



# THE NEBRASKA SHERIFF

Vol. 87, No. 2 • Fall 2106-Winter 2017

A PUBLICATION OF THE NEBRASKA SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION



Lancaster County  
Deputy Julie Hoffman  
Named NSA  
Officer of  
the Year | 25



Butler County Sheriff  
Mark Hecker (dec'd)  
Inducted into the  
NSA Hall of Fame | 25



**Awards Banquet held during NSA/POAN Conference, October 2-5, 2016**

**Above: Sheriff Jerome Kramer, Lincoln County (left) Accepted the President's Gavel from Past NSA President Sheriff Bill Brueggemann, Cass County (right) | 1**

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## On Our Cover



See page 25 for the Officer of the Year and the Hall of Fame inductee, both honored at the 2016 banquet.

During the NSA/POAN banquet, the current President (right - Bill Brueggemann, Cass County Sheriff) hands the President's Gavel to the incoming President (left - Jerome Kramer, Lincoln County Sheriff). Then, in turn, they each receive a plaque representing the Past President's Award and the (incoming) President's Award.

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Anna Bracker, Executive Director  
521 First Street | PO Box 10  
Milford, NE 68405  
Office: 402.761-2216  
Fax: 402.761.2224  
abracker@youraam.com

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established in 1894, is the oldest organization  
of its kind in the nation.

Nebraska Sheriffs' Association  
2017 President: Sheriff Jerome Kramer  
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### MISSION STATEMENT

To provide continuing education to Sheriffs' Offices,  
youth, and the public in general.

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PO Box 27071, Omaha, NE 68127-0071  
402.592.0823  
info@nesherriffsassoc.org  
Editor: Duffi Goodrich  
Associate Editor: Aaron Goodrich  
Ad Sales: Ron Goodrich

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Please feel free to contact us with any questions or suggestions on the magazine and the Website.

Be sure to visit us at [www.nesherriffsassoc.org](http://www.nesherriffsassoc.org)

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- Submitted articles should be pertinent to law enforcement/criminal justice and NSA members will be featured.
- We will accept articles from law enforcement agencies, their representatives, or related fields to be considered for publication in the magazine.
- Photographs of minors must be accompanied by verifiable permission to publish and list their names, whether the photo is emailed or sent through USPS.\*
- We reserve the right to edit all submittals for content or space.
- We apologize for any errors or omissions. Please let us know about them.

All articles and letters sent to the Nebraska Sheriff must be accompanied by the author's correct, legal name and are assumed to be unconditionally assigned for publication and the Nebraska Sheriff reserves the right to edit for content and / or available space. Articles and letters will only be considered if they conform to the boundaries of good taste.

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**Webmaster**  
Aaron Goodrich  
402.592.0823 • webmaster@nesheriffsassoc.org

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## **A message from NSA President, Sheriff Jerome Kramer**

### **LOOKING FORWARD TO A BRIGHTER FUTURE**

I woke up on the morning of January 21, 2017, and felt that a heavy load had been lifted from my shoulders. I knew, that for the first time in eight long years, law enforcement had a friend in the White House.

Those of us in law enforcement have survived years of being thought of as “the despicable” and “the corrupt.” Many personnel in this country have been assaulted and murdered because of the anti-police attitude of President Obama. In fact, law enforcement in general has been thrown under the bus by the media for the sake of a good story.

Today we have a president who publicly praises our nation’s military and law enforcement; a president who will stay out of local affairs; a president who will tend to business at a national level rather than promoting riots and violence against our communities and against law enforcement. What I find most exciting, however, is that he has publicly prayed for us. With our new president and God on our side, we can look forward to a bright future.

### **TAKING AN ACTIVE ROLE IN LEGISLATION**

We are now well into the 105th Legislative session in Nebraska. It is good to see that the members of the Nebraska Sheriff’s Association are again taking an active role in legislation that affects our jobs and our communities. Every year we see legislation being introduced that has had very little if any consideration for the impact that it has at the local level. It’s great to see the sheriffs staying involved and sharing our professional opinions with our state senators.

