



# The Gold Star

4th Quarter 2023 Volume 41, No. 4

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

## ISSDA Honor Guard Earns Iowa C.O.P.S. "Forever Family Award"



The Iowa State Sheriffs' and Deputies' Association (ISSDA) Honor Guard was presented the Iowa Concerns for Police Survivors (Iowa C.O.P.S.) 2023 "Forever Family Award" at their annual Black and Blue Ball on September 30.

On the Iowa C.O.P.S. Facebook page they wrote: "The ISSDA Honor guard is comprised of approximately 60 volunteer members from various sheriff's offices located across the state of Iowa. ISSDA honor guard has become a familiar face at every funeral response as they actively assist fallen officers' families and the Iowa C.O.P.S. organization by doing whatever is needed to honor our fallen. From assisting in parking vehicles, seating attendees, providing casket watch, and so much more, the men and women of this association have always been willing to help.

"The members of the Honor Guard selflessly give of themselves. Never asking for anything in return or any recognition, they give their time,

their hearts, and their respects to ensure the fallen officers and their families receive the honor and pageantry so deserved. Whether it is the countless hours standing on their feet at attention, or being out in coldest weather to the scorching heat, and everything in between, they are unwavering in their commitment and dedication.

"In 2021 and 2022 ISSDA Honor Guard sent members to National Police Week in Washington D.C. There they greeted and escorted survivors attending police week as they got off their airplanes at Ronald Reagan International Airport. This honor is one of the many memories a family member or a co-worker attending National Police Week never forgets.

"We at Iowa C.O.P.S. would like to take a moment to recognize the men and women of the Iowa State Sheriff's and Deputies' Association Honor Guard. While we pray that we will never need to call on their services again, but we know that if we

do need to make that call they will respond.

"Thank you for all that you do."

In the ISSDA Honor Guard photo from left to right are **Ben Roberts** (Dubuque County), **Amanda Potter** (Dubuque Co), **Ashton Luke** (Fremont Co), **Rick Singer** (Plymouth Co), **Waylon Pollema** (Sioux Co) **Dennis Paulson** (Worth Co), **Chris Langenberg** (Johnson Co), **Pat Heissel** (Plymouth Co.), **Alex Smock** (Black Hawk Co), **Kary Conger** (Louisa Co), and **Becky Shady** (Dubuque Co). Not Pictured: **David Even** (Black Hawk County), **Gerald Lukken** (Woodbury Co), **Mike Lamoreaux** (Woodbury Co), **Mike Martens** (Emmet Co), **Heather O'Brien** (Linn Co), **Matt Oltmann** (Linn Co), **Tyler Blaha** (Linn Co), **Caleb Bullard** (Linn Co), **Milo Miles** (Linn Co), **Charles Woodcock** (Linn Co), **Andrew Harwardt** (Dubuque Co), **Bill Sankey** (Buena Vista Co), and **Don Henningsen** (Pottawattamie Co).

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of The Iowa State Sheriffs' and Deputies' Association

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# Past Year's Accomplishments Include Growing the ISSDA's Honor Guard and ISSDA's Passionate Legislative Committee

Happy Fall Everyone,

I hope you are all doing well and enjoying the cooler weather. This is my last article as your 2023 President and, like many past Presidents, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on this past year. I wanted to touch on some of the great things we have accomplished as an Association and some of the things I am proud of as your President.

The first thing I wanted to touch on gives me a chance to brag a little about our ISSDA Honor Guard. A couple of years ago as a Board member we had numerous meetings about how hard it was to get more than a handful of Honor Guard members to show up at events. It was my goal to help Chris, Rick, and some of the other Honor Guard leaders to increase participation and encourage sheriffs to allow their staff to participate on a more regular basis.

This has happened and I am happy to say our ISSDA Honor Guard is flourishing and actively bringing on new members. I saw this firsthand at Officer Kevin Cram's funeral and participation at our various ISSDA schools and other events. The ISSDA Honor Guard was even recently recognized by the Iowa Cops Chapter at the Black and Blue Ball by receiving the "Forever Family" award for always being there and working alongside the COPS group and the families of the Fallen Deputies/Officers. I am proud to have had a chance to attend the Honor Guard training and to be the current liaison between the ISSDA Board and the Honor Guard. They represent our Association very well!

The second very active group I wanted to talk about is your Legislative Committee.



**Sheriff Jason Sandholdt**  
Marion County Sheriff's Office

I have spent hundreds (maybe even over a thousand) hours at the Capitol as a sheriff and previously as a conservation officer when I worked for the Department of Natural Resources. Our Legislative Committee is by far one of the most active groups there.

Every single person on the Committee and our lobbyists are passionate about their Sheriff's Office and how to make them even better. We have had some great accomplishments on passing legislation to save our citizens' lives, to help hold criminals more accountable, to help individuals with substance abuse or mental health issues, and to increase benefits for our employees and to make them more comparable with other law enforcement entities.

Currently they are working tirelessly trying to pass legislation to catch up with other groups' retirement plans so we can keep our most valuable resources within our offices – our employees – and to not

lose them to other agencies. Stay tuned for more information about this in the coming months. This group is doing great things and I am proud of all the work they are doing on a weekly if not daily basis.

As I am writing this article, I feel like I could just keep listing out the third group such as the jails committee, the fourth group the schools committee, etc., for all the great work they are doing. I am proud of each and every one of our committees, but to talk about the great work they are doing will take up half of our magazine. The reason for this is we really have the best of the best in our Association. What makes our Association the Best in the State is all of you – our members!

I mentioned above about how proud I am of the different committees, but the thing I am most proud of over the last year as your President is getting the opportunity/honor to lead the best group of people from every Sheriff's Office from every corner of this State. I have met new friends from different Sheriff Offices, and I see what great people we have from all over the State. If we haven't yet met, please introduce yourself to me at Winter School! I have become even closer with the old guys that took me under their wings when I was the new guy and I hope I have been that guy for some of our new members!

