obviously stuck with me! I had a strong background in Scouting and at the time, there were about 15 of us interested so the Clinton Police Department got it going. Of course, riding along with the deputies was everyone's favorite but we got to try our hand at just about everything and like Aaron, it just convinced me that I was going in the right direction," he said, adding that, at the same time, Diane learned it wasn't right for her. Instead, she went into the medical field.

Clinton P.D.'s Explorer program ran for a few more years after the Oberkroms moved on, then it ended because of lack of participation. When Sheriff Oberkrom took office he started the program up again and it ran until Brown's group cycled out, then stopped for the same reason. However, the sheriff said he's been asked by the area Scout master to bring the program back so he said he'll be talking to deputies to see if anyone will oversee it. "We need to get young people interested in a career in law enforcement again and I think Exploring will help do

that. When you can ride along with deputies, get to have some 'hands-on' experiences, you get to see it's an interesting and exciting career."



Crisli Pitford

SET YOUR SIGHTS

In addition to praising the Explorer program, Crisli Pitford had nothing but good to say about the Missouri Sheriffs' Association Training Academy (MSATA), which she said made a decades-long dream come true.

She visited a Missouri Career Center office in Jefferson City one day just to see what kind of financial assistance might be available and learned she qualified for two programs - the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and SkillUP Missouri which together would pay for tuition, uniform pants, mileage and a portion of the needed ammunition. She applied to the MSATA and was accepted, choosing to attend the part-time class taught in Jefferson City so she could continue to work.

"And I had a great time, I learned a lot and made life-long friends. I still keep in contact with a lot of students from my class and even some of my instructors. I truly believe that none of the instructors are there for the money. Instead, because they've worked it, they wanted to teach us everything they know – share all their experiences – because they wanted us to be good law enforcement officers, they wanted us to be safe and go home every night. I don't think there could possibly be any academy that teaches more, that teaches better or that cares more."

For more information on upcoming academies or to start the application process, visit www.mosheriffs.com and then "Basic Peace Officer Academy" under the "Training" pull-down tab. To find a Missouri Career Center near you, visit <https://jobs.mo.gov/career-centers>.

● By Nancy Zoellner-Hogland

The name "Explorers" was adopted in 1935 but simply as a designation for senior Boy Scouts. In 1949 the program was expanded to include boys as young as 14 and encompass Sea and Air Scouts. It was revised again in 1959 to focus more on careers but after a 1969 study showed that youth wanted more hands-on opportunities in different career fields and more interaction with adults in those careers, businesses and professional and trade organizations got involved and membership quickly grew. In 1971, young women became eligible for membership and the age limit was extended to 20. By 1981, the Explorer program branched out to include additional career fields. **In 1998, Exploring was shifted to a newly formed branch of Boy Scouts, Learning for Life, and continues to operate under that heading.**

Couple Uses Different Approaches To Accomplish the **Same Goal**

By law, sex offenders must register within three days of being released from prison or after each change of name, marital status, residence, employment, student status, vehicle ownership, phone number or email address. Under revisions that went into effect in August 2018, the frequency by which they must continue to register, even when there are no changes, is dependent upon the crime – but whatever schedule is ordered, Missouri law also tasks the chief law enforcement officer of each county – the sheriff – with making sure those registration laws are followed.

Matt Oller, sheriff of Audrain County, said his office diligently conducts those compliance checks.

“We currently take care of registering and monitoring somewhere around 91 sex offenders. I have a detective assigned to investigate any registration violations – if someone moves and doesn’t notify us or if someone misses a registration date. He also conducts several random compliance checks each week to make sure people are doing what they’re supposed to be doing, living where they’re supposed to be living, working where they say they work,” Sheriff Oller said. “If he

can find them and we know they’re in violation – and they know they’re in violation and there’s nothing questionable – once he finds them, he arrests them and files a case with the prosecutor’s office.”

At the same time, his wife Suzanne, a probation and parole officer with the Missouri Department of Corrections,

“I can see how this could easily overtake our lives, but we aren’t going to let it,” Suzanne added. “We live together in this community. We live with the rule followers and the rule breakers. **It’s our job to make it safer but we’re not going to lose us in the process.**”

works diligently to keep registered sex offenders, many of whom reside in Audrain County, out of jail by helping them follow the registration rules.

“I’d describe it as holding opposite positions but rowing the boat in the same direction,” she laughed. “We’re both working toward the same goal of keeping our community safe. We just take different approaches to achieving that goal. Like it or not, part of our community includes people who have been in trouble. For some, it’s been a constant cycle of being in and out of jail and in and out of supervision. My goal is to break that cycle – to help those people change their lives so they don’t have to stay in that cycle.”

She said she accomplishes that

by keeping in close contact with the offenders she oversees.

“Registering as a sex offender the first time is actually just the start of what can be a life-altering experience. Although requirements for those in treatment are pretty basic to all offenders, restrictions and requirements can vary based on a number of things – the crime committed, the age of the victim, the conditions of their parole orders or probation orders. We also learn what their triggers are, what their mode of operandi is and what stressors are in their lives. Then those are used to develop a relapse prevention plan. I think most people would be surprised to learn how involved we are in the lives of those we supervise and happy to know sex offenders don’t just get out of jail, register and go their merry way,” she said.

Because sex offenders are also typically required to attend ongoing treatment that’s designed specifically for them, she works with the treatment provider and the offender’s family member or support person to help them comply with supervision and follow the restrictions that have been placed on them. To make sure they’re compliant, those under her supervision are also required to check in with her on a regular basis and undergo treatment polygraphs.

“The goal is to make sure they’re living a better life – a healthier lifestyle than they have in the past,” she explained, adding that she also helps offenders comply with the law – sometimes by talking to the detective that oversees registration for the sheriff’s office. “Although I don’t work with Matt on the cases, it does sometimes feel a little odd knowing that we work in the same county.”

Suzanne Oller said while some counties have a zero-tolerance policy – any violation lands the offender in jail – she’s hopeful that her approach is affecting how Audrain County handles non-compliance “because sometimes



people get sick, sometimes they have car problems, sometimes they can't take off work and they just need an extra day to get into the sheriff's office to register."

Her husband said it is.

"Before taking office and before serving a year as chief deputy, I was the detective that oversaw the program and at that time, we pretty much followed a zero-tolerance policy. However, about five or six years ago – and yes, it's probably due a little to seeing things through Suzanne's eyes – I realized that it can be counter-productive to set the rules so tight because the more we can keep people on track, the better it is for everyone. That being said, we're not going to just give everyone an unlimited amount of time to let them come and go as they please. We're not that kind of lenient," he said. "But if it's reasonable, we'll do our best to make it work because if someone has gainful employment and can't get in for a couple days but you go out and arrest them anyway, what does that accomplish?"

Both of the Ollers agreed that al-

though they share much in common, they try their best not to "talk shop" at home.

"Matt's cut-and-dried with a 'just-take-care-of-business attitude.' I, however, want to know what makes people tick so we tend to look at things from a completely different perspective. Knowing that and knowing that we both have very stressful jobs, we don't talk about specifics. He might say he had a bad day because of a problem in the jail but I don't know who is in the jail or what they did," Suzanne Oller said.

Sheriff Oller agreed.

"Honestly, we try not to talk about work. Of course, I have all sorts of frustrations with the DOC and the other thing is, if she's supervising someone and talks about them at home, then I have to deal with them, I don't want to have some preconceived notion about them. We don't need to be tripping over each other's jobs that way," he said.

"I can see how this could easily



overtake our lives, but we aren't going to let it," Suzanne added. "We live together in this community. We live with the rule followers and the rule breakers. It's our job to make it safer but we're not going to lose us in the process."

● By Nancy Zoellner-Hogland

**OUR PASSION IS
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CALLED TO SERVE

It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better.

The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat.”

That excerpt is from a speech given by Theodore Roosevelt on April 23, 1910, in Paris. Dr. Rusty Savage, senior pastor at the First Baptist Church in Platte City and chaplain for the Platte County Sheriff's Office, said that quote sums up the heart of all the officers he knows personally.