Nebraska Sheriffs work hard to stay informed and educate themselves on current laws, rules and regulations. It feels good to have President Trump understand our efforts and to recognize us as the true professionals we are. It is an honor to be called a Nebraska Sheriff.

NSA has just had our second meeting for the year. The support and encouragement that I have received as NSA President has been outstanding. I want to thank all of the sheriffs who attend the monthly meetings and help to give direction to our association. I also appreciate those sheriffs who cannot attend the meetings, but continue to stay involved and share their years of knowledge and experience with the rest of us.



**Nebraska Sheriffs'  
Association President  
Sheriff Jerome Kramer  
Lincoln County  
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 308.872.6418 • dosmond@custercounty.org

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## Nebraska Sheriffs' Association welcomes new Executive Director, Anna Bracker

Newly appointed NSA Executive Director Anna Bracker says she feels strongly about the purpose and mission of the Nebraska Sheriffs Association.

"Giving these men and women the respect and praise they deserve is so important," said Anna.

"Making sure they have a positive image in the community is a goal I will diligently pursue in my new role," she continued.

After working with the Association for several months, Anna was named Executive Director in October 2016, and has already had the opportunity to coordinate the most recent Nebraska Sheriffs' Association/Police Officers' Association of Nebraska (NSA/POAN) annual conference, an event that was very well received.

She said she really enjoyed working with the exhibitors and interacting with the attendees. The event also served to introduce her to the world of Law Enforcement.

"The NSA/POAN Conference was a great opportunity for me to experience a different side of Law Enforcement," said Anna. "Through the experience, I gained an even greater respect for what these men and women do, each and every day, to keep our communities safe."

Anna has begun meeting board members one-on-one as well as visiting with them before and after board meetings. Her goals for the year include gaining new association members as well as working to get the NSA more involved and well-known.

Anna graduated from Wayne State College in May 2016 with a B.S. in Speech Communication, with an emphasis on Organizational Leadership and Public Relations. The summer before her senior year, Anna had the opportunity to serve as an intern at the Omaha Children's Museum, where she helped plan special events.



**Anna Bracker**  
NSA Executive Director  
521 First Street  
PO Box 10  
Milford, NE 68405  
402.761.2216  
abracker@youraam.com

*Welcome Anna!*



*Fight Crime: Invest in Kids* is an anti-crime organization of over 5,000 police chiefs, sheriffs, prosecutors, and violence survivors. We take a hard look at the research about what prevents kids from becoming criminals and put that information in the hands of policymakers and the general public.

Nebraska's law enforcement community has a simple message for our elected leaders: Getting all of our kids into quality early childhood education programs today will lower crime in the years to come.



To join this effort, please go to [www.fightcrime.org/membership](http://www.fightcrime.org/membership). Becoming a member is free.  
**Brett Beckerson, MSW, Senior Associate - Fight Crime: Invest In Kids Council - For A Strong America**

1212 New York Avenue Nw, Suite 300, Washington, DC 20005  
Ph: (202) 464-4197 Cell: (312) 860-5790 | [bbeckerson@fightcrime.org](mailto:bbeckerson@fightcrime.org)





*Left: Communications technology helps turn a patrol truck into a roving office for Sheriff Chad McCumbers (pictured) and Chief Deputy Shawn Noon.*

Story and photos by Steve Frederick, Special Projects Editor, "Star-Herald, Scottsbluff/Gering"  
sfrederick@starherald.com  
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Submitted by Sheriff Jim Lawson (retired), Scotts Bluff County, Past NSA President.

## Biochemist with a badge - Keeping the county safe

HARRISON — As one of Nebraska's tiniest villages — 246 residents as of 2014 — Harrison rarely makes news, even under the far-reaching gaze of the World Wide Web. But recently it was ranked among Nebraska's 10 "safest and most peaceful places to live" by the website *Only in Your State*.

It might be tempting to make sport of a ranking like that. Crime requires criminals and victims, and the communities honored feature very few of either. Harrison ranked fourth on the list, behind rural outposts Dunning, Arthur and Tryon, which even combined can muster fewer than 400 residents.

