



The Gold Star

2nd Quarter 2024 Volume 42, No. 2

Official member publication of the Iowa State Sheriffs' and Deputies' Association (ISSDA)

Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds Signed H.F. 2661 on May 3 Modifying the Retirement Benefits of Sheriffs and Deputy Sheriffs



New Lights: The Iowa Department of Public Safety did a test run of the new lights at the Iowa Peace Officer Memorial on April 25 and Nathan Ludwig, Executive Officer, Iowa State Patrol sent these photos to ISS-DA.



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Hello ISSDA board of directors,

Thank you for sending me to Police Week in Washington DC with the ISSDA Honor Guard members. It was a very busy, but very meaningful week. I can't say enough good things about our Honor Guard and the reputation they have amongst Honor Guards from around the country. ISSDA is well respected and appreciated by the Iowa COPS organization and other agencies who make police week happen. It was awesome watching our Association so well represented and respected there. I will be writing an article soon about the experience, but wanted to share the photos I took with you. You will see the honor guard working the detail at the airport helping survivor families off the planes, getting their luggage and escorting them to the buses that took them to the hotel. You will also see our participation in the candle light vigil and Police week ceremonies. We also toured the White House, US Capitol, Pentagon and Arlington National Cemetery. We met with Legislators and had many conversations with people there who had ties to Iowa in some way. Our honor guard truly represented us well as ambassadors of Iowa. THANKS again for the opportunity.

Sgt. Shawn Ireland, ISSDA President



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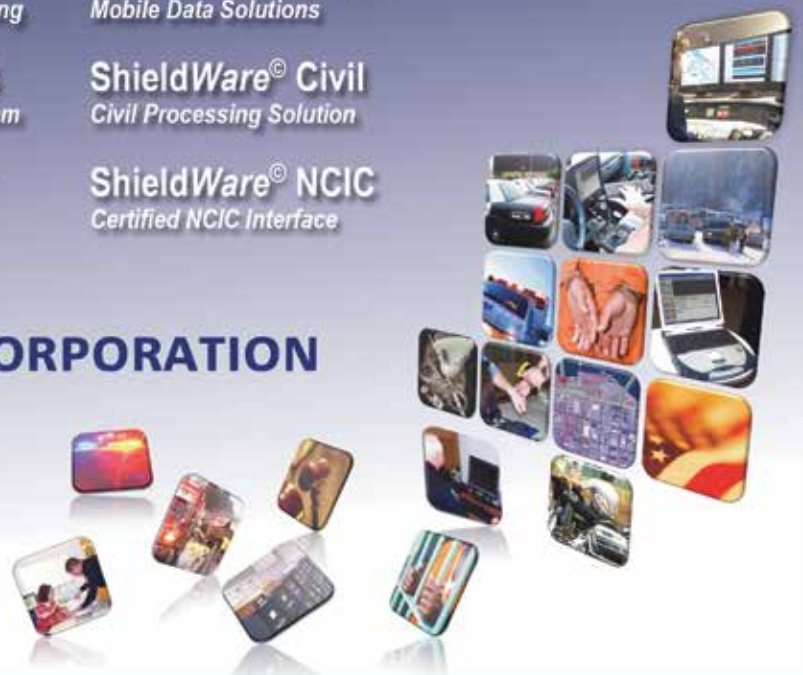
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The Gold Star

of The Iowa State Sheriffs' and Deputies' Association

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Reflections on Retirement Legislation: Your Career is a Marathon and Not a Speed Race

As the 2024 legislative session wraps up, I want to thank our Legislative Committee for the extraordinary work they do representing Iowa Sheriffs and Deputies, and everyone who works for the Office of Sheriff in all 99 counties.

Our lobbyists Tony Phillips and Jake Highfill deserve our appreciation for their tireless work, and for the commitment they have to our association at the Capitol. This year we were laser focused on one important issue - improving our IPERS benefits and leveling the playing field in a very competitive market for good, qualified men and women to be sheriffs and deputy sheriffs. This bill's sole purpose was to help us recruit and retain staff who want to dedicate their law enforcement career to the Sheriff's Office. I believe this bill will help attract those who want to join this profession and retain those who may be tempted to go work for other agencies. I want to sincerely say THANK YOU to everyone who helped us pass this bill. This was a team effort.

All this talk of retirement had me reflect on my own career and of those who have gone before me. This will be my 24th year of working for the Linn County Sheriff's Office. I have seen many people start and finish their careers. Many have done well and retired with distinguished careers and inspired me to be who I am today. Although to get hired by the Sheriff's Office you must pass a physical fitness test that requires a 1.5 mile timed run, the rest of your career is not a speed race; it's a marathon. It can be a long and rewarding career for those who want to make it so. And just like in a marathon, it's not how you start;



Sergeant Shawn Ireland
Linn County Sheriff's Office

it's how you finish the race that matters. We are only stewards of the office. Someone was doing the job before we got there, and someone will do it when we leave. Like with any good race: finish strong. This is also an election year and inevitably there will be some new sheriffs elected and other sheriffs leaving office. When you get to that last lap, give it your all. Leave the office better than you found it. Leave a legacy for the next generation to follow.

I love working for the Sheriff's Office because it is a team effort. When someone on our team receives an award, we all helped participate in that award. When one of us wins, we all win. If one of our teammates fails, we all feel that too. It is imperative that we recognize we are all on the same team, and we are only as strong as our weakest link. When I was a field training officer on patrol, I would frequently ask my trainee in a situation, "what legally can

you do here?" Then I would ask, but what should you do here? There is a lot of discretion in our work and it is important that we have the wisdom to discern what you can do, but more importantly, what should you do. Think about that before you make a bad decision that will hurt the rest of your team.

This job is never about you. It is about serving and protecting the citizens in our community, and if you ever lose sight of that, it may be time to find another place to work – but don't cause harm on your way out. Don't end your career on a bad note. You will be remembered by how you left, how you finished your race. Don't let that tarnish the good things you did do while you were there. Don't leave without saying goodbye. Leave on good terms. Don't leave without passing on what you have learned to the next person who will take over for you.