“Law enforcement is a noble profession. To see it as just a career choice makes light of what they endure. I'm sure there are people who initially fall in love with the idea of being a cop, but that fades pretty quickly once they get into the daily grind and find there's nothing romantic or glamorous about it. Those who keep working it do so because they're called,” he said. “And I feel I'm called to serve them.”

Dr. Savage has held the volunteer position since 2013. After Sheriff Mark Owen was elected, he contacted the pastor saying he wanted someone he trusted to be there for his officers.

“That was one of the highest compliments I've ever received,” Dr. Savage said, adding that because of that level of trust he is contacted with the same alerts sent to command staff whenever there's a major incident. Sometimes he waits to hear from someone at the scene but other times

he calls the Comm Center and asks the dispatcher to contact the officer in charge to see if he can be of assistance. He said every time he's asked, he's gotten the same response – “Yeah – come on.”

Sheriff Owen said his willingness to help has made him invaluable.

“I brought Rusty on primarily for our people — so they'd have someone to talk to — and he's done an outstanding job. He comes to the scene whenever he's needed and he's made himself available to the deputies any time, day or night. If somebody on midnights needs to talk, he'll come in and ride with that person – even if he has to preach the following morning. And what they discuss stays between them. That was the deal from the start.

He's also gone with us on death notifications. I can't say enough good things about him,” said Sheriff Owen.

Dr. Savage said although he has occasionally assisted at the scene by letting people sit in his vehicle or visiting with bystanders or family members of those who have passed away, his is mostly a ministry of presence – of just “being there” for law enforcement.

“Firefighters can finish at a scene and go back to the station and talk about what just went on. Law enforcement officers finish at a scene, get in their own vehicles and go straight back to work. They don't usually have a chance to talk about the things they saw — things that nobody should have to see. But if I stay until the scene finally clears there's usually time to visit with the deputies and ‘unpack’ some of that. That's when I feel like I'm really doing my job — when I can stick around and process things with those who

worked the scene,” Dr. Savage said. He's also counseled with some of the deputies' spouses, who seldom have friends who understand the worry and the stress they feel. He's also stayed at the command post when deputies have worked an unusually dangerous incident.

In fact, he goes wherever and whenever he's needed — day or middle of the night — which can sometimes be a juggling act since he pastors a growing church. But his congregation looks at it as a way they can give back to their community and his assistant pastor is always ready to preach the Sunday morning sermon if Dr. Savage is called away.

Since taking the position, Sheriff Owen



has made it possible for his chaplain to attend several training sessions and get certified through the ICPC (International Conference of Police Chaplains). He has even provided training opportunities for Dr. Savage's wife, Stephanie, so she can better understand what her husband is doing.

“I probably would have no hope at all of reaching into law enforcement culture — I have no law enforcement experience, and I have long hair and a beard,” he laughed. “But Sheriff Owen has stood by me and vouched for me. Because of that, I've been able to build really great relationships with a lot of our folks. I never envisioned taking on this responsibility, but I've sure enjoyed it. And as a bonus, every now and then I get invited to go to the shooting range!”

● By Nancy Zoellner-Hogland



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The Numbers Speak for Themselves

The State Favors Its Own Over Local Communities

For the third year in a row, the State of Missouri ended its fiscal year leaving Missouri counties on the hook for millions in unpaid debt. At the end of FY 2019 the state owed more than \$35 million to local communities for housing state prisoners (See fig. 2) all the while ending the 2019 fiscal year with a surplus balance of \$654 million — the largest amount since an \$895 million balance to close the 2008 fiscal year.

The state has been in arrears for some time, owing more than \$25.8 million at the end of FY 2017 and more than \$34.1 million at the end of FY 2018. The conversation has been that the system for reimbursing local communities for housing state prisoners is not working, that it is broken, that it needs to be fixed or done away with. This sentiment remains alive and well today in Jefferson City.

Missouri Department of Corrections (DOC) Director Anne Precythe has said many times that she wants to do away with the “broken” reimbursement program. However, when pressured on exactly what part of the program is broken, she sidesteps the issue, stating only that there is no interest in appropriating more money to a “broken” program.

In a recent presentation to the House Budget Committee, Trevor Foley, director of Budget and Finance for the Missouri Department of Corrections, said that, “In March 2019, DOC surveyed all 50 states regarding state reimbursements to jails. Thirty states responded and none of the respondent states reimburse for pre-conviction jail time.” What was not mentioned until committee members pushed the issue is the fact that of the 30 states that do not reimburse local communities, several have state-operated jails and there is no cost to local law enforcement jurisdictions. Missouri does not have state operated jails and state law requires all sheriffs and jailers to receive all persons apprehended for offenses against the state. Failure to take and hold these state

offenders is a criminal offense. And, if a state prisoner housed in a local jail gets sentenced to prison, that inmate gets credit toward their state prison sentence for every day housed in the local community jail.

The system is not broken; the state is simply not willing to pay its bill. Former Missouri Supreme Court Justice Mike Wolff said it best, “The state’s interest in its criminal justice system exceeds its willingness to pay the costs,” at least at the local community level, but what about the state level?

State appropriations trends lean toward a priority for funding state public safety organizations over paying the debt to local communities. Since 2005, total appropriations for the Missouri Department of Corrections have steadily increased by more than \$213 million: a net increase of over 27 percent. During the same time period, annual reimbursement appropriations to local community jails decreased to 6 percent of the DOC appropriations, while appropriations to another state public safety organization, the Missouri State Highway Patrol, increased by more than 40 percent. Combined, these two state organizations have seen a total budget appropriation increase of more than 67 percent as local communities are left on the hook for millions.

While its budget appropriation has increased by more than \$213 million, the Department of Corrections has fewer prisons, fewer fulltime employees working in prisons, fewer incarcerated individuals and has benefited from a 12-percent increase in early supervised releases. According to Precythe, since 2017 the prison population is declining. “We believe that has to do with the criminal code revision,” she said, adding that the result of the changes “is fewer people are receiving prison sentences.”

Precythe is referring to the law (SB491) creating the class “E” felony that went into effect in 2017. Since that time more offenders who would have been sent to state prisons are now being sentenced to local

community jails for felonies, thereby shifting the number of incarcerated inmates and the cost from the state to local communities. The prison population has declined by more than 6,000 inmates in recent years.

Since July 1, 1997, Missouri statute has allowed a maximum of \$37.50 per day per prisoner for reimbursements to local communities for housing state prisoners, subject to appropriation. The state has never paid that amount. (See fig. 1) Today, the per-day reimbursement rate is set at \$22.58, up \$3.00 from the \$19.58 paid nine years ago. According to Foley, in 2019, the Department of Corrections was able to spend \$71.14 on each inmate per day.

The reoccurring theme is that there simply is not enough money to go around. However, in addition to being able to increase appropriations to the Department of Corrections by more than \$213 million, recently the state was able to save an additional \$21 million per year by closing the Crossroads Correctional Center. “What did we do with that money we saved? We re-invested every dime of it into our corrections team,” said Governor Mike Parson who touted it as the biggest pay raise in the department’s history.

The current starting salary for a corrections officer position with the state is



4

7

45

\$31,288. The average starting salary for a jail officer working in Missouri's third class county jails is approximately \$19,200 a year – \$12,088 less than a Department of Corrections officer. A local jail officer in Barton County supervises custody of a state prisoner on behalf of the state for \$9.23 an hour; a jail officer in Ray County supervises custody of a state prisoner for \$10.45 an hour and in Vernon County the rate is \$10.88 per hour. The state pays a prison officer more than \$15.00 per hour to supervise custody of the same state prisoners when they get to the Department of Corrections.

As part of the 2020 budget signed into law by the governor, the actual realized budget for the Department of Corrections for 2020 is approximately \$802,305,640, an increase of more than \$77 million in the past four years alone. The Department of Corrections will have \$8.3 million for “salary adjustments” for its corrections employees – on top of \$1,050 raises that went into effect last year.

The numbers speak for themselves. The state favors its own over local communities.