"Statistics can be a little misleading," admits Sioux County Sheriff Chad McCumbers, who oversees law enforcement in Harrison. "Scotts Bluff County's crime rate is a lot higher than ours, but they have a lot more people."

But in a law-enforcement sense, there are two Sioux Counties. The southern fringe adjoins Scotts Bluff County, where non-resident ne'er-do-wells find it convenient to dispose of garbage, stolen cars and the rare homicide victim. The northern segment, bigger than Rhode Island, consists of sprawling ranches, with the population clustered around tiny Harrison. Some counties can brag that they have more cows than people. Sioux County, which is one of them, can top that. It has more square miles (2066.74) than residents (1,260), ranking sixth in size among Nebraska's 93 counties and 80th in population.

That leaves a lot of ground for McCumbers and his chief deputy, Shawn Noon, to cover, and they don't have to do it alone. The county road crew furnishes about 10 sets of extra eyes to watch the roads. When armed help is needed quickly, there's a federal law-enforcement officer stationed

at Agate Fossil Beds National Monument and a Nebraska Game and Parks officer with police powers who also works in the county. State Patrol troopers are always available to provide backup, and McCumbers has cultivated strong working relationships with officers in neighboring counties, including in Wyoming.

In a county where graveled backroads bear names such as "Rimrock" and "Corkscrew," it's tough to patrol all of them, especially in winter. Technology such as a laptop computer and Internet access make the job easier.

"With technology, the pickup can become more of an office," McCumbers said. "We get out and patrol. We try to be seen at least once a month during good weather."

So far, the most complicated case he's encountered came when a wreck, involving an intoxicated driver who had kids in the car, turned into a child welfare investigation.

"We had a stolen vehicle last summer, but that was someone passing through," he said.

Most of the county's criminal complaints involve intruders in the southern end of the county. Around peaceful Harrison, calls are likely to involve accidents, vandalism, poaching, theft or traffic violations. Good hunting and fishing abound if you know who to ask; those who don't can raise the hackles of ranchers who prefer their gates closed and their land free of litter. Historical and geological marvels in the remote northern corners attract tourists who sometimes get lost or stuck while traveling in a rental car that isn't up to the terrain. Some don't respect the high fire danger that comes with the dry climate.

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The Crime Laboratory also provides updated information via its quarterly newsletter *The Lab Report*. Current and past issues can also be accessed at the web address above.

Please feel free to contact the Crime Lab with any questions.

**Pamela Zilly, Crime Laboratory Director**  
3977 Air Park Rd, Lincoln, NE 68524  
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## TORCH RUN

Sheriffs and personnel from across the state participate in the annual Nebraska Torch Run each year, kicking off the Nebraska Special Olympic Games.



## Antelope County Sheriff's Office

1102 L St

Neligh, NE 68756

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402.887.4224 FAX

[acsd@frontiernet.net](mailto:acsd@frontiernet.net)

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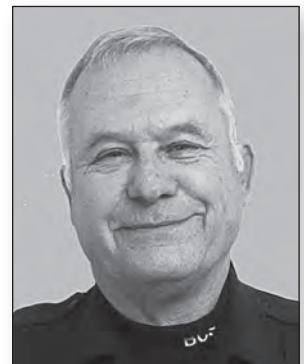
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**Sheriff Chuck Wrede**

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**Capt. Wayne Hudson**  
Douglas County Sheriff's Office  
found better ways to secure the  
courthouse and keep the public safe.



Additional security and a barricade closes off the courtroom area.

## HIGH PROFILE TRIALS:

# Securing public safety and the Douglas County Courthouse

Written by Capt. Wayne Hudson, Douglas County Sheriff's Office, and Leia Baez, Public Information Officer for Douglas County

It didn't take long for chaos to ensue after a court hearing for a well-known gang member ended at the Douglas County Courthouse in 2005.

As soon as family members and friends from opposing sides of the case left the courtroom, a large fight broke out. Douglas County Sheriff's deputies had to discharge pepper spray to control the crowd, a deputy was injured and glass from a fire extinguisher case was shattered.