I expect this retirement bill will have all our members, in all stages of their careers, thinking about their own future retirement plans. As Ferris Bueller once said (if you don't know who that is, I'm guessing you're not close to retirement yet): "Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it." Just like watching kids grow up, your career will go fast too. Enjoy your job while you have it because it won't last forever. This work can have its bad days, but don't miss the rewards that only a career like this can give you. Make plans for your future. Never give up on yourself or your team. You will make mistakes. Remember to keep on keeping on. It's not how you start your race, but how you finish.

See Page 8 for article on "Build My Future" event

ISSDA Members Featured in Iowa DPS Video highlighting First Responder Jobs at "Build My Future" Career Fair 2024

The Iowa Dept. of Public Safety has produced a public safety careers video for high school students filmed at the annual "Build My Future" career fair event at the Iowa State Fair Grounds – held this year on April 17. The video is narrated by Iowa DPS Communication Specialist Jacob Reineke with comments by ISSDA First V.P. Sgt. Elizabeth Quinn and Iowa DNR Capt. Deb Vitko. Watch the video by typing this link in your browser: youtube.com/watch?v=tkasKw7XxK0



Take Care of Our Law Enforcement Family

Over the past several months, the Iowa State Sheriffs' and Deputies' Association (ISSDA) has been discussing updating the policy for the ISSDA Memorial Plaque that displays those sheriffs and deputies who have paid the ultimate sacrifice and were killed in the line of duty. During our discussion and debates we discovered there are many different versions of criteria, depending on the organization, that would qualify as killed in the line of duty.

Pottawattamie County Sheriff Andy Brown was appointed to serve on a committee to research the various policies in place. Sheriff Brown, 2nd Vice President of the ISSDA Executive Board of Directors and Committee member of the ISSDA Memorial Plaque, recommended ISSDA adopt the guidelines used by the State Peace Officer Memorial that honorees die in the line of duty. It was further discussed and recommended to include all employees of the sheriff's office to be recognized if they are killed in the line of duty. The policy will exclude those who die as a result of suicide or Covid-19.

Nomination Criteria: The 2024 ISSDA board of directors has elected to follow the same criteria as defined by the Iowa Peace Officer Memorial and include any employee of an Iowa Sheriff's Office killed in the line of duty. All submissions will be reviewed by the ISSDA board of directors and exceptions will be made on a case-by-case basis as determined by the Board.

One such death that I am aware of that we can now recognize as a "Line of Duty Death" is the tragedy of Virgil Lee Behrens, who succumbed to injuries on June 3rd, 2008 that occurred during a traffic accident on May 22nd, 2008. Virgil was a transport officer for Marion County and was headed to the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy to attend in-service training when the vehicle next to him struck a deer on the US Hwy 65 bypass near Altoona. A portion of the deer was thrown through the windshield of his department-issued vehicle, causing it to go out of control. The vehicle rolled and ejected Behrens causing critical injuries. Behrens was transported to a Des



Sheriff Keith Davis
Wayne County Sheriff's Office

Moines Hospital where he remained on life support until his passing. I had the pleasure of knowing Virgil as he had made several transports from the Wayne County Jail.

After establishing this policy, I began thinking about a long term goal that we had strived for – "Below 100."

To realize this goal, Below 100 aims to eliminate preventable line-of-duty law enforcement officer deaths and serious injuries through training designed to focus on areas under an officer's control. These areas of focus include: getting LEOs wearing a seat belt and vest, watching their speed, staying present and focusing on what's important now, and remembering complacency kills.

There are more than 750,000 state and local (excluding federal) law enforcement officers. These officers face many job hazards, including: physical exertion, psychological and organizational stressors, and health issues. Some behavior-related hazards that put officers at risk of a crash on the job are:

- Not wearing a seat belt;
- Speeding, particularly through intersections;
- Being distracted while using a mobile data terminal or other in-car electronics;
- Experiencing tunnel vision from increased stress.

I also began thinking of those that do take

their own lives. As my research into the subject revealed, anytime there is a line of duty death involving a motor vehicle accident or an officer killed by a firearm, stabbing or some other means by another individual, there will be an extensive investigation into what occurred and why. There will be reports and documentation on the cause and possibly what could have been done differently to prevent the death from occurring.

Suicides are not handled in the same manner, as there sometimes are reasons associated behind the suicide that could shed light on an act that may not have been honorable that resulted in that officer taking his own life. I am not suggesting that we honor those that have died in that manner but maybe we should take a closer look as to the root cause of the action taken.

As law enforcement officers, we deal with tragic incidents that occur on a regular basis. We deal with those that are having a mental health crisis and then go on to the next call. We try to take care of everyone else but there are times when it just can get to be too much. I have been in this career for over three decades and have seen a lot of changes. One of the positive changes is that now there are resources available to help law enforcement officers that may be suffering from depression, PTSD, addictions to alcohol or other drugs as well as general mental health issues.

I logged into the ISSDA website and was able to find links to Peer Support Groups that are readily available to help you after a critical incident or any of the other things I previously mentioned. I know even as a small agency; we have resources through Lexipol via Cordico that are available on an app on your phone. There are also links on the NSA Website that provide resources to you with a click of the mouse.

Let's get "Below 100." Be aware and be alive!

Respectfully,
ISSDA Secretary,
Wayne County Sheriff,
D. Keith Davis



ISSDA Schools Schedule



Spring Jail School

Feb. 18-21, 2025

Spring Civil School

April 13-16, 2025

Fall Jail School

Sept. 17-20, 2024

Winter Schools

Dec. 03-06, 2024

Iowa Department of Public Safety (DPS) Sponsors and Works “First Responder Zone” at “Build My Future” Career Fair 2024

The Iowa Department of Public Safety was thrilled to sponsor and participate in the 2024 “Build My Future” event at the Iowa State Fairgrounds on April 17. A “First Responder Zone” made its first debut in the Hall of Law and Flame where fire departments, EMT services, and law enforcement agencies showcased the critical importance of their roles in ensuring community safety.