● By Kevin Merritt, MSA Executive Director

Fig. 1

FY	Jail Reimbursement Rate	Jail Reimbursement Original Approp
FY01*	\$22.50	\$30,700,000
FY02*	\$22.50	\$30,680,000
FY03	\$20.00	\$27,612,000
FY04	\$20.00	\$36,623,000
FY05	\$20.00	\$35,560,616
FY06	\$20.00	\$37,960,616
FY07**	\$20.00	\$40,060,616
FY08	\$21.25	\$41,935,616
FY09	\$22.00	\$43,060,616
FY10	\$22.00	\$43,060,616
FY11	\$19.58	\$38,060,616
FY12	\$19.58	\$38,060,616
FY13	\$19.58	\$38,060,616
FY14	\$19.58	\$38,060,616
FY15	\$21.58	\$43,330,272
FY16	\$20.58	\$39,817,168
FY17	\$21.08	\$39,530,272
FY18	\$22.58	\$40,030,272
FY19	\$22.58	\$34,530,272
FY20	\$22.58	\$38,530,272

Fig. 2

COUNTY	FY19 ARREARAGE	COUNTY	FY19 ARREARAGE
Adair	\$206,110	Livingston	\$163,652
Andrew	\$37,157	Macon	\$54,506
Atchison	\$9,083	Madison	\$66,018
Audrain	\$224,462	Maries	\$43,893
Barry	\$212,991	Marion	\$202,030
Barton	\$44,156	McDonald	\$146,935
Bates	\$114,863	Mercer	\$9,922
Benton	\$66,883	Miller	\$176,623
Bollinger	\$54,909	Mississippi	\$192,842
Boone	\$871,540	Moniteau	\$99,860
Buchanan	\$586,649	Monroe	\$1,174
Butler	\$417,234	Montgomery	\$182,321
Caldwell	\$56,550	Morgan	\$385,954
Callaway	\$356,054	New Madrid	\$247,340
Camden	\$186,794	Newton	\$215,942
Cape Girardeau	\$626,568	Nodaway	\$46,101
Carroll	\$62,483	Oregon	\$14,003
Carter	\$22,735	Osage	\$14,697
Cass	\$387,219	Ozark	\$61,030
Cedar	\$59,859	Pemiscot	\$100,727
Chariton	\$34,106	Perry	\$164,599
Christian	\$322,316	Pettis	\$493,946
Clark	\$131,754	Phelps	\$380,570
Clay	\$880,600	Pike	\$47,071
Clinton	\$214,651	Platte	\$511,243
Cole	\$308,930	Polk	\$205,229
Cooper	\$101,940	Pulaski	\$327,208
Crawford	\$180,395	Putnam	\$23,623
Dade	\$51,284	Ralls	\$16,450
Dallas	\$317,642	Randolph	\$154,719
Daviess	\$89,485	Ray	\$241,507
DeKalb	\$114,332	Reynolds	\$23,716
Dent	\$227,788	Ripley	\$99,717
Douglas	\$68,511	ST. Charles	\$994,543
Dunklin	\$384,613	ST. Clair	\$134,088
Franklin	\$428,362	ST. Francois	\$680,863
Gasconade	\$41,720	ST. Genevieve	\$173,882
Gentry	\$6,525	Saline	\$220,430
Greene	\$2,977,296	Schuyler	\$16,696
Grundy	\$74,225	Scotland	\$31,067
Harrison	\$56,157	Scott	\$428,402
Henry	\$172,479	Shannon	\$48,281
Hickory	\$58,673	Shelby	\$20,264
Holt	\$4,098	Stoddard	\$286,256
Howard	\$36,978	Stone	\$115,084
Howell	\$138,485	Sullivan	\$1,559
Iron	\$214,591	Taney	\$543,046
Jackson	\$2,127,426	Texas	\$62,731
Jasper	\$576,133	Vernon	\$281,752
Jefferson	\$639,771	Warren	\$588,062
Johnson	\$139,953	Washington	\$224,709
Knox	\$3,713	Wayne	\$156,866
Laclede	\$424,850	Webster	\$137,828
Lafayette	\$209,597	Worth	\$483
Lawrence	\$350,494	Wright	\$196,254
Lewis	\$55,933	ST. Louis City	\$3,563,697
Lincoln	\$243,507	St. Louis County	\$3,958,451
Linn	\$16,175	Total Owed:	\$35,010,249

ANOTHER CHANCE

While some members of the community call them junkies, dopers, addicts, crackheads, stoners, losers – some have other names for them – Mom, Dad, Son, Daughter, Grandson, Granddaughter.

That's why MoNetwork and Mo' Heroes was formed. The Mo' Heroes Project works to bring overdose education and Narcan, also known as naloxone, to individuals in criminal justice settings. Narcan is an FDA-approved nasal spray that counteracts the life-threatening effects of opioid overdose.

Chad Sabora is the executive director and founder of MO Network, a recovery community center and harm reduction center in St. Louis that offers various services to homeless, those struggling with substance use disorder, and their loved ones. He is also a consultant on the State Opioid Response (SOR) grant in partnership with the Missouri Department of Mental Health and the University of Missouri-St. Louis, Missouri Institute of Mental Health. The Mo' Heroes project, which Sabora also helped create, is one of the projects funded under that grant. Sabora explained the program to Missouri's jail administrators at the Missouri Sheriffs' Association spring training conference.

"I am a person of long-term recovery. I was a drug user – mainly heroin – when I was using. I'm also a former prosecuting attorney from Chicago and yes, I did use drugs when I was working as an attorney, which shows the disease does not discriminate based on anything, including education. Now I do drug policy reform work and help people who use drugs to stay alive and find recovery," he said.

Sabora received his education in psychology and political science at the University of Illinois at Chicago. He then obtained his Juris Doctorate at the John Marshall Law School in Chicago before taking a position as a prosecutor for Cook County, Illinois. While attending law school, he clerked in the same office, working in the gang unit, felony court and special prosecutions. He also interned, focusing mainly on criminal and civil

procedure. After going to work as a Cook County prosecuting attorney, he worked in child support enforcement, abuse and neglect of minors and juvenile delinquency.

Sadly, soon after finishing law school and starting his career as a prosecutor, Sabora's father passed away from cancer and his mother was terminally ill with the same disease. Several months later, she too passed away. Sabora said the grief was overwhelming and while pain pills helped ease the heartache, they led to a heroin addiction that led to an arrest and suspension of his law license in 2008.

The "rest of the story" is that Sabora has been in recovery since 2011 and left law to work in drug policy reform and advocacy.

Since the formation of MoNetwork in 2013, Sabora has helped write, advocate, and pass numerous pieces of legislation in Missouri that give first responders and the general public access to carry and administer naloxone; 911

Good Samaritan Immunity in Missouri; and access to medication-assisted treatment in veterans, mental health, treatment and family court. Through the Mo' Heroes Project, he has also worked to bring overdose education and naloxone to individuals in criminal justice settings.

According to Lauren Green, Overdose Prevention Coordinator for the State Opioid Response (SOR) grant and Missouri Opioid-Heroin Overdose Prevention and Education (MO-HOPE) Project, to date, the Mo' Heroes Project has partnered with:

- **Five Jails:** St. Louis City Jails (Medium Security Institution and City Justice Center), St. Louis County Jail, Boone County Jail and Laclede County Jail and is in the process of working to establish MOUs, develop protocol and procedures, and get leadership on board at several other city and county jails
- **Seven Court Programs:** St. Louis County Treatment Court, Cape Girardeau Juvenile Court, St. Louis City Family Court, St. Louis City Prosecutor's Office, St. Louis County CHOICES program, St. Louis County Juvenile Court and Kansas City Municipal Drug Court



AT LIFE

- **Six Probation and Parole Offices:** Missouri State Probation and Parole; P&P – District 7B- St. Louis; P&P – District 8C- St. Louis; P&P – District 8N- St. Louis; P&P – District 8E- St. Louis; and St. Louis Transition Center
- **Eight Re-Entry Agencies/Programs:** Center for Women in Transition; SLU Occupational Therapy Program in STL City Jail; SLATE; MERS Goodwill Halfway House Transitional Residential Services; In2Action; Concordance Academy; Gateway Free and Clean; and Kansas City First Call

Green said that as of October, more than 2,400 individuals – both criminal justice staff and individuals within criminal justice settings – have obtaining training through 97 unique trainings and 2,500 naloxone kits have been distributed through the Mo' Heroes initiative.