It's situations like those that pushed Douglas County Sheriff's Capt. Wayne Hudson — who was a sergeant at the time — to begin to research better ways to secure the courthouse and keep the public safe, especially during high-profile court hearings and trials.

After that incident, DCSO paid closer attention to where they placed families in the courtroom and how the public was dismissed after a hearing or trial.

"I knew we needed a better plan on how to safely get people out of the courtroom," Hudson said. "If witnesses are afraid to testify in court or citizens don't feel safe here at the courthouse, then our justice system doesn't work."

In 2010, Hudson visited the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department to gain additional training and knowledge to strengthen court security procedures back in Douglas County. He combined his training in Los Angeles with procedures he learned from the U.S. Marshals' Service and implemented a high-profile hearing security plan at the Douglas County Courthouse in 2010.

Developing the plan for each high-profile hearing begins weeks before a case even goes to court and entails evaluating every upcoming court hearing to scan for security risks.

Prior to every court hearing, Hudson's team of sergeants and deputies at the courthouse will communicate with judges, attorneys, victim witness coordinators and other local

law enforcement agencies to gather as much information as possible about a case to complete a thorough security plan. Hudson said communication is critical to identifying potential security risks such as if a weapon is being used as evidence in a trial or if a defendant has gang ties.

Typically, the high-profile security plan is used for murder cases or court proceedings for well-known gang members, but it could also be used for cases that expect to draw a lot of media attention and those for people of celebrity status.

### Here's how it works:

**Notifying the public:** Hudson's team will send out a press release to the media to notify the public that additional security will be in place for a hearing or trial. If the case involves a victim, the press release will warn the public not to wear clothing with pictures of the victim displayed.

**Securing the courtroom:** When the public arrives to the court hearing, they'll immediately notice additional security and a barricade closing off the courtroom area. Every person must show identification and pass a background check to ensure that person does not have outstanding warrants. There's also an x-ray machine to scan bags and purses as well as a metal detector that every person must walk through. A hand-held metal detector is also on-site for back-up. A large sign lists all of the behaviors prohibited in the courtroom including talking, using cell phones or entering the courtroom when court is already in session. The public is also asked to control their emotions during the hearing.

If the case is gang-related, DCSO works closely with the Omaha Police Department's Gang Unit to provide additional security outside the courthouse and gather information about the gang to restrict people inside the courtroom wearing that gang's colors or symbols.

*continued on page 9*



## Biochemist with a badge . . . continued from page 6

The locals, on the other hand, are a bit like an extended family. Perched on the northwest corner of the state, Harrison is the last populated place drivers encounter before passing west into Wyoming or north into South Dakota, the last place to buy gas before turning south on Highway 29 for the 56-mile drive to Mitchell. It's a lonesome place for someone who can't get along with others.

"It's a very quiet and civilized community," he said. "There's very little unemployment. If you need to look for somebody during the day, they're at their job. If you don't know someone directly, you know of them. Our high-school kids behave rather well, because everybody knows who they are."

All of that makes his job easier, even when it comes to dealing with stranded visitors.

"For the most part, people get along pretty well. They've known each other for most of their lives," he said. "They're helpful to strangers. People feel safe in talking to someone. They wouldn't want to be stuck out there themselves, so they stop and help."

When people arrive in one of America's most sparsely populated counties from someplace else, they likely have a story to tell. McCumbers, 46, is no exception. He's originally from Atlanta — the one in south-central Nebraska, tucked between Arapahoe and Holdrege.

"It's smaller than Harrison. It's got less than 100 people," he said.

He started his career as a biochemist, getting a degree from Doane College and doing graduate work at Iowa State and in University of Nebraska programs in Kearney and Lincoln.

"It involves a lot of problem-solving. A lot of the skills translate well to police work," he said. "I liked the work, but I don't like to be in cities, and I don't like to be inside all day."

His law enforcement career began in an unlikely manner in Morrill, where he owns a gun shop and a firearms manufacturing business. He got training to help the city police part time with patrols, although he lived in Sioux County. Eventually he helped in his home county as well.