Approximately 7,000 students attended this free event, which is Iowa’s largest hands-on student career fair. This is the fifth year the Build My Future event has been held in Des Moines, and it offered a unique opportunity for Iowa’s future workforce to get an inside look at what it’s like to work in public safety.

High school is a crucial time for exploring careers. Discovering first responder roles can introduce students to new career possibilities, helping them make informed decisions about their future education and career paths. First responder careers require a unique set of skills including problem-solving, quick decision-making, and physical endurance. Exposure to these fields can encourage students to develop these competencies, which are valuable in any career path.

Knowledge about first responder careers can encourage students to engage with their communities, whether through volunteer opportunities, internships, or simply a heightened awareness of the roles that keep their

communities safe. We encourage all interested students to seize this opportunity to explore the possibilities that a career in public safety offers!

“We had water patrol boats there, a mobile command post that was essentially a big RV that’s outfitted like a dispatch center, all kinds of activities for them to get an inside look into what it’s like to be a first responder,” said Mitch Mortvedt, Director of the DPS Professional Development and Support Services Division. “It’s a wonderful career. You’re serving your community in a sense that gives you a lot of professional and personal job satisfaction.”

Other hands-on activities that were offered to students included a mock crime scene investigation, technical reconstruction of a vehicle accident, and the chance to ride in the Iowa State Patrol’s seatbelt convincer, which allows riders to experience force up to five times their body weights - similar to that of a 5-10 mph crash.

Firetrucks, armored vehicles, police motorcycles and other vehicles were also on display. DPS worked alongside the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and several Iowa law enforcement and public safety agencies to



The Story County Sheriff’s Office drone Booth.

engage and educate students, including:

- Des Moines & West Des Moines Police Departments
- Urbandale Police Department
- Clear Lake Police Department
- Ankeny Police Department
- Davenport Police Department
- Waukee Fire Department
- Pleasant Hill Fire Department
- Westcom Emergency Communications Center
- Iowa State Sheriffs’ & Deputies’ Assn.
- Cedar Falls Public Safety
- Urbandale Fire Department
- Polk County Sheriff’s Office
- Food and Drug Administration

Clinton Co. S.O. Hires J. Beschen as Deputy; B. Winter as Civilian C.O. ; C. Knudtson as C.O.; G. Brown; T. Winter as P.T. C.S.O.



Jerid Beschen was hired as a Full-Time Deputy in December 2023. Deputy Beschen previously served as a police officer in Bellevue, Iowa.



Breanna Winter was hired as a full-time civilian correctional officer in April.



Cassandra Knudtson was hired as a full-time civilian correctional officer in April. Cassandra previously worked in Black Hawk County Jail.



Gracie Brown was hired as a full-time civilian correctional officer in April.



Travis Winter was hired as a part-time community service officer. Travis also serves as the President of the Clinton County Reserve Deputy program.

Henry County's Three New Sergeants: Cargill, Stallman, Aplara



Sgt. Garrett Cargill Sgt. R. Stone Stallman Sgt. Aaron Aplara

By Rich McNamee
Henry County Sheriff

The Henry County Sheriff's Office has three recently promoted sergeants who have been assigned as the sergeant to each shift.

Henry County Deputy Sheriff Garrett Cargill is assigned to the day shift sergeant position.

Sgt. Cargill's law enforcement career began in 2003, when he was hired as an officer for the Village of Gulfport, Illinois. Sgt. Cargill graduated from the University of Illinois Police Training Institute in 2003 and attended Southeastern Community College. He joined the Henry County Sheriff's Office in 2005 as a deputy. Sgt. Cargill achieved his Iowa Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) Certification the same year. He has worked for Henry County since 2005 and had several assignments, including firearms instructor, abandoned vehicle processing, evidence control, and civil processing.

Henry County Deputy R. Stone Stallman is assigned to the overnight sergeant position.

Sgt. Stallman's law enforcement career began in 2012 with the police department in New London, Iowa. He attended Southwestern and Southeastern Community Colleges and the University of Northern Iowa with a major in criminology. Sgt. Stallman graduated from the Iowa Law Enforcement Acad-

emy in 2012. He joined the Henry County Sheriff's Office in 2013 as a deputy. Sgt. Stallman has had several extra assignments while working for Henry County. They include PBT maintenance, TASER training and instructor, Field Training Officer, PREA investigator, and is also a volunteer fireman for the New London Fire Department.

Henry County Sgt. Aaron Aplara is assigned to the evening shift sergeant position.

Sgt. Aplara's law enforcement career began in 2011 when he entered the United States Army as a corrections officer specialist. He left the military in 2013 and got a part-time job at the Henry County Jail. While working in the jail, he attended school and received degrees at Indian Hills Community College and Iowa Wesleyan University in criminal justice and psychology.

He also became a reserve deputy sheriff in 2016, and changed rank in 2018 to deputy sheriff and continued in that role until his promotion.

Sgt. Aplara graduated from ILEA in 2018. He is a Peer Support Person at the Sheriff's Office. Sgt. Aplara also created and implemented an After School Program in which he teaches grade school aged children the basics of being a deputy sheriff, while being a mentor to almost every school kid in Henry County.

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3. Vaccines are not just for kids.

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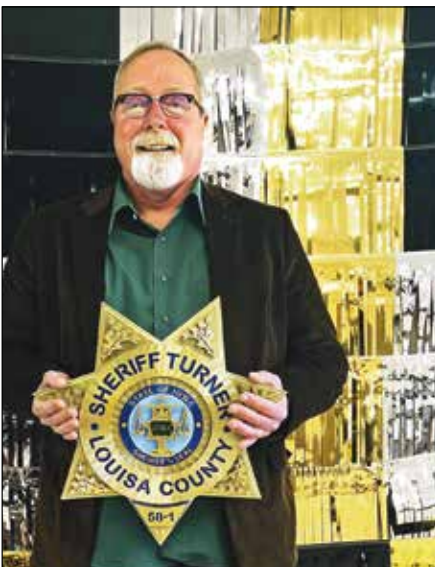


Louisa County Sheriff Brad Turner Retired April 12, 2024; Chief Deputy Brandon Marquardt Appointed New Sheriff



Sheriff Brandon Marquardt with his wife, Lynne Marquardt, a Louisa County Probation/ Parole Officer, and their daughter, Alivia Marquardt.