"The first jail onboard was St. Louis City Jail; their first training was held in September, 2017. We targeted them first because the overdose rates are the highest in St. Louis City," Green explained, adding that they have since re-supplied St. Louis City Jail, as well as the other partnering correctional facilities distributing naloxone to individuals upon release. "Some jails have their check-and-release staff distribute the naloxone while others have the nursing staff add the naloxone to the individuals' property so they will have it upon release."

She also said jails aren't required to take a set amount of naloxone. Instead, Mo' Heroes works individually with each jail to determine how many people in the jail may benefit from receiving naloxone.

"From there we provide an initial amount and I check in frequently with the jail to re-supply our partners as they need more," Green said. "At this point, we've been able to meet

the needs of our partners. However, as the project continues to grow, we are consistently talking about sustainability and brainstorming different ways we will be able to continue supplying our criminal justice partners."

The naloxone is supplied completely free of charge. For agencies in the Eastern region, someone with Mo' Heroes delivers the product to them directly. For agencies that are not near St. Louis, the grant pays to ship the naloxone kits.

Although free and although it's proven to save lives, not everyone sees the value and supports the Mo' Heroes program. Green said those who oppose it often believe that providing naloxone enables drug use, but she added that research that shows that's not the case. "I think Chad says it best in the following quote: 'Whether you believe addiction is a choice or not, it shouldn't be a death sentence. The only consequence Narcan removes is death and dead people don't recover. Let's give people the opportunity to live long enough so they can find recovery. Everyone can. I'm living proof of that.'"

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, from 1999 to 2017, more than 702,000 people died from an opioid overdose. Preliminary data from the CDC showed there were more than 68,000 drug overdose deaths in 2018, making it the second-worst year for drug overdose deaths in US history. CDC preliminary data also showed that overdose deaths from synthetic opioids such as fentanyl but excluding methadone, were still trending upwards to nearly 32,000 deaths in 2018.

According to the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, from 2013 to 2017, St. Louis City, Jefferson and Franklin counties experienced the highest rates of deaths due to opioid overdoses. For a map and charts of opioid overdoses across the

state, visit <https://health.mo.gov/data/opioids/death-toll.php>.

For more information on MoNetwork or Mo' Heroes, visit:

- MoNetwork.org
- noM0Deaths.org

Law enforcement agencies who would like more information on the project can contact Green directly at Lauren.Green@mimh.edu.

● By Nancy Zoellner-Hogland



MSA HELPS FURTHER HIGHER EDUCATION

The Missouri Sheriffs' Association has established a scholarship fund for the sons and daughters of all Missouri sheriffs' staff members – deputies, jail staff, dispatch or administration. The only requirement is the person must be employed by the sheriff's office and not another county entity.

According to Jeanne Merritt, marketing director for the MSA and the one who came up with the idea, graduating high school seniors can be attending a technical school, college or university and the applicants can be pursuing any field of study – they aren't required to be seeking a future in criminal justice.

"And the money can be used for any school-related needs. They can of course, put it towards tuition but it can also be used to purchase text books or even put toward the purchase of a laptop or expenses of a dorm or apartment. I'm in the process of forming a committee to oversee the program and after we get that established, we'll have to work out all the details but I think we'll make the checks out to the employee and they can help their child determine the best way to spend it," she said.

The MSA will start taking applications in the spring of 2020 for the start of classes in the fall of 2020.



"I don't know exactly how much we'll be able to give out because right now, we have just \$5,000 in the account. However, this first year I think the scholarships will be for \$250 and the number we give out will be based on how much money we raise, because it's all coming from raffles and other fundraising projects," Merritt explained, adding that at the recent deputy sheriff conference, the scholarship fund grew by \$300 thanks to the raffle of a gun case donated by U.S. Gun Totes. "And at our Summer Training Conference we made around \$1,200 on a raffle for a gun donated by CMMG. Our vendors are absolutely wonderful so I imagine we'll have several more that will want to donate something to the cause."

Merritt said she came up with the idea as a way to thank the employees of Missouri's 115 sheriffs for the work they do to keep their communities safe.

"Honestly, I think it's the least we can do. Many of them are putting their lives on the line every day. The others are working hard behind the scenes to do their part in keeping them safe. This is just a small token of our appreciation for their dedication."

● By Nancy Zoellner-Hogland



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Seeking Agencies to Host P.O.S.T. Law Enforcement Training

Happy Holidays from your National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) law enforcement liaison! **My Christmas present to you is free training.**

We are currently setting up the TOPS/Officer Roadside Safety schedule for 2020. The NHTSA and the Missouri Department of Transportation (MODOT) are seeking law enforcement agencies to host POST certified training for law enforcement officers in their agencies and in the surrounding jurisdictions. There is no cost to the agency or the officers attending the training. All officers will receive eight hours of POST certified training at no cost. A host agency is asked to provide a classroom to hold 15 to 25 officers and assist with marketing the class to neighboring law enforcement agencies. We provide the instructors and materials.



TOPS - Traffic Occupant Protection Strategies (0800-1200 hours)

This four-hour course is designed for officers and supervisors to increase understanding of how law enforcement officers save lives and prevent injuries by enforcing traffic laws. The class will also discuss:

- The toll traffic crashes have on the community
- Occupant protection laws
- Crash dynamics
- Special risks to law enforcement
- Effective methods of issuing citations
- Effects of high visibility traffic enforcement on preventing and clearing other crimes

Officer Roadside Safety (1300 – 1700 hours)

More officers are killed as a result of automobile crashes, struck by vehicles and intentional vehicle assaults than any other method. Participants of this four-hour course will review and discuss the prevalence of officer crashes, traffic related accidents and deaths in recent history. Various contributing factors will be discussed including fatigue, equipment, staffing and individual officer experience.

This program will include specific recommendations on how to prevent and survive roadside incidents, including vehicle positioning, traffic stop recommendations, lane closure and traffic direction recommendations.

If your agency is interested in hosting this training please contact Bill Sullivan, law enforcement liaison, NHTSA at 913-208-5714 or bsully@sbcglobal.net.

THE FACTS



There are nearly
40,000
fatal car accidents
per year in the U.S.

Each day, more than
90 Americans
die in car accidents

On average, 2 million
drivers experience
a permanent injury
every year

Almost **8,000**
people are killed in
traffic accidents involving
drivers aged 16-20

Some **58% of fatal car**
accidents involve only one
vehicle and 38% are caused
by a traffic collision

The most common causes of accidents resulting in death are:

40%
drunk driving

30%
speeding

33%
irresponsible driving

According to the statistics,
most fatal injuries happen
during **weekends**

Each year, more than **1,600**
children younger than 15
die in traffic accidents

The U.S. has more than
220 million
licensed drivers



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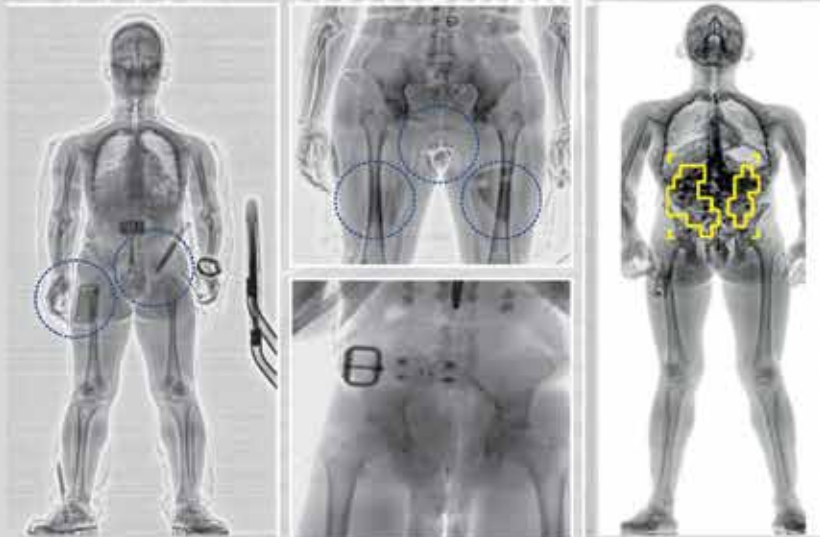


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CATCHING UP

WITH THE NEED

ACROSS MISSOURI COUNTY JAILS ARE GETTING BIGGER.