"Police budgets are small, so the pay is low and turnover is high," he said. "Sometimes things came up, and I'd just do them."

When Sioux County's last sheriff left in 2015, McCumbers was appointed to fill the vacancy. Now he maintains two homes, one at each end of the county.

"I wasn't entirely sure I wanted to be the sheriff of Sioux County," he said. "Now I very much like this place, and I want to keep it the safest place in Nebraska."

---

## High profile trials . . . continued from previous page

**Additional security inside the courtroom:** In murder cases or other cases where there is a victim, the victim's family will be separated and ordered to sit on the opposite side of the defendant's family in the courtroom. Once the courtroom's seats are full, no other people are allowed inside as there is no standing allowed. The first two rows of courtroom seating are reserved for media and law enforcement to provide a barrier between the public and those involved in the case.

The judge also works with deputies to dismiss one side of the courtroom first before allowing the other side out. During a longer trial, deputies are switched out often so an inmate can't learn a deputy's habits, a tactic Hudson learned from the U.S. Marshals Service.

**Securing the high-profile inmate:** For court hearings other than a jury trial, restraints are left on the high-profile inmate. During a jury trial when shackles or restraints must be removed, the inmate wears a stun vest, which can send shocks to an inmate from a deputy if the inmate is disorderly.

"This is the norm now for high-profile trials," Hudson said. "The ultimate goal of our court security plan is to provide the best environment possible for those that work and visit our facility." Sgt. Tim Owens said the high-profile security procedures have been used for more than 24 court hearings with no disturbances. Douglas County District Court Judges

have also praised the newer security plan.

However, Hudson doesn't want to stop there. He hopes to assist other law enforcement agencies by providing advice on security for high-profile hearings and trials, and he plans to continue improving security at the Douglas County Courthouse. He has even watched countless *YouTube* videos of "courthouse fights" to try to find the security mishap and ensure that doesn't happen in Douglas County.

"If you're really going to have a good court security plan, you constantly have to be evaluating the landscape," he said. "We want the public to know they can come here to seek justice and be safe."

**Captain Hudson is a 22 year veteran of the Douglas County Sheriff's Office.** Captain Hudson has over 14 years in court and judicial protection. Captain Hudson earned a bachelor degree in Criminal Justice from Wayne State College and a master's degree in Public Administration from the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

**Leia Baez is the Public Information Officer for Douglas County.** She's a native of Omaha and previously worked for the *Omaha World-Herald* as the deputy online editor for engagement. Baez received her bachelor of arts in journalism from the University of Nebraska at Omaha in 2006 and is currently pursuing a master's degree in public administration.



## Brown County Sheriff's Office helps "Fill the Patrol Car"

As one drove through Ainsworth on Friday, December 16 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. the lights of emergency vehicles were visible in the Viaero parking lot. Members of three groups were filling their vehicles with donations from area residents.

The Nebraska State Patrol Troop B, Brown County Sheriff's Office and the Ainsworth Fire Department worked together to "Fill the Patrol Car" with toys and clothes. State Trooper Gena Jones said, "There are families in need and due to our community size we are often overlooked. This project is to show support to our local families - to show that they do matter and that we are here to help them."

From the "Ainsworth Star-Journal"  
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# So, you want us to rob your bank?

Written by Sgt. Winston Cavendish, Sun, Louisiana Police Department (retired)

*Sgt. Winston Cavendish is a retired Sun, LA, police officer and a regular contributor to the Nebraska Sheriff magazine. Some of the stories he first shared with us were also published in national law enforcement magazines.*

“You want us to rob your bank? Are you kidding or are you just plain crazy?”

Bank Manager Robert Young, from a nearby bank, came to my Crime Prevention Office at the St Tammany Parish Sheriff’s Office in Covington, Louisiana in April 1984. He wanted us to test the security procedures at his bank. This would become one of the craziest requests we ever had.

Our department handled hundreds of home and industrial security surveys in our parish each year, but he wanted us to conduct a Mock Armed Robbery Drill at his bank. His reason for this extreme measure was that his tellers would not take the bank’s security drills seriously.