I hope I have represented you all well in my role this past year, and that you all feel like I worked hard to make our Association even stronger and better! I am proud to have been the 2023 Iowa State Sheriffs' and Deputies' Association President and I am even more proud to call all of you my friend!

## ISSDA Schools Schedule

<b>Winter Schools</b> in Des Moines at Airport Holiday Inn <b>Dec. 12-15, 2023</b> Dec. 03-06, 2024	<b>Spring Jail School</b> at Des Moines Airport Holiday Inn <b>Feb. 20 - 23, 2024</b>	<b>Spring Civil School</b> in Des Moines at Airport Holiday Inn <b>April 14-17, 2024</b>	<b>Fall Jail School</b> in Des Moines at Airport Holiday Inn <b>Sept. 17-20, 2024</b>
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# ISSDA Chaplain Committee Helps Sheriffs in Need of Chaplains, & Information on Creating a Chaplain Program of Their Own

By Sgt. Shawn Ireland  
Linn County Sheriff's Office

The subject of this article begins in the middle of the night in a patrol car in 2007. I was a patrol deputy working the 7 p.m. to 3 a.m. shift when I was introduced to Pastor Darran Whiting, a chaplain for the Linn County Sheriff's Office. I had heard stories about Pastor Whiting and his energetic passion, positive perspective, and delightful sense of humor. Every so often he would ask to ride a shift with a deputy. This night he asked to ride with me.

At some point during my shift we went to a loud music call at a run-down apartment building. I could hear the rock and roll from outside the building. I went inside and up the stairs to knock on the door and politely ask the tenants to turn down the music, as we had a complaint from one of the neighbors. Pastor Whiting stood at the bottom of the stairs and observed.

After a few loud knocks on the door, two rough-looking middle-aged white dudes smelling of booze came out into the hall with the music still blaring. With cigarettes hanging out of their mouths they proceeded to argue with me over the music. They were clearly not done partying yet. They were cussing, laughing, and being belligerent.

One of them looked over and down the stairs at Pastor Whiting and asked, in colorful language, something to the effect of "Who are you?" Pastor Whiting, in his charming way, introduced himself as the Chaplain for the Linn County Sheriff's Office. They asked, "What is a chaplain?" He proceeded to tell them he was a pastor of a local church and volunteered to spend time with deputies on patrol. This was before body worn cameras. I wish I had this recorded to show you what happened next.

The two men quickly apologized to me, apologized for their language in front of the pastor, immediately turned down the music, and said they would go into their apartment and keep the music down for the rest of the night. They had no respect for me, the law, or their neighbors – but somehow seemed to have a considerable respect for someone who was representing a higher authority than I apparently was.

I will never forget, in that moment, how a chaplain's presence calmed a situation that my uniform and authority had little effect on. I realized right then the power and importance of community partnerships and that law enforcement authority alone can't fix all problems.

Over the next few years Pastor Whiting and I became good friends and had many conversations in between calls in my patrol car – too many to tell in this short article. He helped me out many times in many ways, including delivering death notifications. One of the worst parts of this job is telling a family member that their loved one has died. You should always try to do it in person and never do it alone.

Chaplains have a way with words that cops don't naturally have. Pastor Whiting would always say, "I never want to do your job." I would never want to do his. We made a good team. I have since been promoted and no longer work in the patrol division, but Pastor Whiting is still out there doing the Lord's work. I admire good chaplains and people who have a heart to serve their community and help people. We need a lot more of that in this world.

During ISSDA school opening ceremonies and after the Honor Guard presents the Colors, we have had various people throughout the years offer a prayer during the invocation. During Blackhawk County Sheriff Tony Thompson's last year on the ISSDA board I brought up the idea of forming a Chaplain Committee. My idea was to ensure we had a chaplain at every school and preserve the role of chaplain within the Iowa Sheriff's Offices. I worked with Sheriff Thompson and Pastor Whiting to create an ISSDA model Chaplain Policy with pieces of it from the National Sheriff's Association Chaplain Resource Manual.

The 2023 ISSDA Board of Directors created the ISSDA Chaplain Committee. The purpose of this Committee is to provide resources for sheriffs in need of



From left is Chaplain Darran Whiting, Sgt. Shawn Ireland, Chaplain Rick Hamilton, and Chaplain Brad Wallace.

a chaplain, or information on creating a chaplain program of their own. This committee will serve as an informational resource to provide current contact information for all ISSDA chaplains, model policy manual, trainings and resources for ISSDA members and sheriffs interested in chaplain services.

We currently have three ISSDA chaplains who can serve as a regional resource if you need a chaplain or have questions about starting a chaplain program at your office. They are (in the photo above) Darran Whiting from Marion, Rick Hamilton from Glidden and Brad Wallace from Spencer. You can find their contact information and other resources on our website at: [www.issda.org/issda-chaplain-committee](http://www.issda.org/issda-chaplain-committee)

When do I call a Chaplain?

- When a fellow officer is injured, ill or killed;
- When you have a personal or family emergency (family / life issues);
- After a major trauma (personal or work related);
- When a hurting family member needs care;
- When you have to deliver a death notification;
- When you are stressed or need to talk;
- When you need encouragement;
- When you just need to vent or let off steam in a safe, confidential environment;
- When you want someone with you for counsel, friendship, or presence;
- When in doubt, call your Chaplain!





## Dubuque County Sheriff's Office Hires Tobey Heming as Deputy Sheriff

**By Sgt. Jon J. Behne**  
Training Coordinator  
Dubuque Co. S.O.

like to welcome Tobey Heming who was sworn in on August 17th as a Deputy Sheriff in the jail division. Tobey previously worked as a Jail

Control Operator for the Sheriff's Office. Prior to working at the Sheriff's Office he was a small business owner.