Overcrowding, aging facilities, lawsuits and court rulings are all factors in the move to larger, modern jails in small rural, large urban and rapidly growing ex-urban counties. Another factor often overlooked is the increasing professionalism and efficiency of sheriff's offices.

Simply put, more bad guys are getting caught. It all adds up, even in places that seem far from the world's problems, to mattresses on the floor, expensive out-of-county housing and maintenance-heavy jails that are often the most complicated part of a sheriff's job.

The solution is, more often than not, construction of a new, modern and expensive jail. Convincing the public that the expenditure is needed is usually difficult. Hardworking taxpayers are often not very interested in the conditions those who run afoul of the law find behind the bars.

For a sheriff caught between the

demands of the courts and the condition of a jail that may date from three – or 12 – decades old, barnstorming for community support to spend millions of dollars on a new facility can become a full-time job.

How sheriffs present the need and the brick-and-mortar solution varies from county to county. Jail tours, public presentations and varied funding plans all play a part. Sheriffs around the state share what has been successful for them and discuss options, but in the end each county is different and each solution at least somewhat unique.

What follows is a recounting of successful efforts by sheriffs who will be moving into new or newly expanded facilities. Jails that will be, at least for a while, big enough, safe enough, modern enough to meet the needs of keeping detainees in conditions that meet the requirements of the courts, society and their own good will.

ANDREW COUNTY

When the new, 20-bed pod at the Andrew County Jail opened in June it was a continuation of the facility program Sheriff Bryan Atkins began nearly a decade ago.

The newly opened pod brings the bed count at the jail to 80, a big jail for a county of just more than 17,000 residents. But rather than reflecting a crime wave, the capacity represents out-of-the-box thinking by a sheriff who, when he came into office in 2009, knew passing a jail tax was going to be virtually impossible.

Saddled with what he calls a “1906 model jail house,” Sheriff Atkins, who started as an Andrew County deputy in 1981, knew the red brick, mold-ridden facility had to be replaced. The condition of the jail forced the county to farm out detainees to the tune of \$180,000 a year. He began speaking with other sheriffs with similar problems, collecting information and then came up with a unique funding plan.

“We built the jail with a low-interest, \$5.1 million Rural Development loan,” he said. The new jail opened in 2012 and by 2016 the sheriff had secured contracts with four other jails that now put \$750,000 a year into county coffers. After a \$304,000 annual payment on the loan, the remainder goes into county coffers, helping pay for sheriff’s department operations.

Holding prisoners from Jackson, Clinton and Wyandotte (Ks.) counties and the city of Independence keeps the money flowing. “We stay full with out-of-county detainees. We average 45-50 rented beds,” Sheriff Atkins said.

Seeing that the program was working, he pressed for completion of an unfinished pod built in original



ANDREW COUNTY

construction. With a second Department of Agriculture loan of \$770,000 the pod was finished, opened and filled. With his ongoing rental program, Sheriff Atkins said opening the new pod made economic sense. The contracts filled the 20 new beds and the revenue goes toward paying off the loan.

The sheriff has mitigated the transport costs of holding out-county prisoners by using video arraignment and by two of the contract counties handling their own transports.

Now other sheriffs ask him about his successful funding model. “It works. I’m able to generate the money to make the payment and put the extra in county coffers,” Sheriff Atkins said. And it allows him to hold his 30 or so daily average of detainees in a modern, safe, mold-free facility.

BATES COUNTY

For sheriffs across Missouri struggling to replace century-old jails, Bates County must seem like the Promised Land.

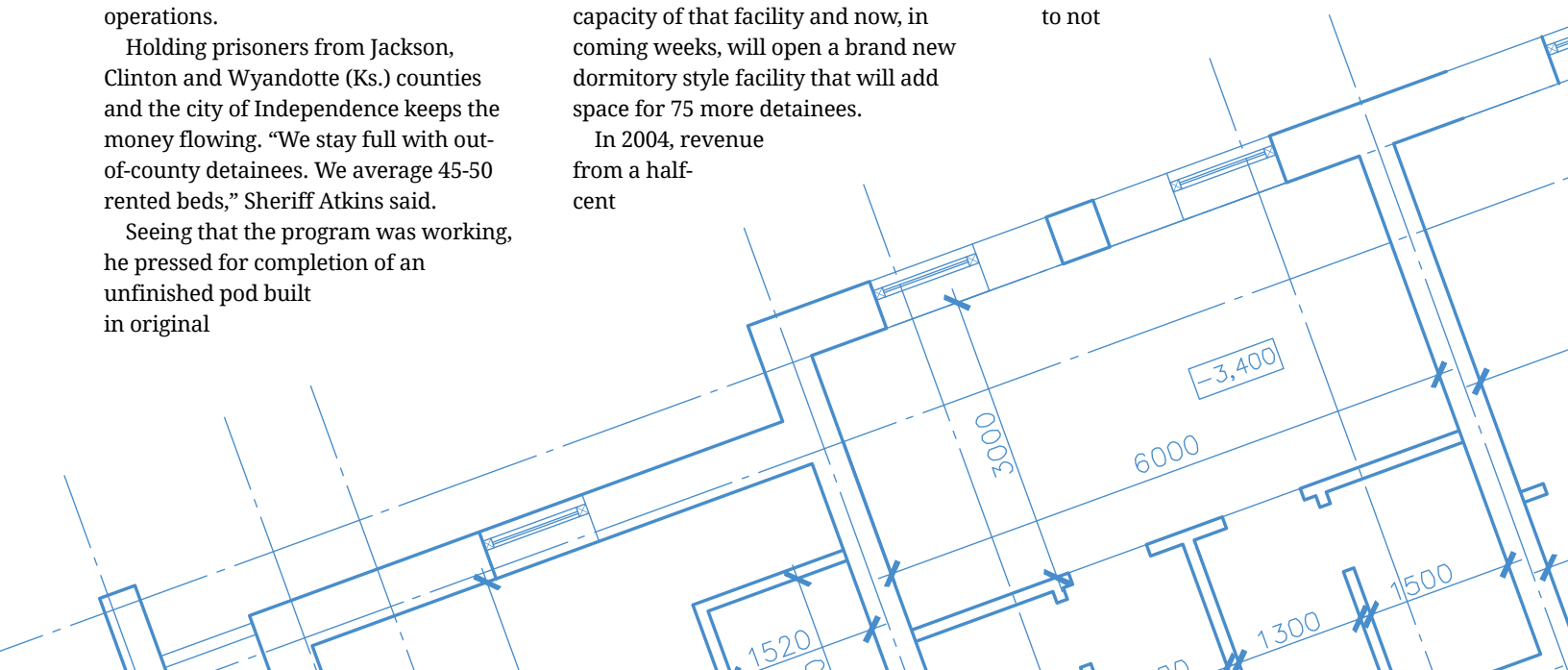
Not quite two decades into the new century, Bates County has already built a new jail, remodeled to expand the capacity of that facility and now, in coming weeks, will open a brand new dormitory style facility that will add space for 75 more detainees.

In 2004, revenue from a half-cent

law-enforcement sales tax helped fund what is now the “old” Bates County Jail with a capacity of 85. By the time Sheriff Chad Anderson came into office that facility had filled and overflowed. A remodeling project using existing funds added 20 beds to day rooms and other nooks and crannies but could not fully address what is currently a 130 to 140 average daily population.

In 2017 Bates County voters stepped up again, continuing the sun-setting half-cent tax to fund infrastructure improvements countywide, including a \$3.7 million dormitory building with four units.

According to the sheriff, the new jail is a case of spending money to save money. They were paying to house 30 to 40 inmates a month in other counties. Now, with a capacity of 180, they’ll have space to not



only take care of the current detainee population, but they'll also be able to contract for cell space with surrounding counties and the federal marshal's service. Or they'll have the beds they'll need should the Bates County population take a jump. In addition, the variables and expense of transporting prisoners for housing elsewhere will be eliminated.