Manager Young had read an article in “Connecticut Banking Magazine” about a mock bank robbery conducted by a local police department in a small town in that state with the cooperation of bank management.

The bank in question had not been robbed in over 30 years. Bank personnel treated the safety drills as a game, and no one took them seriously.

In that part of Connecticut, several banks were robbed in less than one year. So, the manager arranged with the Chief of Police to conduct an Armed Robbery Drill as close as possible to the real thing. They did, and it was a great learning tool.

Several months later, the bank was robbed, and the Police Chief claimed the earlier drill saved the lives of both the bank employees and the customers. The robbers were quickly apprehended, all because of the accurate descriptions the tellers gave of the perpetrators.

Manager Young decided if it worked in Connecticut it would work in his troubled bank. Young made arrangements with our Sheriff’s Office to have his bank robbery drill as close as possible to the real thing.

The sheriff’s legal team and bank lawyers went over the robbery drill to make sure no agency would be sued. Every employee that worked at the bank had to sign a legal release form before the drill.

Well you know the old adage: “The best laid plans of mice and men can go wrong no matter how hard you plan.” Much like a well wound clock can fail when one part doesn’t work. The factor is when man fails to carry out orders to the letter!

The day came for the robbery to take place. It was a Tuesday morning, and the town was so quiet the only thing that was moving was the old clock in the courtyard.

What a day for a robbery! Deputies were stationed near the building out of sight. Two deputies were posing as the robbers. They put on their long coats and ski masks and waited for the bank doors to open at 9:00 a.m.

When the bank’s entrance burst open, it seemed the tellers were facing two crazed bank robbers wielding sawed-off shot guns and barking out orders.

“This is a bank robbery. Nobody will get hurt if you cooperate with us. Don’t set off the alarms. Keep calm.”

The “robbers” were carrying two large canvas bags for their loot. They told the tellers to put the money in their bags and to “Hurry it up.”

That’s when one teller passed out. The others were visibly terrified as they were instructed to lie on the floor and count to one thousand.

When the “robbers” exited the building, the tellers set off the silent alarm. In less than three minutes, deputies

arrived on the scene. After all, they were waiting outside the bank. Paramedics were called for the bank personnel and deputies took their statements.

What made this robbery most realistic was that bank management was responsible for making their employees aware of the mock robbery. They had failed to do so!

So, did bank employees sue the bank or the sheriff’s office?

Neither! You see, they were all relatives of the bank manager. He would have lost his job if they had sued either the bank or the sheriff’s office. Also, all bank employees had signed release forms, and the Sheriff’s Office had secured a contract stating that bank management would take full responsibility for this mock bank robbery.

But many problems came to light that morning.

- Because personnel had not been informed, the deputies holding up the bank could have been killed. One of the tellers had a .38 revolver in her purse and she was a crack shot.



*continued on page 12*



### NETWORKING AND CONTINUING EDUCATION

The Nebraska Sheriffs' Association, in partnership with the Police Officers' Association of Nebraska, holds an annual **NSA-POAN Conference**

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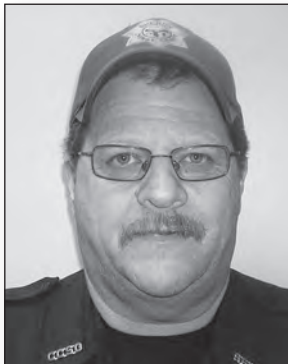
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## So, you want us to rob your bank?

*continued from page 11*

- The bank C.C.T.V. cameras were pointed in the wrong direction. The only image they got was of feet.
- The bank didn't have safety tape on the main entrance which helps to establish the height of the perpetrators.
- The silent alarm system was not properly installed. It went off by itself several times a week when the tellers brushed the alarm button by accident.
- Personnel were not properly trained in answering vital questions the sheriff's detectives needed. The tellers all discussed the description of the criminals before they were interviewed. This made it harder for the deputies to make a positive description of the criminals.

- The "Armed Robbery Procedure Manual" was missing from the bank.
- There were no vital emergency phone numbers of who to call in the event of a major incident.