The Dubuque County Sheriff's Office would

## Traffic Violation Suspect Shoots at Polk Co. Deputy Donald Kay, is Arrested after Chase Ends at a Budget Inn Motel

**Captain Ryan Evans**  
**Polk County Sheriff's Office**

On September 26, 2023, Deputy Donald Kay attempted to stop a vehicle for a traffic violation. The vehicle driver evaded the deputy by driving around a local motel and eventually fled the vehicle on foot. The suspect left the vehicle in gear and it continued to roll across a main thoroughfare. Fortunately, it only struck a tree but no other vehicles. The suspect, while fleeing on foot, turned and fired multiple rounds from a handgun at the pursuing deputy. Deputy Kay was uninjured and kept an eye on the suspect when he saw him run into the motel. Responding units arrived on the scene almost immediately and set up a perimeter around the motel.

The suspect barricaded himself in the motel. Tactical units from the Metro STAR Team, as well as the Iowa State Patrol,

arrived on the scene to assist. After nearly four hours entry was made into the motel and the suspect was located hiding within the building. The suspect, Scott Eugene Smith, 42, of Des Moines, was arrested without incident and charged with multiple drug offenses, weapon charges, attempted murder of a police officer, and several other charges. The arrest also resulted in the confiscation of several illegal guns.

This incident highlighted the partnership the Polk County Sheriff's Office has with other agencies. When the call came out that a deputy had been shot at, metro agencies flooded to the scene to assist. The Polk County Sheriff's Office is grateful for



Photo: Iowa Department of Transportation

the response from the Altoona, Ankeny, and Des Moines Police Departments, as

well as the Iowa State Patrol and Federal agencies, including the ATF, FBI, USMS, and HSI. The quick response from the Sheriff's Office and other agencies brought this incident to a peaceful end without any injuries.

## Polk County Sheriff's Office Enjoyed a Busy Halloween Season

The Polk County Sheriff's Office has been extremely busy with events this Halloween season, participating in seven different trunk-or-treats, five trick-or-treat events, and hosting its annual Candy Crawl in Grimes. Over 1,000 people from Grimes and other communities attended the Candy Crawl and met Sheriff's Office staff, learned what the Sheriff's Office offers, and of course, got some candy. The Sheriff's Office participated in a similar event in Bondurant, the Bondurant Spooktacular, which saw large crowds and lots of candy given out.





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Clinton County Personnel Updates for July - September 2023:

## Ret. Capt. Heilig Passes; Galusha Retires; Raaymakers, Stoll, Reed, Gonzalez Hired; Ret. Sgt. Cundiff Is Now PT Deputy;



Ret. Capt. Roger Heilig passed away at age 79.



Ret. Bailiff Molly Galusha



Admin. Asst. Joe Raaymakers



Part-time Dawson Stoll



CO Riley Reed



Adriana Gonzalez



P.T. Deputy Steve Cundiff

The Clinton County Sheriff's Office sadly reports the death of **retired Captain Roger Heilig** on August 7th, 2023, at age 79. Capt. Heilig retired in 2005 after serving Clinton County for 34 years. He is survived by his wife, Carol of De-Witt.

Recent personnel updates for the Clinton County Sheriff's Office include:

**Joe Raaymakers** was hired as the Administrative Assistant to the Sheriff. Joe retired after 30 years of serving in the Clinton Police Department and previous-

ly served as Director of Veterans Affairs for Clinton County.

**Retired Sergeant Steve Cundiff** returned to the Clinton County Sheriff's Office as a Part-Time Deputy. Deputy Cundiff's duties will consist of Drug Addiction Awareness and Public Relations for the Office.

**Dawson Stoll** was hired as a Full-Time Deputy in August 2023. Deputy Stoll previously served as a Clinton County Reserve Deputy. He is attending the 311th Basic ILEA Class.

**Riley Reed** was hired as a full-time civilian Correctional Officer in August 2023. C.O. Reed will also serve as a Reserve Deputy for the County.

**Adriana Gonzalez** was hired as a full-time civilian Correctional Officer in August of 2023.

**Mollie Galusha** retired in August 2023 after 7 years serving as a Bailiff for Clinton County. Mollie came to the Sheriff's office after 22+ years with the Clinton Police Department.

## The ISSDA Winter School will be held December 12-15, 2023

at the Airport Holiday Inn, 6111 Fleur Dr., Des Moines

The registration fee for attending the Winter School is \$150.00 per member, (\$175 after 12-2) or \$175.00 per non-member (\$200.00 after 12-2)

\* Failure to cancel your registration 7 days prior to the school will result in a 50% cancellation fee.

# Pottawattamie County Hosts Iowa Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) Jail Basic 40-Hour Class; Students Visit ISSDA Museum

By Sgt. JW LeMaster

Pottawattamie County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Andy Brown and the Pottawattamie County Sheriff's Office played host October 16th-20th to ILEA's 40-hour Basic Jail School. There were 50 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 in our newly

remodeled Training Room, but we were 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, which I provided. During the tour they were hopefully enlightened to the 'ways gone by' of how things used to be. They definitely saw firsthand 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 Jacqueline White for working with us and providing excellent instruction to ALL who attended this training course.



Above, ILEA Jail Basic students were offered an official tour of the Historic Squirrel Cage Jail Museum, also known as the ISSDA West Museum.



To view the Winter School 2023 TENTATIVE agenda (Subject to change) use the link below:  
<https://www.issda.org/2023-issda-winter-school-agenda>

# ISSDA Annual Sponsors

## 2024 Platinum Sponsors:



## 2024 Gold Sponsors:



## Polk County S.O. packaged and delivered 426 Thanksgiving meals.



## Pottawattie County Sheriff's Office and Council Bluffs P.D. Fundraise and Donate Over \$4,000 to Help Cancer Patients

By Sgt. J.W. LeMaster

Pottawattamie County Sheriff's Office

The Pottawattamie County Sheriff's Office and Council Bluffs Police Department jointly presented a check donation totaling \$4,064 to CHI Health Mercy Council Bluffs on November 8th.

The donation comes after a nearly three-month-long friendly competition between the two agencies. Each sold T-shirts and hooded sweatshirts with customers selecting apparel with a silhouette of a Pottawattamie County Sheriff's Office (PCSO) star or a Council Bluffs Police Department (CBPD) shield.