(Above) On April 12th, 2024, **Louisa County Chief Deputy Brandon Marquardt** was appointed Louisa County Sheriff. Marquardt had been the Chief Deputy for the past three years, and has experience as a deputy, investigator and police chief. He is a graduate of Wapello High School (Louisa County) and a Western Illinois University graduate with several degrees including a Masters in Law Enforcement and Justice Administration. He has served over 14 years in the field of law enforcement. Sheriff Marquardt has filed as a Republican candidate to run for Sheriff in Louisa County for 2025.



Louisa County Sheriff Brad Turner formally retired on April 12th after nearly 33 years of service. Brad held multiple positions during his tenure, including deputy, K-9 deputy handler, sergeant and sheriff since 2011. Brad and his wife plan to travel to visit their children and spend time with their families.

We are trying to raise some more money to take the first steps in this project. If anyone has any questions or concerns, they are more than welcome to reach out to me! Thank you for your consideration. -- Sheriff Adam Infante, Dallas County Sheriff's Office, O: 515.993.4771, adam.infante@dallascountyiowa.gov



Dear Iowa Law Enforcement Officers,

"Ride The Thin Blue Line" is a non-profit organization made up of law enforcement professionals and volunteers from across the State of Iowa. Our mission is to construct a memorial along the Raccoon River Bike Trail behind the Dallas County Sheriff's Office to honor all fallen officers in the State of Iowa.

* The memorial will have a wall with the names of all officers that have made the ultimate sacrifice. The centerpiece of the memorial will be a 30+ foot metal oak tree sculpture, Tree of Life, symbolizing that these officers will always remain in our hearts and minds.

*Ride The Thin Blue Line is challenging you and your agency to raise \$1,000 or more to assist us in making this project a reality.

*The above image shows a rendering of what the project will look like and below shows how you can donate. We hope you will accept this challenge and support this worthwhile cause.

Follow us on Facebook, "Ride The Thin Blue Line" or our website ridethethinblueline.com.

A graphic for "Ride The Thin Blue Line" donations. It features the organization's logo at the top left, which includes a motorcycle and a flag. To the right, it says "We challenge YOU to DONATE". Below this, there are two boxes: one for "DONATE VIA MAIL" with the address "RIDE THE THIN BLUE LINE, PO BOX 126, WAUKEL, IA 50263" and another for "DONATE VIA CREDIT OR DEBIT CARD" with a QR code. At the bottom, it says "We sincerely thank you for your support." and includes a small Facebook icon and the website name.

Plymouth County S.O. Promotes Jake Wingert to Lieutenant, Matt Struve to Sergeant & Hires Jordan Singer as Deputy Sheriff

By Sheriff Jeff TeBrink
Plymouth Co. Sheriff's Office

Jordan Singer was hired as a deputy sheriff and began employment with the Plymouth County Sheriff's Office on April 22, 2024. Deputy Singer is a Le Mars native and Le Mars Community High School graduate. He attended Western Iowa Tech where he graduated with an Associate's Degree in Police Science.

He worked as a jailer for the Plymouth County Sheriff's Office for a year and a half. Prior to being hired as a deputy, Singer was employed by the Cherokee Police Department as a certified law officer for 2-1/2 years.

Matt Struve was promoted to Sergeant on April 21, 2024. Sgt. Struve is a Hinton native and graduated from Hinton Community High School in 2004. He earned his Associate's Degree in Police Science at Western Iowa Tech. He was employed by the Kingsley Police Department as a certified officer. Sgt. Struve was hired by the Plymouth County S.O.



Lt. Jake Wingert, new Deputy Jordan Singer and Sgt. Matt Struve.

as a part-time deputy in 2010 and later hired as a full-time deputy in 2014. Throughout his time at the Plymouth County S. O., he has been assigned to duties such as Technical Accident Investigator, Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, K-9 Officer, Drug Task Force, PREA Investigator, and Crime Scene Investigator.

Jake Wingert was promoted to lieutenant on April 21, 2024. Lt. Wingert is a Sioux City native and graduated from Sioux City North High School in 1998. He attended Morningside College as a student athlete and graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice and Sociology. Lt. Wingert was employed by the Denison Police Department as a certified law enforcement officer from 2007 to 2010. He was hired by the Plymouth County Sheriff's Office in 2010. Lt. Wingert has worked as a Patrol Deputy and K-9 handler.

Prior to this promotion he held the rank of sergeant.

Clay County S.O. Hires Former Jailer Ryan Lefever as Deputy Sheriff

By Sheriff Chris Raveling
Clay Co. Sheriff's Office

We added a new deputy to our Sheriff's Office recently: Ryan Lefever. Deputy

Lefever was a jailer here starting in 2021 and then helped serve Civil papers at the beginning of 2022. He was a Reserve Deputy for me, also. Deputy Lefever will be attending the August ILEA academy.



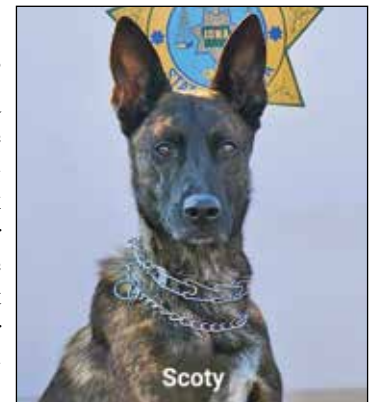
Ringgold County Sheriff's Office Deploys New Narcotic Detection, Handler Protection, Article/Area Search, and Tracking K-9 Scoty

By Sheriff Rob Haley
Ringgold County Sheriff's Office

The Ringgold Co. S.O. proudly introduces the newest member of the team, K-9 Scoty, a 5-year-old Dutch Shephard born in Poland.