The names and locations of this story have been changed for obvious reasons.

In retrospect, I would never recommend this Armed Robbery Drill to any law enforcement agency. We were lucky no one was sued, injured, or worse.

Sgt. Winston Cavendish, S.P.D. (Retired)  
34125 Tupelo Lane, Slidell, LA 70460  
985.641.9055 | wcavendish@hotmail.com





## Tim Dempsey had a long career in criminal justice and was a 'lead-by-example type of guy'

Written by Kevin Cole, *Omaha World-Herald* staff writer, Dec 20, 2016

Used with permission

*Tim Dempsey, a native of Omaha and retired 30 year law enforcement officer. In 2004, the Police Officers' Association of Nebraska inducted Tim as a member of the Nebraska Law Enforcement Hall of Fame.*

*Tim was a regular contributor to this magazine, sharing excerpts from one of his books for several years. The family has graciously agreed to let us print the last article he submitted to us. You will find it on page 39.*

*The Nebraska Sheriff's Association send their heartfelt expressions of sympathy to the family. We, too, will sincerely miss him.*

Omaha native Tim Dempsey successfully played a number of roles: athlete, educator, law enforcement officer, author and just plain dad.

"Wherever he worked he would give everything he had to make that organization a better place," said Douglas County Sheriff Tim Dunning. "He kept himself involved, and I don't think he ever quit serving our community."

Dempsey, 73, died of natural causes Friday, December 16 at his Elkhorn area home.

A daughter, Monica Dempsey of Omaha, said the family is working with Metro Community College to establish a scholarship in her father's name. Her father was re-elected in November to the school's board of governors.

"Tim was a family friend. He touched many lives, and his passing will leave a void in those lives. Over his lifetime, Tim wore many hats and held many titles," said Ron Hug, the board's vice chairman. "The ones he valued the most were father, grandfather and husband. My heart and prayers go out to Tim's family during this devastating tragedy."

Dempsey graduated from Omaha Central High School in January 1963 after missing a semester because of illness.

At Central, Dempsey played center on a state championship football team that included future Pro Football Hall of Fame member Gale Sayers. Dempsey went on to play football at Omaha University (now the University of Nebraska at Omaha) in 1964 before a knee injury ended his career.

He later obtained his bachelor's degree in law enforcement and security from UNO in 1972 and his master's degree in public administration from UNO in 1986.

Dempsey was the first deputy hired in Douglas County under the new sheriff's merit system in 1970. He served through the ranks and was promoted to chief deputy in 1991 under Sheriff Dick Roth, a position he held until 1995.

Dempsey retired from Douglas County in 1997 after serving as the county's director of corrections. He was executive director of Nebraska's Accountability and Disclosure Commission until 1999, when he became Elkhorn's police chief.

"My dad was a lead-by-example type of guy," Monica Dempsey said. "He was somebody you could always admire because he always did the right thing no matter how difficult. He set a great example for us kids."

After Omaha annexed Elkhorn in 2007, Dempsey fought hard to have his 13 police officers retained by the city. Eventually, six officers joined the Omaha Police Department, but Dempsey was overlooked.

Dempsey sued the city and won a \$67,500 judgment. Omaha City Councilman Garry Gernandt said he wanted to hire Dempsey.

"I would have preferred \$67,000 worth of Mr. Dempsey's experience and knowledge benefiting the City of Omaha," Gernandt said in 2011. "This is a two-pronged loss here. We're losing some money, and we're losing Mr. Dempsey's talents."

Dempsey, who also worked as a part-time instructor at UNO, wrote three books, all dealing with law enforcement.

He wrote "Well I'll Be Hanged: Early Capital Punishment in Nebraska," "Rules Are Made to Be Broken: An Anecdotal History of the Douglas County Jail" and "Dream Scheme," a fictional story of a deputy sheriff who hunts for answers to solve tough cases.

During his criminal justice career Dempsey served on Nebraska's Crime Commission, was chairman of the Grand Island Law Enforcement Center's Planning Committee, was a member of the Juvenile Justice Commission and, most recently, was a member of the board of Nebraska's Office of Violence Prevention.