All proceeds were donated to benefit cancer patients and survivors, and the agency with the highest number of orders representing its brand earned bragging rights.

"We had a lot of laughs and some

good-natured teasing throughout this competition," said Pottawattamie County Sheriff Andy Brown.

"We want to thank the Council Bluffs Police Department for joining us in this effort to go towards a great cause. We'd also like to remind the CBPD that we won," said Sheriff Brown with a smile.

Sales for the fundraising apparel began on August 11th and closed on October 31st. In total, 839 items were sold. The Sheriff's Office won the friendly wager by selling 465 items, raising \$2,064. The CBPD sold 374 items, raising \$2,000. Both agencies

annually raise funds to support cancer awareness, but this is the first year the efforts turned competitive.

"We're incredibly grateful for the opportunity to give back to our community," said Sheriff Brown. "Our contributions aren't just financial for a cause like this, and our thoughts don't stop at the end of October. This is a year-round fight, and we're here to support those battling any way we can," said Sheriff Brown.

Since 2011, the PCSO and CBPD have combined to donate over \$79,000 towards cancer awareness.



# Story Co. Sheriff's Office Dive Team Advanced Imaging and Robotics Initiative Wins a 2023 ISAC "Excellence in Action Award"

By Lucas Beenken

ISAC Public Policy Specialist  
lbeenken@iowacounties.org

The ISAC "Excellence in Action Award" is a competitive awards program that seeks to identify and recognize innovative county government employees, programs, and ISAC affiliates. The selection committee evaluated the nominees on the following elements: creativity and innovation, leadership, replication, cost-savings, efficiency, cooperation, and perseverance. This year's awards were presented to two recipients at the ISAC Annual Conference in August:

- \* Story County Sheriff's Office Dive Team Advanced Imaging and Robotics Initiative;
- \* Johnson County Public Health Jynneos Vaccine Program and Story County.

**Story Co. Sheriff's Office Dive Team Advanced Imaging and Robotics Initiative:** When undertaking public safety dive missions, the safety of the divers, thoroughness of the search, and efficiency of the operation are of utmost importance. After leading the dive and search response efforts following the tragic drowning of two student-athletes from the Iowa State University rowing team in 2021, the Story County Sheriff's Office Dive Team knew that the most important lesson learned was that with more advanced tools, future missions could be conducted in a safer and more efficient manner. This was the catalyst for the Advanced Imaging and Robotics Initiative.

The Story County Sheriff's Office began investing in and integrating new, advanced equipment including Livescope sonars, GPS mapping monitors, and the only remote operated underwater robot in Iowa. With the Advanced Imaging and Robotics Initiative fully operational by June of 2022, the team can now efficiently and thoroughly search large areas of water using the sonars and mapping monitors without having to send divers underwater. The team also uses a remote operated vehicle (ROV) with sonar and 4k camera to confirm targets and ensure the area is safe for the dive team to begin recovery efforts. What may have previously taken days of underwater searching in hazardous conditions may now be reduced to targeted dives when victims, evidence, or other objects are identified. Be-

yond the safety advantages, this efficiency can also bring resolution to the loved ones of victims, help investigators retrieve evidence in a timely manner, and save taxpayer dollars on personnel and overtime.

The Advanced Imaging and Robotics Initiative has also proven valuable to other entities, including other counties that have called on Story County to assist with searches and the National



This is the Story County remote operated vehicle (ROV) locating guns underwater.



The Story County Sheriff's Office remote operated vehicle (ROV) operating in a river.

Institute of Standards and Technology, with whom the team worked to test capabilities and methods for the benefit of first responders around the world. This intergovernmental cooperation provides value to all involved. The Story County Sheriff's Office Dive Team, other governmental entities, and the public benefit from safety and efficiency provided by this initiative.

**Johnson County Public Health Jynneos Vaccine Program:** In the public health arena, preparedness and response are often tested by the unknown and unpredictable. We need only look to 2020 and a global pandemic for evidence of that. To properly respond to public health emergencies and other events, agencies prepare broadly and respond specifically. Johnson County Public Health (JCPH) and its Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) displayed this in 2022 when they implemented a mass vaccination campaign in response to a global Mpox (formerly known as monkeypox) outbreak that found its way to Iowa and Johnson County.

When the Mpox outbreak hit Iowa, JCPH initiated its communicable disease response

and began working locally with MRC, disease prevention specialists, emergency preparedness planners, and community health nurses. JCPH soon coordinated contact tracing, case investigation, and vaccination. A unique challenge of the response was the use of Jynneos, a newly approved vaccine that saw changes over time in how the two doses could be administered. The vaccination program benefited from the use of data collection tools to streamline screening, scheduling, vaccine administration, and follow-up for second doses. This streamlining provided for better customer service, efficiencies for the public health staff and volunteer corps, and cost savings for the taxpayers.

Beyond the vaccine program, JCPH and MRC have continued to use the data collection system for health assessment data collection, customer service evaluations, public engagement efforts, and various other projects. They look forward to carrying on the practice for future mass vaccination clinics, as well as other endeavors. The lessons learned and the embrace of new tools and processes will continue to benefit Johnson County Public Health and those they serve.

# Kossuth County Sheriff's Office Shows K-9, Drones and Grinch Capture as Part of its "Red Ribbon Week" Anti-Drug Activities

In October, the Kossuth County Sheriff's Office put on K-9 and drone demonstrations at North Union Schools in recognition of Red Ribbon Week.

The deputies demonstrated how K-9's Pedro and Thor can search for drugs and apprehend criminals. Then they set up a large TV monitor in the gym for a live demo of how the drone can fly in buildings and conduct searches.

The students were not aware the deputies had arranged for the Grinch to be in the Principal's office. While they watched the monitor, the drone captured the Grinch going through the Principal's class lists in an attempt to put

all the children on his naughty list to ruin their Christmas! With the assistance of the deputies, K-9s and the drone, Sheriff Roger Fisher was able to capture and arrest the Grinch, who was charged with Trespassing, Interference with Official Acts, and Conspiring to Ruin Christmas 2023! He was booked into the Kossuth County Jail, awaiting a future court date.