Scoty's favorite things are playing fetch with his favorite ball and time with his new family. Most importantly, Scoty loves to work, with a great nose and drive to find illegal narcotics. K-9 Scoty is trained in narcotic detection, handler protection, article/ area

search, and tracking. We give a special "thank you" to Cass Hosfield for donating his commission on a kennel from Spring Valley Sheds. We also thank the Tri-County Vet Clinic and Kelli Ferree with Boehringer Ingelheim for Scoty's first year of flea & tick and Heart Guard medications. Deputy Ethan Baker and K-9 Scoty are eager to work as they focus on the illegal narcotics – not only in Ringgold County but the surrounding area as well. We are also excited for the possibility of community outreach in the near future to showcase K-9 Scoty's abilities.



Retirement of Webster County Deputy Article Reprinted from *The Messenger*

Knippel reflects on 45 years of service

Brett Knippel always wanted to be a law enforcement officer when he was growing up. In those days — the late 1970s — officer candidates had to be 21 to serve. So after graduating high school and working at Land O'Lakes, Knippel spent those few years preparing for his future career.

"In the meantime, I did all the civil service testing, the written test, strength and agility, all that kind of stuff," said Knippel, who is currently a deputy with the Webster County Sheriff's Office. "I got on the (Civil Service) list and just waited.

The opportunity to join the Fort Dodge Police Department as a patrolman came just three months after Knippel's 21st birthday. He started in March 1979 and stayed with the FDPD until 1998, when he moved over to the Webster County Sheriff's Office.

Now, Knippel is closing in on the end of a 45-year career that spanned two law enforcement agencies.

Iowa Code does not allow anyone aged 66 or older to be a full-time certified law enforcement officer, and Knippel's 66th birthday is rapidly approaching. While his last day on duty will be Thursday, Knippel's retirement goes into effect on Monday, the day before his 66th birthday.

On Tuesday, Knippel was honored at the Webster County Board of Supervisors meeting and was presented several plaques commemorating his service. In the afternoon, there was a retirement reception at the Law Enforcement Center. Around the room were posters with photos of Knippel throughout the years, as well as numerous newspaper clippings from his career.

"I think it's monumental that somebody like Brett can spend 45 years serving our community," Sheriff Luke Fleener said. "That's kind of exceptional because it is a difficult job."

For now, Knippel's retirement plans are to stay busy farming crops and cattle on his wife Margo's family farm.

Knippel's 45 years in uniform were anything but boring. In between writing speeding tickets and making arrests, he helped deliver several babies when their mothers weren't able to make it to the hospital and emergency medical services weren't able to get there in time.

Less than 18 months into his career at the FDPD, Knippel was wounded when he was



Messenger photo by Kelby Wingert: Webster County Sheriff's Office Deputy Brett Knippel, center, was honored during Tuesday's Board of Supervisors meeting for his 25 years with the WCSO. Sheriff Luke Fleener, right, and Chief Deputy Derek Christie, left, presented Knippel with an engraved plaque.

struck by a bullet by being shot at him as he walked out of the police station, then located at the Fort Dodge Municipal Building.

A Messenger article from the time reported that at about 9 p.m. on Aug. 11, 1980, Purl John Rauhauser, 53, drove up to the door of the police station and fired a .22 caliber rifle at Knippel, who was a patrolman and was walking down the steps at the time.

The bullet went through Knippel's left thigh, then entered the right thigh, where it got lodged. A spokesman at Trinity Regional Hospital said he would need to wear a cast, but there wouldn't be any permanent damage.

Prior to the shooting, Rauhauser had made threatening phone calls to judges and other officials, saying he was "going to shoot a policeman," the article reported. Rauhauser was apprehended a short time later and charged with attempted murder and going armed with intent to do bodily harm.

Another Messenger article reported that Rauhauser was angry at Knippel because the officer had filed a harassment charge against him after Rauhauser made numerous threatening phone calls to the police station when Knippel was on duty as a dispatcher.

Rauhauser later pleaded guilty to the attempted murder charge and was sentenced to up to 10 years in prison.

Knippel recalls one incident that will forever stick out in his mind. While on patrol with the FDPD, he was sent to a call where two little boys around 7 or 8 years old were playing with flammable liquid and accidentally set themselves on fire and were severely injured.

"That one hits me hard because they were the same age as my kid," he said.

In July 1989, Knippel received a letter of commendation from then-FDPD Chief Barry Weber for assisting with the apprehension of a robbery suspect while he was off duty. According to the letter, Knippel was at a local restaurant with his family when he noticed a man acting suspiciously, so he took note of the man's description and the type of vehicle that was being used by the subject. Knippel then provided the information to on-duty officers, who were then able to locate and arrest the robbery suspect.

"This is a fine illustration of the fact that police officers are never really off duty," Weber wrote. "The dedication you displayed in this instance ensures that the city of Fort Dodge is a safer place for all citizens."

In 1991, after Weber resigned, Knippel was one of 12 applicants for the position of Chief of Police. Ivan Metzger would eventually get the job.

In October 1997, while working as a detective with the FDPD, Knippel was part of a massive drug bust and what was believed to be the largest amphetamines arrest in city history at the time. A Fort Dodge man was arrested after FDPD officers executing a search warrant found a pound of amphetamines in his house, vehicle and on his person.

Knippel was also a part-time instructor at Iowa Central Community College for 13 years, where he taught defensive tactics.

In 1998, Knippel moved over to the Webster County Sheriff's Office, where he's served since.

In August 2020, Knippel was involved in a fatal officer-involved shooting when a suicidal female ran at him and other law enforcement officers wielding large knives. The Iowa Attorney General's Office ruled the shooting justified and did not pursue charges against the deputy.

(Knippel article, continued from Page 12)

Between his time with the FDPD and with the WCSO, Knippel has served under nine different administrations. He said of all of them, the best has been under Fleener as sheriff.

A lot has changed with policing in those 45 years, Knippel said. The cars, the technology, how they handle different cars and even the stance they hold when they shoot their guns. Probably one of the most visible changes, however, are that patrol officers don't wear formal patrol hats anymore.

"We called them the 'bus driver hats,'" he said.

When Knippel first started his career, he had a perm in his hair, creating a small afro style, which was the fashion at the time. The problem was, officers weren't allowed to have their hair touch the tops of their ears or their necks. So since wearing the patrol hats were mandatory, he'd stuff his curls up into his hat when he was at the station or out on a call, that way he could pass inspection by the shift

commander.