The dorm building includes a new sally port for transfers, opening up the old sally port for conversion to a medical holding facility and two padded cells, addressing a problem the sheriff said he never thought he'd have to deal with – the need to house the mentally ill.

"We've stepped back 100 years. After a century of housing the mentally ill in designated facilities, we are right back to throwing them in jail," Sheriff Anderson said, echoing the sentiments of sheriffs around Missouri.

The new facility also allows for better segregation of detainees by risk assessment. The dorms can be used for the less troublesome, leaving the four pods in the current jail for categorizing those who pose more of a risk. Along with eliminating overcrowding, it makes the entire facility safer for detainees and staff, problems that go hand-in-hand the sheriff notes. Sheriff Chad Anderson and Bates County are positioned to meet the future with a modern jail facility and a plan.

BENTON COUNTY

It wasn't difficult for Benton County Sheriff Eric Knox to build a case for needing a new jail.

The issues with the old Benton County Jail fall into the category of "you think you have problems." Built in 1856 as a bank and converted to a "temporary" jail and sheriff's office in 1912, the building is beautiful, historic and utterly inadequate.

And that's not the worst of it. The attic is home to 10,000 bats. That's a real number calculated by an expert. Guano (bat excrement) running down the walls of the top floor has made it a no-go zone. What had been an inadequate 24-bed jail was quickly becoming a constant liability

for everyone in the building. There was no room to segregate dangerous or vulnerable detainees, no way to avoid the expense of paying for out-county housing.

Sheriff Knox, who has more than two decades of construction experience, was elected in 2016 on the promise that he would get a sales tax passed to fund a new jail. He was as good as his word.

He created a Facebook video of the jail, including the guano, and went on a speaking tour everywhere to anyone who would listen.

"I ran a campaign (for the tax) just like running for office," Sheriff Knox said. "We had a design that I took to public meetings and spent many, many hours sharing about the costs and the need. I just laid it all out."

The result was overwhelming approval of a half-cent sales tax for jail construction that sunsets in 20 years and a quarter-cent for operations that has no end date.

The new jail is designed with the future in mind. While the initial population of the 100-bed, pod design jail will likely be 35 to 40 detainees, Benton County is growing. A popular recreation and retirement area, the county boasts a growing population of 19,000-plus residents. Knox believes that the new facility will benefit the county for a long time to come.

"We are building a jail that will be big enough for 100 years. It is cheaper to do it now than have to add on later when costs have gone up," the sheriff said. "We'll have room to segregate (detainees) and if we have space we can lease out if we need to." He has kept his promise to current and future voters to reduce liability and spend money carefully.

DOUGLAS COUNTY

The walls of the new Douglas County Jail and Sheriff's Office started going up this past summer, a solid symbol of Sheriff Chris Degase's determination to get ahead of new jail standards and the liability that his old jail represents.

Built in the 1960s to hold 21 detainees and house the sheriff's office and dispatch, the current jail has long outlived its usefulness, Sheriff Degase said. With an average daily population of 26 to 30, overcrowding is constant.


"It was going to be impossible to meet the new standards," he said of the current facility.

Too crowded, too outdated, too much of a maintenance problem. With underground cells secured with an antiquated locking system and exposed wiring running throughout the facility, the old jail is, at best, decrepit.

Fortunately, the voters of this wooded



DOUGLAS COUNTY



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county, cut by clear floating streams and with only one incorporated town – the county seat of Ava - understood the need and overwhelmingly passed a half-cent law enforcement/jail construction sales tax that has no sunset. That means that the thousands of floaters and campers who crowd the county each summer will help cover the cost of patrolling the roads and maintaining the new jail. The sheriff also got help from the Ava Industrial Development Corporation, which sold the six acres the facility will sit on to the sheriff's office for \$1.

The new jail is designed with the future in mind. When it opens it will hold 48 detainees in four pods. With an eye down the road, the design is expansion-ready for an additional 20 beds. In addition, with a state-of-the-art dispatch and control facility, new offices for staff, a reception area and recreational area for the inmates, Sheriff Degase and his six deputies will have a new, far more efficient base of operations and may even allow the sheriff to house detainees from other counties, generating some revenue for the county.

"The biggest factor (in constructing a

new jail) was the standards. All agencies need to be working toward meeting them and we wanted to get out ahead," Sheriff Degase said.

FRANKLIN COUNTY

Franklin County, the state's fourth largest, lies within easy commuting distance of St. Louis. It's a unique mix of rural expanses, quaint towns and sprawling bedroom neighborhoods. The population has grown to 105,000 and the sheriff's office is a solid corps of 122 commissioned officers. Franklin County is also an example of how jail problems in counties large and small are just a matter of scale.

In 1986, the courts forced Franklin County to build a new jail or face legal consequences. The county dug deep and built a 107-bed facility that met standards and the immediate need. However, it was built with long hallways in cellblocks and no line of site making it outdated and, more importantly, dangerous for jail staff.

The county continued to grow, as did the jail, which was expanded in 1995 to hold 130. By 2018, the average daily

number of detainees was 169, up from 149 in previous years, and bookings had risen to 5,003, up from an average of 4,724. With a record high 203 detainees, "overcrowding" doesn't quite describe the problem.

Sheriff Steve Pelton said there were and are a number of reasons that more people are standing in front of judges in Franklin County. Obviously, the population is booming but, more importantly, law enforcement is doing the job.

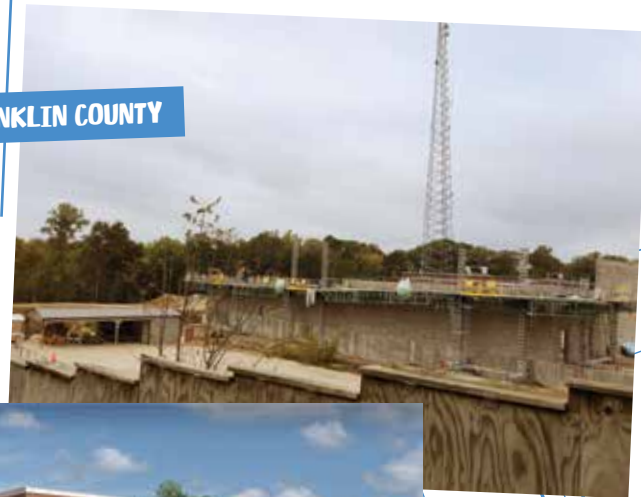
"There have been advances in science like DNA so we catch more people and we are housing detainees for municipalities," the sheriff said. "We also have a Narcotics Division that is working hard to shut down the drug trade."

Sheriff Pelton began working to solve the jail problem soon after being elected in 2016. With 28 years on the department as a patrol officer, patrol commander and SWAT member and commander, his experience is broad and deep. So are his roots in Franklin County where his family has lived for five generations.

As in other counties around Missouri, the voters of Franklin County stepped up when presented with the facts. In



FRANKLIN COUNTY





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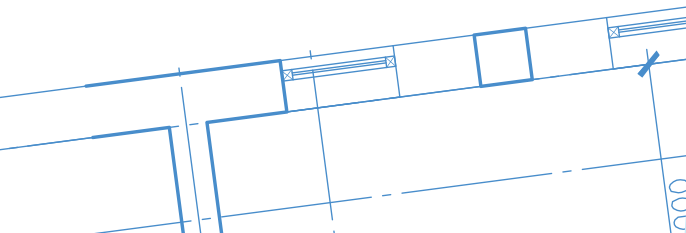
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the spring of 2018, 69 percent of voters approved a quarter-cent sales tax for operations and officer retention – decent pay – and another quarter-cent for a \$30-million jail project. Neither tax will sunset, and together, will bring in more than \$6 million annually.

“I’m thankful for voter support,” Sheriff Pelton said. “It’s important to me that every victim gets the justice they deserve. We want to hold violent offenders – that’s part of getting justice.”

There will be plenty of space in the new 250-bed jail, expected to open in 2020, and it will be overseen by 28 commissioned officers. The modern pod design will allow better inmate supervision and be far safer for officers. The new jail will be behind the old, opening the door to a planned remodel of the old facility into administrative offices and other spaces. It will be ready for use in 2021.