Throughout November and December, the Sheriff's Office will continue the fun promotion by releasing photos and videos of the Grinch in jail and in court, and eventually have the Grinch escape after Thanksgiving. The communities will be able to follow the events on the Sheriff's Office Facebook page

and through local media outlets.

After escaping and running rampant throughout Kossuth County in attempts to ruin Christmas for all the children, the Grinch will be recaptured in time to save Christmas. The Grinch will grow a heart and appear at the local schools shortly before Christmas to hand out treats for the children!

A special thank you to Kossuth County Deputies Mark McGregor, Jake Radmaker, Melissa Hoch and Caleb Hill for their part in the demonstrations and to the entire Sheriff's Office staff for their part in the promotion of how "The Grinch Almost Stole Christmas 2023!"



Deputies Jake Radmaker and Melissa Hoch with students petting K-9 Thor.



Sheriff Fisher walking into the gym showing students the Grinch has been arrested



The Grinch being fingerprinted and put to work mopping floors.



North Union Superintendent Travis Schueller taking a bite from K-9 Pedro.



Elementary students at North Union of Fenton, Iowa.

# Linn Co. Detention Officer Shea Grove & Sgt. Adam Munier Save Life of Unconscious Inmate with Sheet Wrapped around His Neck

On October 14 at about 11:48 a.m. Detention Officer Shea Grove was in the process of passing meal trays in a cellblock on the fourth floor of the Linn County Correctional Center. D.O. Grove attempted to get the attention of an inmate housed in the cell block by knocking on his cell door to retrieve his meal tray. When D.O. Grove was unable to get a response from the inmate, Sgt. Adam Munier approached the cell to assess what was happening inside. From outside the cell, Sgt. Munier and D.O. Grove both observed the inmate lying on the floor of his cell facing away from the door. There appeared to be a bed sheet tied to an item in the cell with the other end wrapped around the inmate's neck. An inmate suicide attempt was called out over the radio, and Sgt. Munier and D.O. Grove entered the cell.

Sgt. Munier and D.O. Grove lifted the inmate off the ground to relieve the tension and constriction around his neck. The inmate's neck was red and his face and lips were turning purple. Working together, Sgt. Munier and D.O. Grove untied the sheet and removed it from around the inmate's neck. Placing him

on his back, they were able to better assess the inmate's condition and noted that he was starting to resume normal breathing, although still unconscious and unresponsive. D.O. Grove applied several sternum rubs to the inmate's chest and he began to show signs of responsiveness.

After other staff members arrived on-scene, including jail medical personnel, the inmate was stabilized and transported to a local hospital by ambulance, where he was assessed and treated. The inmate was discharged from the hospital later that day and returned to the jail where he was subsequently placed on suicide watch for his own protection.

If not for the keen observations and quick actions of Sgt. Munier and D.O. Grove, it



**Detention Officer Shea Grove and Sgt. Adam Munier with their Life Saving Commendation awards.**

is very likely this inmate's suicide attempt would have been successful. Because of their attentiveness and thoroughness, Sheriff Brian Gardner awarded Life Saving commendation awards to Detention Officer Shea Grove and Sergeant Adam Munier for the act of saving a life on October 14, 2023.

# Linn Co. Dep. Mensen Earns Life Saving Commendation for Saving Inmate Who Attempted Suicide with a Towel Around Her Neck

On October 26 at approximately 5:03 p.m., while Deputy Valerie Mensen was in the process of picking up meal trays in a cellblock in the Linn County Correctional Center, she observed a female inmate lying on the floor inside her cell. Deputy Mensen was aware that this inmate had a seizure history. When the inmate did not respond to Deputy Mensen's calls, Deputy Mensen opened the cell door to physically check on the inmate, believing that she may be having another seizure. Once inside the cell, Deputy Mensen began to further assess the inmate by shaking her leg and asking her if she was okay. During her assessment Deputy Mensen moved to the head and face of the inmate, at which time she observed there was a towel wrapped tightly around her neck and her face was bluish purple in color. Deputy Mensen immediately radioed for assistance for a suicide attempt.

Deputy Mensen observed that the inmate had tied the towel around her neck, and she

was having difficulty trying to loosen the knot. To release some of the constriction, Deputy Mensen placed a finger between the towel and the inmate's neck, while waiting for other staff members to arrive to assist her. Another deputy arrived with a rescue knife and was able to cut the towel away from the inmate's neck. The inmate was stabilized and subsequently transported to a local hospital by ambulance where she was further assessed and treated. After being discharged, the inmate was returned to the jail where she was placed on suicide watch for her own protection.

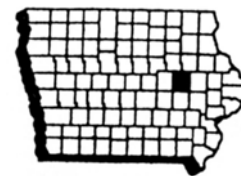
If not for the keen observations and quick actions of Deputy Mensen, it is very likely this inmate's suicide attempt would have been successful. Because of her attentiveness and thoroughness, Sheriff Brian Gardner presented a Life Saving commendation award to Deputy Valerie Mensen for the act of saving a life on October 26, 2023.



**Deputy Valerie Mensen**

## Looking Back: Benton County

County Seat: Vinton Population: 22,429 Area: 718 Square Miles



Sheriff Kenneth W. Popenhagen



Benton County Law Enforcement Center



Benton County Sheriff & Deputies, from left: Deputy Jannine M. Crandall, Sheriff Kenneth W. Popenhagen, Deputy John W. Austin, Deputy Michael G. Ferguson, Deputy Mark D. Johnson, Chief Deputy Randall L. Forsyth, Not pictured: Investigator Peter Orton Wright.



Established February 17, 1843, Benton County did not become officially organized until March 1, 1846. The first elected sheriff for the County was John Royal, who served from April to August in 1846.

In 1861, the Board of Supervisors approved a resolution authorizing the sheriff to provide the necessary blanks and stationary for the office, and that a bill should be presented to the Supervisors for an allowance.