A 'boyish prank'

During the retirement reception for Deputy Sheriff Brett Knippel on Tuesday, several Messenger news clips from his career were on display. One interesting article told the story of a pair of mischievous young officers who landed in some hot water after a "boyish prank." While the article does not name Knippel, one can only assume it was included with the other stories because he was involved. The exact date of the publication is not known, but estimated to be in the early 1980s.

Bull hits walls, then fan at PD

There's always a lot of bull around any government office. And some citizens have threatened "rubbing official noses in it."

What happened in the Fort Dodge City Hall recently isn't quite the same thing. Not quite, but close.

In the first place it wasn't a bull. It was a dog that somehow got into the building one night. And without a place to relieve himself

(herself? We aren't sexist) what came naturally did. In one of the corridors.

Then, according to an unofficial but usually well informed source, the urge for a boyish prank couldn't be resisted by two of the city's men in blue.

From out of nowhere came a firecracker. Or was it two? Carefully, we assume, the 'cracker' was inserted into the mess on the floor. And soon, the story goes, the city hall corridor walls were indelicately decorated.

The fun was short-lived. Some say the entire night shift was required to perform janitorial duties. Two officers were suspended because of the incident, one for three days and the other for 10.

This is the unofficial version of why two patrolmen were given suspensions from duty. Chief of Police Don Hensley will make no comment.

-- Article from an unknown issue of The Messenger in the 1980s.

Austin Schmid Named Linn County's 2023 "Deputy of the Year"

By Sheriff Brian Gardner
Linn County Sheriff's Office

The 2023 Linn County Sheriff's Office "Deputy of the Year" award has been presented to Deputy Austin Schmid.

In his nomination of Deputy Schmid, Deputy Ben Helms recognized the important role that Deputy Schmid plays in the Patrol Division's field training process. With many new deputies heading to the Patrol Division over the past several months, Deputy Schmid continues to ensure that those deputies are properly trained to perform their job duties and has made himself accessible to them for any questions or concerns that they might have even after their training is over. Deputy Helms included that Deputy Schmid is a personal mentor to him and a person whom he strives to emulate.

Major Chad Colston, in his nomination, recognized that during Deputy Schmid's 16 years of employment, he has been a person who could be relied upon and has been a steady force and a quiet leader. Major Colston also recognized the primary role that Deputy Schmid had in helping get the "committal car" program off the ground, and is impressed with the lack of force needed during that process because Deputy Schmid knows how to communicate effectively with emotionally disturbed individuals. Major Colston notes

that, as part of what seems to be Deputy Schmid's never-ending FTO duties, he is a leader who leads not by voice but by example and is respected by the deputies as a person who they can ask for advice. His ability to make solid and informed decisions in chaotic scenes is key to his success and ultimately the success of the Sheriff's Office.

Beyond his role as an FTO trainer, Deputy Schmid is also a precision driving instructor and helped in forming the new P.I.T. policy and subsequent driving training for our staff. As the Patrol Division Commander, Major Colston has found Deputy Schmid to be someone who he can go to for suggestions or issues that come up from time to time, and he has also seen that Deputy Schmid will come to his commanders for advice or suggestions for the betterment of the agency.

These nominations make it clear that Deputy Schmid was an obvious choice for the 2023 Deputy of the Year award, and Sheriff Brian Gardner was honored to present it to him. The Linn County Sheriff's Office "Deputy of the Year" award Nomination Selection



Committee (comprised of Deputy Dan Patterson, Sgt. Chad Watkinson, and Lt. Chad Shover) met and forwarded to Sheriff Gardner the name of the Deputy Sheriff who they have selected as the 2023 Deputy of the Year. This award recognizes a specific Deputy Sheriff, regardless of rank, who went above and beyond the call of duty in serving the Sheriff's Office and the citizens of Linn County during the preceding year.

The Deputy of the Year award consists of a plaque given to the recipient and his/her name appears on the multi-year plaque in the Sheriff's Office first-floor lobby display case.

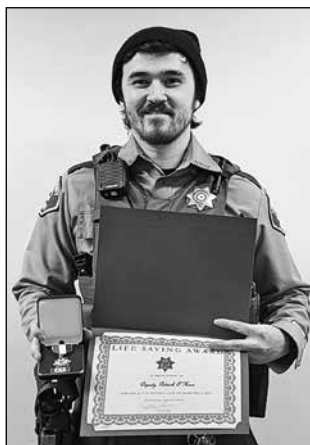
Linn Co. Deputies O'Hare, Schefers, and Speth Earn Life Saving Awards for Saving Victims of Saw, Farm Auger & Jack Accidents

In February 2024 Deputy Patrick O'Hare responded to a report of a man with a severely cut hand from a table saw accident sitting in a car in a convenience store parking lot unable to stop the bleeding or continue to a hospital. Deputy O'Hare arrived on scene and found the victim with profuse bleeding from a deep wound to his left wrist and a belt around the wound that was not tightened enough. Deputy O'Hare applied a tourniquet that controlled the bleeding until other first responders arrived to take over the care and transport him to a hospital, where he was then flown to the Mayo Clinic to undergo 5 hours of surgery. The patient's family advised that the medical professionals believe had Dep. O'Hare not applied the tourniquet upon arrival that the patient may have suffered life-threatening blood loss. Because of his situational awareness, attentiveness and thoroughness, Sheriff Brian Gardner awarded Dep. O'Hare a Life Saving Commendation Award for the act of saving a life.

In the morning of March 27, Deputy Matt Schefers was at a rural Ely farm taking a theft report. Midway through the owner's son pulled up in a semi, honking the air horn. Deputy Schefers and the man's parents exited the home as their son attempted to exit the semi. Their son had no clothing on his lower torso and was bleeding profusely from an injured right lower leg.