WEBSTER COUNTY

“It won’t be long now.”

Webster County Sheriff Royce Cole gave that update on construction of the county’s new jail one recent September day with a definite note of jubilation in his voice.

From the day that Sheriff Cole opened the jail doors to thousands of people attending the annual Fourth of July celebration in Marshfield, it has been a long process of public meetings, waiting for votes to be counted, designing a modern facility and now watching each day as the final touches are put on the building.

The old jail has a familiar story: It was built in the late 1930s. It has 32 beds and an average daily population of 70, resulting in detainees sleeping on the floor. The antiquated design puts jailers and detainees at risk. And sometimes, there is just no room at the inn and the county has to foot the bill to house detainees elsewhere.

That will all end one day soon when Sheriff Cole’s vision for a better day in Webster County comes true. Elected in 2008, his press for a new facility began after a trip to China many years ago

where he toured a local jail. He expected a dungeon but experienced a jail more modern – and better – than his. It hurt his pride as a law enforcement professional and as an American. He came home determined to do something about the antiquated Webster County Jail.

Opening the jail to visitors was the first step and it bore fruit. Webster County voters approved sales taxes for law enforcement and jail construction in 2014. Throughout the push to pass the taxes, Cole never had a drawing of a new jail. He had a presentation that described the desperate need.

With the tax passed, another round of public meetings and careful consideration of the requirements for the future brought the county to a ground breaking and now, almost, a new jail.

The 116-bed facility reflects the current need for 70 bunks and anticipates the needs of a growing county. It includes a sally port for safe prisoner transfers and is pod-designed for detaining and staff safety every day. In short, it reflects the penal technology of the current century. It

also includes facilities for a work release program that Cole takes very seriously.

“It is beautiful, it is well designed,” Sheriff Cole said of his new jail. “I am real proud.”

Around Missouri new county jail construction is finally catching up to current needs, in some cases after a century of waiting.

New state rules making no-bond release more easily available to non-violent offenders mean most county jails will see a temporary lull in jail populations. That may allow counties on the verge of making the move to new facilities a chance to get going with projects. However, a lot of sheriffs agree there’s a strong likelihood that a big percentage of those released on their own recognizance will reoffend, filling new jails and providing a peek into the future.

The problem isn’t going away. The need will continue.

● By Michael Feedback



WEBSTER COUNTY

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THERE IS ONE WORD THAT HAS GUIDED BOONE COUNTY JAIL DIRECTOR KEITH HOSKINS THROUGH A VERY SUCCESSFUL CAREER: **PROACTIVE**

He has followed that guide through to its logical conclusion. The Boone County Jail facility is the first in Missouri to be accredited by the National Institute for Jail Operations, a program designed to head off legal and institutional trouble before it starts.

Hoskins, a Missouri native, began his corrections career on the ground floor. After graduating from the University of Missouri-Columbia with a degree in law-enforcement oriented management and counseling, he went to work in 1986 as a deputy at the old Boone County Jail.

The “old” jail was built in 1934 to hold 37. It was project #163 of the Depression-Era Public Works Administration, part of the New Deal of 1933, in concert with the county. The federal government provided 30 percent of the cost of a project, including material and labor. It took several votes in 1933 and 1934 for voters to approve the county’s portion of the project. In the 1970s voters rejected the idea of a new jail several times, but cooperative effort between the city of Columbia and the county cleared the way for expansion and modernization that upped the bed count to 85. Through the 1980s the facility again became overcrowded. Eventually the federal courts ruled that 78 was the maximum population, forcing the county to house additional detainees elsewhere. For jails across Missouri and the nation, litigation was rapidly changing the rules and the reality of incarceration.

Hoskins was asked to work with others to develop a plan for building a new jail and in 1991, years of work by law enforcement and public officials came to fruition when the doors of the new 134-bed facility opened. Meanwhile, Hoskins was rising through the ranks to director of the facility, also serving as co-chair of the Missouri Jail Administrators organization.

Today, Hoskins oversees a modern, pod-design, 246-bed facility, 55 of which are designated for use by women. He oversees a staff of 54 employees working 12-hour shifts. He is backed up by two

lieutenants and a captain who serves as assistant director. The staff at the Boone County Jail works additional overtime to make sure the facility is staffed properly, along with ensuring detainees are taken to court and medical appointments.

Hoskins is very mindful of referring to those incarcerated in his facility as detainees, not inmates. Most have not been convicted of a crime but rather are awaiting trial or other legal process. On a recent day Hoskins noted that 99.3 percent of his current population were detainees, underlining his use of the term. “We are a detention facility,” Hoskins said.

Interestingly, one of Boone County’s proactive protocols is to never fill the jail to capacity. In fact, when the facility reaches 85-90 percent of operating capacity, detainees are sent to jails in surrounding counties. For sheriffs around Missouri struggling with jails packed to overflowing, this may seem extravagant. For Boone County it is just part of being prepared for unforeseen eventualities.

“If we have an incident that requires segregating detainees or there is a mass arrest (like in a drug sweep) we have space to address the event,” Hoskins says. “If we would run at full capacity, we would not have that flexibility. By running under 100 percent, we actually save money in the long run,” Hoskins says.

Hoskins, who has visited correctional facilities nationwide for Boone County, said the majority are “reactive.” In other words, sheriffs and administrators are pressed and focused on today’s problems instead of tomorrow’s solutions. It is Boone County’s proactive approach that, in large measure, has resulted in the jail becoming a NIJO accredited facility.

Like sheriffs across the state, Boone County has had its share of detainee-initiated lawsuits. Indeed, such suits were the basis of a wave of jail building in Missouri counties of all sizes. Court actions in Boone County included detainee complaints about eating off stainless-steel tables, the thickness of mattresses and a lack of cushions in steel chairs. Every sheriff knows that the



jail is their biggest liability. “Part of my job is to keep the sheriff out of court,” Hoskins said. Establishing protocols, rules and standards are key to his proactive approach. And that is where the NIJO program comes in.

The NIJO program is focused on development of standards and procedures that reflect case law, court decisions and other factors to reduce liability. A check list of 600 standards for Missouri, everything from water heater temperature to security and maintenance, develops a system that reduces jail legal liability significantly. In addition, NIJO legal-based guidelines for policy are focused on safe and effective jail operation. Specific and effective jail policies can be developed and maintained with the system.

NIJO accreditation is not built in a day. Hoskins and Lt. Damon Reynolds spent 22 months bringing Boone County policies and procedures in line with Missouri-specific NIJO guidelines. It took a group effort of the entire Jail Branch to implement these policies and procedures at the Boone County facility.

More than a dozen categories of standards cover the gamut of jail operations: administration, inmate intake and release, inmate management, detaining access to communication, security and control, detainee services, sanitation and maintenance, programs for detainees, Americans with Disabilities Act compliance and access to marriage and religion.

Hoskins points to this last category as an example of the complexity of maintaining policies that meet the standard of current case law and legal requirements. One Missouri county required that both parties appear at the courthouse, in person, to secure a marriage license. Subsequent litigation resulted in a change in the Recorder of Deeds Office requirements that now allow inmates/detainees to be married while incarcerated. The Boone County Jail has seen 10 marriages, although Hoskins said, “they do not consummate” the union. The facility has also arranged for baptisms to fulfill requirements of religious access.

To keep up with it all you must be “on the ball and up to date”

Hoskins said. He believes adhering to the NIJO program makes that possible.

“(NIJO certification) is an in-depth look at how jail management works,” Hoskins said. “Because it is based on case law it is not just best practices, it is based on law and precedent. The process gives a great picture of what you have been doing right and what you have been doing wrong and it shows where there are liability weaknesses so you can be proactive instead of reactive.”

The NIJO system is web-based, providing the opportunity to work through standards and provide proof that policies comply with standards. At the end of the paperwork process a NIJO auditor conducts an on-site evaluation.

“It’s a deep dive. The auditor looks at everything from where the air conditioning is set to drinking water access,” he said, adding that the auditor spent two and a half days with him and staff, scoring compliance with each of the 600 standards. “The auditor said we did very well for our first time.”