The County appointed a committee to look into building a jail in October of 1861. The first jail was finished in September 1862 at a cost of \$500-\$600.

In June of 1864, it was approved that the Sheriff should be given \$125 for services that were not already paid for by fees received.

In January of 1869, the committee on public buildings recommended building a new jail. However, the idea was referred back to committee with instructions to investigate further. That June, the committee again submitted a plan to build a jail for \$30,000. The Board adopted the plan and put it on the ballot for the next general election. The motion failed.

On April 7, 1876, a committee submitted plans for building a two-story structure to house the Sheriff and his family and prisoners at a cost of \$8,000. Board members approved the plan and moved for a bond issue election to be set for May 30, 1876. May 11 of that year the Board of Supervisors withdrew the resolution for the election.

In the fall of 1882, the County finally started work on the two-story jail that was used until a new law enforcement center was built in 1986. The Office began using this new facility in February of 1987. The new facility cost \$1,500,000 to build and furnish.

Only one Benton County Sheriff died in the line of duty. Leland A. Fry, Sheriff from 1936-1938, was "mortally wounded in the line of duty." Fry and other officials were tracking down Leak C. Crowe, 22, who had escaped from the county jail after being arrested for petty larceny.

Sheriff Fry had entered a home where Crowe was hiding, and as he stepped through the doorway was shot through the abdomen, with the bullet entering his heart. Fry underwent emergency surgery, but died 16 hours after the attack. Crowe killed himself after officials tossed tear gas into the home. Jack Franklin, Fry's Deputy, found Crowe lying in a bed where he had pointed a Colt pistol at his head and had taken his life.

The most mysterious death in Benton County occurred on September 7, 1925, when an unknown assailant shot and killed Mrs. Myrtle Cook, Vinton. She was shot with a .32 caliber revolver around 10:15 P.M., as a train went by her home.

Law officials, led by Sheriff Whitfield Ruhl, investigated but were unable to find any evidence that could be conclusive. Cook was an active temperance worker, and was also a member of the Ku Klux Klan. John B. Hammond, a famous prohibition raider of the period, became interested and charged that bootleggers and the "booze" element were responsible for her death. Several officials from the Ku Klux Klan were present for Cook's funeral and appeared in full regalia throughout the service.

A construction worker from Texas was arrested and charged with the murder of three Benton County residents in 1967. Hubert McClelland was charged with first degree murder after being arrested on Thursday, June 22, 1967, in Linn County. McClelland was captured by law enforcement officials in Cedar Rapids after he killed Mrs. Charles Schwab, Belle Plaine, and Leland Skoog and his son, Garith, who farmed near Keystone. McClelland also kidnapped Mrs. Schwab's daughter, Christine, 12, and a cousin, Julie Braksiek, 11.

Until 1973, Benton County was only able to retain two Deputy Sheriffs because of budgetary reasons. In 1973, Benton County, a member of the Eastern Iowa Crime Commission, received funds to hire a third Deputy, Randall Forsyth, who is still with the Office. In 1978, additional funds were received and the County was able to hire a detective. The following year Benton County was able to get funds for two contract Deputies – officers who were contracted to provide coverage for communities within the County. "With the Crime Commission, we were able to build up the strength that we have today," Sheriff Popenhagen said.

Current Sheriff Ken Popenhagen was involved in an unusual accident at the jail. Popenhagen was injured when a prisoner being housed in Benton County dropped the lid of a toilet tank from the second story of the jail, hitting the Sheriff on the head. Deputy Randy Forsyth helped the Sheriff from the cellblock and called for assistance from the Vinton Police Department. Popenhagen remained conscious after the blow, and was taken to the local hospital by squad car, where he remained hospitalized for observation of a "possible skull fracture."



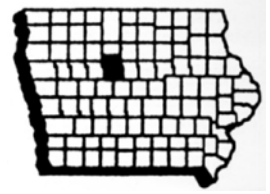
From Left: Shirley Hanna, Office Deputy; Karen Uthoff, Secretary & Computer Operator; Janice England, Secretary.



Benton County Sheriff's rescue truck, put into service in 1978. The truck is manned mostly by volunteers, along with the Sheriff and First and Second Deputies.

# Looking Back: Webster County

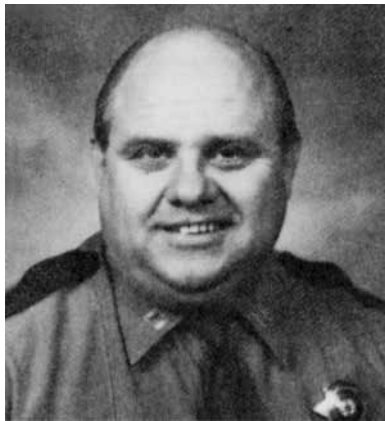
County Seat: Fort Dodge    Population: 40,342    Area: 718 Square Miles



Sheriff Charles Griggs



Webster County Law Enforcement Center



Chief Deputy Gerald Thoma

DISTRICT COURT OF WEBSTER COUNTY  
 F I L E D.  
 FEB. 5, 1944  
 JOE F. YOUNGSTROM, Clerk  
 HELEN E. BARTLETT, Deputy  
 NO. 4153

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF IOWA IN AND FOR  
 WEBSTER COUNTY

THE STATE OF IOWA	I	
vs	I	
WILLIAM JARRETT,	I	JUDGMENT AND SENTENCE.
Defendant	I	
	I	

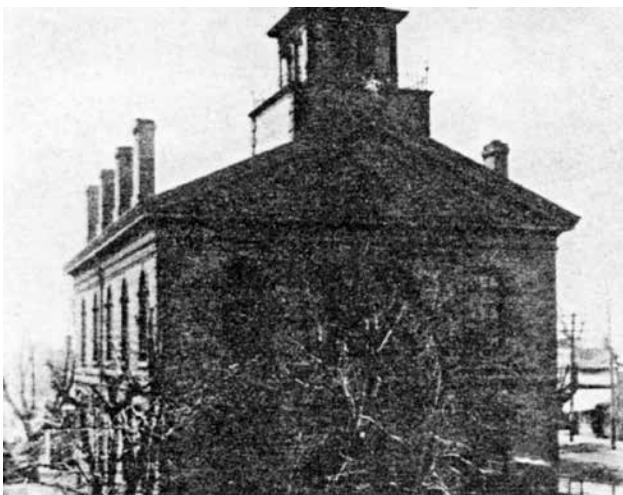
BE IT REMEMBERED That on this 5th day of February, A.D. 1944, the same being one of the days of the January, 1944 term of this court, it being the date, time and place heretofore fixed by this Court for pronouncing judgment and sentence in this case, the defendant appears in person and with his counsel, Francis Mullen, Assistant County Attorney, John Kirchner appears for the State.