Deputy Schefers observed a severe compound fracture to the man's right leg near his foot, resulting in significant blood loss. As the son appeared to be losing consciousness, Deputy Schefers directed the parents to lie him on the ground as he retrieved a tourniquet from his duty belt and applied it to the upper thigh of the son's right leg in an effort to control his massive blood loss. The tourniquet successfully controlled the bleeding and Deputy Schefers directed the parents to retrieve blankets and towels to wrap the man to make him more comfortable. Other first responders arrived on scene and took over the son's medical care. After essential on-scene treatment, the son was transported to a local hospital for further care.

The son had been working with a farm auger in a silo when the auger caught his pant leg, pulling him into it, ripping the pants from his body, and severely damaging his leg. Af-



Deputy Patrick O'Hare



Deputy Matt Schefers



Deputy Eric Speth

ter allowing the man time to receive his initial treatment, Deputy Schefers stopped by the hospital in the afternoon to check his condition. The son would have had a significantly less hopeful prognosis if it had not been for Deputy Schefers' quick application with his tourniquet.

Although several emergency responders provided the son on-scene care, if it were not for the quick response and decisive actions of Deputy Schefers the man may not have had such a successful outcome from his injuries.

Because of his situational awareness, attentiveness, and compassion, Deputy Matt Schefers was awarded a Life Saving Commendation Award by Sheriff Brian Gardner for the act of saving a life on March 27.

Near noon February 3rd, the Linn County S.O. received a call of a man trapped under a passenger car in his driveway in southwest Linn County. Deputy Eric Speth and other emergency responders were en route when told the victim was an off-duty Linn County Special Deputy who was not conscious or breathing.

Deputy Speth was the first emergency responder on scene, four minutes after being dispatched, and found the victim's upper torso pinned under the driver's side of the car with his legs extending outward. Deputy Speth noticed a scissor jack already under the car, grabbed the nearby extension and handle so in less than 30 seconds the bystanders were able to pull the victim from under the car. Deputy Speth started chest compressions after detecting no pulse and observing that the man was not breathing. Deputy Speth located

a bystander who knew how to operate an AED and directed her to retrieve the unit from his car. After completing one set of chest compressions, Deputy Speth started cutting clothing from the victim's chest as he prepared him for the AED's arrival. Deputy Speth resumed chest compressions and gave instructions to the bystander on how to properly apply the AED. The AED informed them that no shock was advised. Deputy Speth noticed the victim had a heartbeat and started to breathe, although the breaths were labored.

Other emergency responders arrived on-scene, including an emergency room physician with the Fairfax Fire Department who took over patient care. Deputy Speth continued to assist as needed. Other emergency responders arrived including Sheriff Rescue paramedics, fire and ambulance personnel, and other on- and off-duty deputies. The victim was taken by ambulance and was admitted to the hospital's intensive care unit due to the severity of his injuries. The man continues to recover from his injuries. Although numerous emergency responders did an excellent job providing crucial medical care to the victim, if not for the quick actions of Deputy Speth, who in less than 30 seconds after arriving on-scene had assessed the situation, assembled the scissor jack, and raised the car off the victim's chest, and started chest compressions, the victim likely would not have survived this incident. Because of his faithfulness, perseverance, and situational awareness, Sheriff Brian Gardner awarded Deputy Eric Speth with a Life Saving commendation award for the act of saving a life in February 2024.

ISSDA Honor Guard Update

Our 60 Honor Guard Members Attended 19 Events around the Country in 2023; Contact Us if You Need us Or Want to Join Us

The ISSDA Honor Guard is comprised of approximately 60 members from various Sheriffs' Offices across the state. Many of its members attend events and functions on a volunteer basis and do so with tremendous pride and professionalism. I would like to give an update on the types of events that the ISSDA Honor Guard has participated in, and provide an update on the direction the ISSDA Honor Guard is moving.

In 2023 the ISSDA Honor Guard attended 19 separate events which included funerals for active duty and retired personnel in Iowa, Illinois, Missouri, Nebraska and South Dakota. ISSDA Honor Guard functions also included assisting with the Iowa Peace Officer Memorial Day Ceremonies, Posting the Colors for multiple graduating Basic Classes at the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy, along with all ISSDA Schools, The Iowa School Resource Officers Conference, The Annual

LIEN Conference, and the Iowa Narcotics Officer's Conference. The ISSDA Honor Guard also participated in special events which included the Knoxville Nationals at Knoxville Raceway, and Racing For A Cause at Hawkeye Downs Speedway in Cedar Rapids.

In May 2023 the ISSDA Honor Guard sent members to Police Week in Washington D.C. to assist the Iowa COPS (Concerns of Police Survivors) organization with survivor families and coworkers who were attending Police Week in honor of fallen loved ones and coworkers that were being honored at various ceremonies. Additionally, the ISSDA Honor Guard assisted Honor Guards from across the nation as they met Police Week attendees as they got off of their planes at Ronald Reagan International Airport and participated in many other Honor Guard-related events throughout the week.

The continued success of the ISSDA Honor Guard has been achieved by the dedication of our Deputies and Sheriffs that allow the Honor Guard members the time to attend the various functions. To ensure the continued success of the ISSDA Honor Guard we need to keep attendance at the various functions a high priority so the majority of the work is not being done by a small number of Honor Guard Members.

If you need the ISSDA Honor Guard for any upcoming functions or if you wish to join the ISSDA Honor Guard, please contact:

- Sheriff Jason Sandholdt from the Marion County Sheriff's Office (jsandholdt@marioncountyiowa.gov, Office: 641-828-2220), or
- Deputy Chris Langenberg with the Johnson County Sheriff's Office (clan-genb@co.johnsoncountyiowa.gov, Office: 319-356-6020).

Pottawattamie County Sheriff's Office hosts Iowa Law Enforcement Academy Telecommunicator Training 40-Hour Class

By Sgt. JW LeMaster

Pottawattamie County Sheriff's Office
ISSDA Deputy Board Member

Sheriff Andy Brown and the Pottawattamie County Sheriff's Office played host the week of March 11th-15th to the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy's 40-hour Telecommunicator Training. There were 16 students in attendance from across the State who attended this course to meet their requirements for their first year of employment at their respective agencies.