The result? A total score of 98.45 percent compliance and NIJO accreditation. That’s not good enough for Hoskins whose goal is 100 percent next year.

Each year the policy is updated to meet new criteria, creating what Hoskins calls a “living breathing policy document.” NIJO keeps track of state and federal rulings and updates standards each year, providing guideposts through the tangled world of potential jail litigation.

There is a cost to NIJO certification, and it is based on the facility’s average daily population. Hoskins said it takes time to work through the process, but the benefits of having eyes opened to liability and developing policies to head off trouble is well worth it. Meeting the high NIJO standard goes a long way toward the prime objective: reducing legal liability that could negatively impact the county.

● By Michael Feedback



A total of 116 sheriffs and sheriffs' staff members attended this year's training conference, held in August at Lake of the Ozarks. In addition to learning more about important topics like the Missouri National Guard Drug Interdiction Program, disability awareness and human trafficking in Missouri, attendees had several opportunities to network, visit with more than 70 vendors and enjoy an evening of fun with a barbecue, corn hole tournament and music provided by Daviess County Sheriff Ben Becerra and his band Split Decision.

At the awards luncheon, Bill Shaw, a deputy with the Schuyler County Sheriff's Office, was named "Reserve of the Year" in recognition of the countless hours he has volunteered with the county's drug court program and to not only start and then teach a drug and alcohol awareness program in the schools, but also to personally raise some \$5,000 to purchase the Drunk Busters equipment.

Sgt. Shawn Fields, school resource officer with the Stone County Sheriff's Office, was named "Deputy of the Year" for risking his own life to jump into Table Rock Lake to save several people – and to pull out several drowning victims – who were on the Branson Duck Boat that sank July 19, 2018 during a violent storm. Sheriff Doug Rader said if not for Field's quick thinking and brave actions, more people could have drowned that day.

The Wives Auxiliary offered raffles for several great prizes! Andy Sides, a deputy with Jefferson County Sheriff's office, won a \$2,500/5-day guided Muzzleloader Deer Hunt with lodging and meals included, provided by Brad Wittstock, owner of Hickory Hills Hunts in Arbela, Missouri.

Bill Haley, owner of On-Target Range and Target Ammunition, won a \$1,200/4-day guided Spring Turkey Hunt, also with lodging and meals included, that was provided by Kevin Small, owner of Midwest Outfitting Co. Baring, Missouri.

A Glock Model 48 9mm 10-shot pistol valued at \$400 was won by Ozark County Sheriff Darrin Reed and a sheriff clock provided by Henry County Sheriff Kent and Diane Oberkrom was won by Scotland County Sheriff Wayne Winn.





Making Communities Safer

MSA Provides Valuable Training for Deputies

Studies have made it clear that a significant portion of crimes today can be directly tied to controlled substances. In October, deputies from around the state were provided with guidance on how to interrupt the manufacture and distribution of drugs through proactive criminal interdiction and search and seizure techniques that ensure a successful investigation.

However, the training didn't stop there. Deputies also learned tactical incident care and the proper way to use a tourniquet to stop life-threatening bleeding; they learned how to identify and combat human trafficking in Missouri; they were provided with ideas and tools that could be used to conduct burglary investigations so property crimes can be solved; and they heard updates on recent court decisions and how those decisions apply to use-of-force, search warrants, DWI blood draws and lawful detention versus actual arrests.

That instruction – along with much more – was provided during the Missouri Sheriffs' Association Deputy Conference held in October at Margaritaville Lake Resort at Lake of the Ozarks. It was the first time the MSA held a conference for deputies, but Jeanne Merritt, director of marketing and conference organizer for the MSA, said it certainly won't be the last.

"We had been holding a chief deputy conference every year but at the sheriffs' 2018 summer training conference we discussed the idea of opening it up to all deputies and the sheriffs all supported it. Bill Puett, sheriff of Buchanan County who is chair of the training committee, and Mark Owen, sheriff of Platte County, said they would put the agenda together and find instructors so we moved forward. They immediately went to work on it and did an absolutely wonderful job

providing training that was more specialized – not entry level – which is what the sheriffs wanted," she said.

Missouri state law requires all licensed peace officers to complete 24 hours of annual Continuing Law Enforcement Education, commonly referred to as CLEE. The training must be approved by the state or provided by a state-licensed CLEE training provider or basic academy provider. The MSA is licensed to provide both. Merritt said the October conference provided the required 24 hours of CLEE.

The conference began with "Ethical and Professional Decision Making – Doing the Right Thing when Nobody is Looking" and "Officer Safety Threats with Prisoner Transportation" for all attendees, then split off into three separate tracks with information focusing on investigations, patrol, and leadership presented during each session. Classes included such topics as search and seizure issues for traffic stops; criminal interdiction techniques; difficult citizen contacts – extremist, Isis and anti-government individuals and search warrant requirements and preparation. Training also included major case squad – team development and investigative resources; crime scene techniques and newest challenges with evidence collection; and skimmers and new threats in financial crime investigations. Classes also focused on electronic crime evidence – the dos and don'ts of how and what to collect; toxic employees; complexities of sheriff's office budget preparation - how to prepare and justify requests, and principles of leadership.

On the last day of training, everyone was brought back together for a four-hour presentation on Narcoterrorism by Jeffrey Stamm, the executive director of the Midwest High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area in Kansas City, Missouri.

Merritt said everyone raved about the quality of the presentations and the

knowledge and presentation skills of the trainers.

"In fact, we always ask conference attendees to fill out a review form after the last class and at the very end of the sheet, we ask for comments. Other than a few suggestions of ways to make it better, every single comment was positive," she said. "In addition, about six or seven deputies and chief deputies asked if they could get involved to help plan next year's conference. We're excited about all the interest shown."

Major Hugh Fowler with the Johnson County Sheriff's Office said he felt the conference was extremely beneficial.

"As a command staff member who had several deputies and supervisors in attendance, I had the opportunity to ask them their opinions as it pertained to the conference and the tracks they attended. Without exception, everyone had great things to say. I would encourage all agency heads to send their command staff or at least one road deputy to attend the next conference. Not only do they have the opportunity to learn some very important information, they also get the chance to network with other agencies," he said.

Lt. Zachary Driskill with the Crawford County Sheriff's Office said he appreciated those networking opportunities.

"The conference provided great training but the three-track system allowed a larger, more diverse group to come together for training – something we wouldn't normally get to do – which meant we could network with people in other disciplines and from departments of differing sizes. I thought that was very valuable," he said.

Major Derek Walrod with the Jasper County Sheriff's Office said he felt that everyone from road patrol to first-line supervisors to command staff benefitted.

"The classes were taught by instruc-



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tors who work in the field and they did a great job teaching. Being chief deputy, I appreciated the supervision classes – how to be a better leader – because that's what I aspire to. I want to train my guys to be able to step in and take my job eventually," he said, also praising the division of training. "I brought a patrol supervisor, who took Track 1; being command staff I was more interested in Track 3 – I especially appreciated the class on budgets; but road deputies also benefitted from the training offered in Track 2. I'm glad they split it up this way because there's really something for everyone, no matter what your job is. I absolutely intend to be here again next year and hopefully will be able to bring even more guys with me."

Merritt said to provide an additional opportunity for the deputies to network and also have a little fun, vendors who partner with the MSA covered the cost of a barbecue on the Boat House Deck that included a cornhole tournament. Seventeen teams took part but the top three were all from the Johnson County Sheriff's Office. First place winners, who each took home a \$50 gift card, were Lt. Mike Hanes and Major Hugh Fowler. Second place was won by Sheriff Scott Munsterman and Sgt. Jeff Parsons. Third place went to Sgt. Dean Koch and Sgt. Sam Busch.

The event also included a drawing for a gun case donated by US Gun Totes. That was won by Nevin Turner from Randolph County.

"All in all, I don't think things could have gone much better," Merritt said. "The only issue we're running into is finding a date where Margaritaville has enough space to house us next year. Based on what we're already hearing, I believe our attendance will double. But that's a good problem to have!"

● By Nancy Zoellner-Hogland



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