And the defendant having plead guilty to a charge of murder in the first degree, as charged in the County Attorney's Information filed herein, and the Court having heard testimony to determine the degree of guilt and the punishment to be imposed, and having found that the degree of the offense is that of murder in the first degree, and that the same should be punishable by death,

IT IS THE JUDGMENT AND SENTENCE OF THIS COURT that the defendant, William Jarrett, is convicted of murder in the first degree; and that he be removed forthwith from his present place of confinement in the County Jail of Webster County, Iowa, to the State Penitentiary at Fort Madison, Iowa, and be there confined until the 23rd day of February, A.D., 1945; and that on said date, between the hours of sunrise and sunset thereof, that he be executed by being hanged by the neck until dead.

BY THE COURT:  
 (signed) DWIGHT G. RIDER, Judge

A sentence of death. Under Iowa law, the Sheriff of Webster County was required to act as executioner and the sentencing Judge, Dwight Rider, was made to witness the execution.



First Webster County Courthouse, March 15, 1900.

In April, 1859, Webster County voters approved the erection of their first courthouse. The success of this referendum proclaimed their faith in the future of their new town and unintentionally set off a series of scandals and law suits that lasted several years.

County Judge L. L. Pease let the contract to build F. V. Lambert's design to Jenkins and Merritt, who sublet the work to Sweeney and Tierney. The cornerstone was laid May 8, 1859 on a Market Street (Central Avenue) lot donated by Jesse Williams.

Troubles started at once. Costs, estimated at \$39,450, rose quickly to the \$50,000 limit. Lambert's design included a huge cupola "nearly as large as the roof" which could not be built. His plan was so far altered that it was "doubtful if the architect could recognize his design in the finished product." However, the finish was a long way off.

The specified stone could not be furnished. If it had been available, there were no workmen to raise it. Had labor been at hand, there was no money to pay for it. County warrants were down to twenty-five cents on the dollar and Webster County bonds went unsold. Animosity of the county seat fight between Homer and Fort Dodge were still active.

Remarking on the situation years later, one commentator observed: "Many mistakes were made, although it is probable that the most of them were those of head and not of heart. The soil was too poor for much graft to thrive."

The time of completion was extended by two years, but only the first story was finished. Then all work stopped for eight months while the contractors went East to look for money to continue.

At the urging of prominent citizens, Thomas Snell of Snell and Taylor took over the job, but he was soon dragged into court by unhappy members of the county board. The wrath of the board also struck the county judge; he was removed from office and accused of "collusion with the contractors with intent to defraud."

Legal battles raged until "everyone was worn out with fighting." At last, all parties sat down and agreed to settle their bitter disputes.

On January 31, 1945, Percy Lainson, the Warden of Iowa State Penitentiary at Fort Madison, wrote a letter to Webster County Sheriff Joe McMahon which began: "On February 23 according to law it will be your duty to execute Wilham Jarrett for the crime of murder."

Jarrett killed a Gowrie farmer, the husband of the woman he loved. He pleaded guilty and was given the death penalty after a brief hearing. By current standards his punishment

seems harsh. One local citizen wrote to ask clemency from Governor Blue, but the case did not excite much sympathy for mercy.

Lainson sent McMahon a list of instructions for the execution that resembled a railroad timetable:

February 23

7:00 A.M. Jarrett will be served breakfast.

8:00 A.M. Jarrett will be taken directly to the scaffold and his legs strapped immediately. The Sheriff will ask him if he wants to make any statement after his arms have been strapped.

He will be placed on the trap and the hood placed on his head and the noose adjusted.

8:05 A.M. The Warden will signal the Sheriff to push the wire to spring the trap.

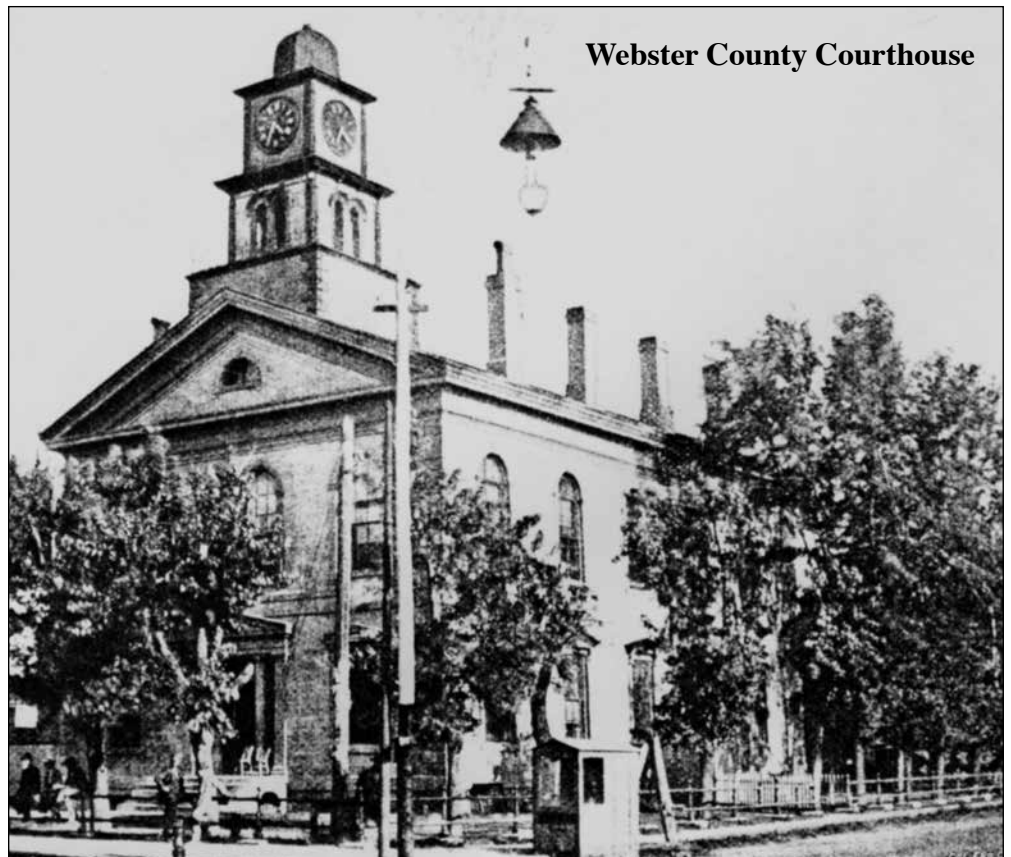
After the trap has been sprung, the doctors will ascertain when death occurs.