Not only were we able to accommodate this classroom setting, but students were given the opportunity to tour our Jail and 911 Center. We were also able to extend further knowledge in the form of an official tour of the Historic Squirrel Cage Jail Museum, also known as the ISSDA West-Museum. Students were given the opportunity to visit the museum after class for a formal tour given by myself.

During the tour they were hopefully enlightened to the 'ways gone by' of how things used to be. They definitely saw first-hand the stark contrast to how things are currently handled in a correctional facility in comparison to the late 1800's.

I also hope that they were able to learn a little about the history of the Office of Sheriff in the State of Iowa and the role of the Iowa State Sheriffs' and Deputies' Association. Admittedly, they also had to put up with a few of my 'dad jokes,' goofy humor, and sarcasm along the way.

We would also like to extend a "Thank You" to ILEA Instructor Anna Voss for



Sgt. LeMaster Gave a Tour of the ISSDA West-Museum.

working with us and providing excellent instruction to ALL who attended the Telecommunicator Training course.

Cedar County Sheriff Wethington Honored with DAR Open Prairie Chapter National Society “Distinguished Citizen Award”

The Open Prairie Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR), presented Cedar County Sheriff Warren Wethington their Distinguished Citizen Medal on April 13, 2024 at the Cedar County Historical Museum.

By Melinda Beekman, Regent
Open Prairie Chapter, NSDAR

Nomination: On April 3, 2007, Warren Wethington took office as Cedar County Sheriff through a unanimous vote of the Cedar Co. Board of Supervisors. Sheriff Wethington had presented a petition in favor of him assuming the position with 1,400 signatures. He was quoted by the West Branch Times as saying: “I consider that (petition) a promise from me, that I will do my best to restore integrity. The uniform, whether it’s law enforcement or military, should be a universal sign of integrity and protection.”

Fifteen years later, he is still working to maintain the integrity of law enforcement in Cedar County. Twice in the last five years, he has dealt with communities that wanted to employ or have had police officers with Giglio files. The contents of a Giglio file are secret, and are typically available only to a judge during a criminal trial. These files detail misconduct by a police officer, which may include instances of lying or using excessive force. They must disclose evidence calling into question the credibility of an officer testifying in trial. If an arresting officer has a Giglio File, it can impede whatever case they are involved in and may lead to a mistrial.

In 2019, Sheriff Wethington discovered a police officer in Durant had a Giglio File. The officer was under investigation for the alleged use of excessive force during a motorcycle stop. The officer presented evidence in court that he had provided “a visual and audible signal to stop.” Dash cam video contradicts this officer’s written version of events of the traffic stop. After Sheriff Wethington reviewed the dash cam footage, his professional opinion was that the officer should have faced criminal charges. At that point, he felt he could no longer trust the officer in question, and could not reasonably rely on that officer’s written reports. Sheriff Wethington then stopped allowing Durant prisoners to be housed in the Cedar County Jail until the police officer was removed. Sheriff Wethington was a driving



Sheriff Warren Wethington with his Open Prairie DAR Distinguished Citizen Medal.

force in ensuring that the malevolent officer was investigated by the FBI due to the fact that this officer deprived the motorcyclist of his rights guaranteed under the Constitution. In September 2022, this officer pled guilty in federal court to a charge of Deprivation of Rights Under Color of Law.

November of 2023 saw West Branch calling a special meeting to discuss hiring two officers with Giglio Files to fill the void left by officer turnover. Sheriff Wethington made it clear to the City Council that the Cedar County Sheriff’s Office would be taking similar steps as far as jail usage and coverage to West Branch that they did with Durant if that were to happen.

The Sheriff values the protections guaranteed to U.S. Citizens by the Constitution of the United States. When Cedar County was visited by Bo Bice, a First-Amendment auditor who has a large following on YouTube under the FlexYourFreedom channel, the Sheriff showed a level of transparency that surprised many. He was clear, honest and open with the auditor, who was challenging what could and could not be filmed at the Law Center. Sheriff Wethington also invited the auditor to visit other county buildings. Despite the fact that the auditor was trying to have his First Amendment rights violated, Sheriff Wethington showed nothing but the highest level of respect and courtesy for him.

Sheriff Wethington has also been very passionate in his comments and thoughts regarding a proposed carbon-capture pipeline being placed in Cedar County. This pipeline, which

is a hazardous materials pipeline proposed to be sited within 700 feet of many Cedar County homes, farms and other facilities. Sheriff Wethington is firmly against eminent domain, and has ensured residents he will do everything in his power to stop surveyors and land agents from trespassing on personal property. The Sheriff has also said he will do everything in his power to not be helpful to this proposed pipeline and commented he is willing to be found in contempt of court should a judge order him to assist with allowing trespassing on personal property.

In his spare time, Sheriff Wethington sits as Chairman of the Cedar County Joint 911 Service Board. He, along with a few other community leaders, was instrumental in getting the first major infrastructure project (in 20 years) funded. The pleas of the Sheriff, and stories of the failures of the previous 911 system were the impetus for the Cedar County Board of Supervisors spending \$8.6 million dollars on a new comprehensive 911 system to replace an old analog system that was end of life. New towers were built within the county, and new radios and pagers were purchased for all the first responder agencies. The clarity and reception on the new system increases the safety of the first responders in Cedar County tenfold.

Sheriff Wethington is also very active with the Iowa Firearms Coalition. In 2021, Cedar County became the third county in Iowa to be a Second Amendment Sanctuary. The Sheriff has worked very hard on getting different resolutions to pass in his county.

EMS as an Essential Service Resolution is the most recent project the Sheriff has championed. The EMS resolution was overwhelmingly passed by the voters of Cedar County in November of 2023. He worked tirelessly attending council meetings and town halls to promote the need for EMS to be an essential service. In Cedar County, Sheriff, Fire and now EMS are all guaranteed services, where prior to the election, only police and fire protection were guaranteed. Most impressively, the resolution passed by 70% of voters voting yes; the resolution only needed 60% to pass.

The Sheriff sees the need to protect the freedoms and the safeties of his constituents and works hard to see that it is done. The support that the Sheriff has backing him is overwhelming.