McMahon, who enjoyed a reputation as a kindly man, was not pleased with his duty. Under the law, all passes to witness the execution would be issued by his office. He would also have to find local doctors to pronounce Jarrett dead. (Every available Webster County doctor refused the honor, so Fort Madison doctors were called.) Most of the paperwork would be his responsibility because Webster County would pay the costs for the judge, Dwight Rider, who was required to see his sentence executed, and the twelve witnesses who would travel to Fort Madison.

Following the hanging, one of the witness-

es wrote to McMahon: "About one of those shows like we saw is about all a person cares to see I believe. I suppose you feel the same for your part."

In February of 1969, then Sheriff Ray McCoy and Special Deputy Eugene Urban, in the process of investigating a hit and run accident, discovered the wrong license plates on a 1968 Pontiac GTO. When they questioned Michael A. Hanson at his rural mobile home, they were told that he had purchased license plates for two cars, and must have gotten the plates switched. When he made an attempt to search through the mobile home for "the other plates," he pulled a .22 caliber pistol on the officers and stated, "The car is stolen and I can't go to jail." It was then revealed that Hanson had stolen the GTO from the state of Washington and drove it to his aunt and uncle's home near Fort Dodge. After negotiating with the wild-eyed young man for about 20 minutes, Sheriff McCoy, Special Deputy Urban and Hanson finally inched out of the trailer into a lean-to nearby, where Hanson was finally convinced by his aunt to give up the gun without anyone being injured. In June of 1969, Hanson was committed to the custody of the United States attorney general until discharged by the Federal Youth Corrections Division of the Board of Parole. In recalling the experience, Sheriff McCoy said later, "That .22 caliber pistol looked like a .45 in the trailer."



## Marvin Jesse Andersen, 85

Served as Humboldt County Sheriff 32 Years (1965-1997) and 2 terms as ISSDA President

Marvin J. Andersen, 85, of Humboldt passed away Monday, October 30, 2023, at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics in Iowa City.

Marvin Jesse Andersen, the son of Jesse P. and Mabel (Nelson) Andersen was born on November 20, 1937. He was reared and educated in Humboldt County and graduated from Humboldt High School in 1958.

After graduation he worked in various construction jobs and on July 1, 1962, was hired as a police officer for the City of Humboldt. In 1964 he was elected Humboldt County Sheriff and began those duties on January 1, 1965, and served 32 years as sheriff.

During that time he was very active in the Iowa State Sheriffs' and Deputies' Association (ISSDA) and served two terms as president. He was also the first sheriff in the State of Iowa to be elected president



of the Iowa State Association of County Officers. After leaving the Sheriff's Office he worked for M.S. & Sons as a semi truck driver and most recently as a school

bus driver for the Humboldt Community School District.

Survivors include his wife Karen, daughters Shelley and Cindy, grandson Bo (Holly), three great grandchildren Grayson, Payten, and Cohen. Also his brothers-in-law Roger Haliday, John Hobscheidt, sister-in-law Janice Knutson, and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, infant son Shannon, and brother Melvin Andersen. Funeral services were held Saturday, November 4, at Zion Lutheran Church, in Humboldt.

Private family burial was at Union Cemetery. A visitation was Friday at the Church Laufersweiler Funeral Home served the family.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be left to Zion Lutheran Church, Humboldt and the Humboldt Education Foundation.

## Plymouth County Sheriff's Office Hires Former CO Logan Sparr as Deputy Sheriff

November 3, 2023. The Plymouth County Sheriff's Office is pleased to announce the hiring of Logan Sparr, our newest deputy sheriff.

Before joining the Plymouth County Sheriff's Office in September of 2023, Deputy Sparr served as a patrol officer for the Le Mars Police Department for two years and one year for the Remsen Police Department. Prior to his certification as a peace officer,

Sparr served four years with the Plymouth County Sheriff's Office as a correctional officer. Deputy Sparr is also serving his country by entering his eighth year in the United States Navy Reserve.

Deputy Sparr is married with three children and comes from a law enforcement family where his grandfather and father served many years in the profession.



## Bruce Tierney Hired by Bremer County Sheriff's Office as Deputy

The Bremer County Sheriff's Office hired Bruce Tierney as a deputy sheriff in September 2023. Deputy Tierney was originally from New Hampton, Iowa, and graduated from New Hampton Community School District. He attended Hawkeye Community College and received his A.A. in Police Science. Deputy Tierney has over 15 years of law enforcement experience. For the past eight years he was a deputy for Butler County Sheriff's Office, and prior to that he worked as a police officer in Parkersburg and Hudson.