Honors for Dempsey included his induction into the Police Officers' Association of Nebraska Hall of Fame in 2004. In 2007 he was named police chief of the year by his fellow members of the Nebraska Police Chiefs' Association.

In addition to his daughter Monica, Dempsey is survived by his wife, Jill; daughter Colleen Bradshaw; and son, Joe Dempsey, all of Omaha.

**THE NEBRASKA SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION - IT PAYS TO BE A MEMBER!**

# The death penalty and David Dunster

Written by Scotts Bluff County Sheriff Jim K. Lawson (retired), Current Diversion Intake Officer,  
Scotts Bluff County Attorney's Office *Originally printed in the Scottsbluff Star-Herald - Used with permission*



Raymond Mata, Jr.



Jeff Hessler



David Dunster

*As you know, the death penalty has been reinstated in Nebraska. You are also probably aware that there are currently ten individuals sitting on death row at the Tecumseh State Correctional Facility in Johnson County Nebraska.*

*Two of those inmates are former residents of Scotts Bluff County, during which time I was serving a 40 year career at the Sheriff's Office.*

*On or about March 15, 1999, Raymond Mata, Jr. kidnapped, murdered and subsequently dismembered three year-old Adam Gomez of Scottsbluff. Parts of the boy's body were discovered in Mata's freezer, in sewer lines and in a dog's dish.*

*During the early morning hours of February 11, 2003, Jeff Hessler kidnapped 15 year-old newspaper carrier Heather Guerrero only blocks from her home. She was raped and murdered. Her body was discovered a day later in an abandoned house near Lake Minatare.*

*Whether some readers agree with the death penalty or not, the following may provide another view of its "potential" use. I wrote this editorial and it was published in the Scottsbluff Star-Herald on November 5, 2016.*

In 1972, David L. Dunster was 17 years-old and a senior at Silverton High School in Woodburn, Oregon.

One day, he walked into a store and killed Della Brockamp. She was a 36 year-old mother of eight children. Brockamp suffered a single gunshot to the head. She had been bound, gagged and blindfolded. There were indications of sexual assault.

As a result, Dunster was convicted and received a sentence of life behind bars. There was no death penalty in the state of Oregon at the time, but that has since been changed.

Three years following the murder, Dunster was accused in a conspiracy to kill Oregon State Penitentiary Superintendent Hoyt Cupp. As a result, he was transferred to the Montana State Prison at Deer Lodge.

While incarcerated there, Dunster killed fellow inmate Milton Rosier in 1979 by slashing his throat using a weapon fashioned from a toothbrush and a razor. The 25 year old Rosier had been serving a ten year sentence for intimidation of a Billings, Montana woman. Eventually, he would have been eligible for parole.

Consequently, Dunster had one hundred years added to his original sentence of life imprisonment. In 1993, he was transferred to the Nebraska State Penitentiary at Lincoln.

Four years later, the six foot four, 240 pound Dunster murdered cellmate Larry Witt who had been housed with Dunster due to a prison over-crowding issue. The facility was at 164% of capacity at the time.

Witt had been sentenced in 1992 to a term of 16-50 years. He had been convicted of two counts of attempted murder and would have been eligible for parole in 2008.

As a result of the Witt murder, Dunster was sent to death row. He was scheduled to die in Nebraska's electric chair in 2001 but the Nebraska Supreme Court issued a stay of execution.

David Dunster wanted to die. In fact, he was quoted as saying, "It is really a pain in the ass to get you people to kill me!" Dunster must have been extremely disappointed when the Nebraska Supreme Court ruled that Nebraska's method of execution was unconstitutional in 2008.

But a year later, lethal injection was introduced as the new method of execution in the state of Nebraska. This may have raised Dunster's hopes of dying but it wasn't until April 19, 2011 that he passed away due to medical complications at the Tecumseh Correctional Facility. He finally got his wish.

Society, both inside and outside the prison walls was now safe. Or were they? How many "David Dunsters" are still out (or in) there?

Do these dangerous prison types "stay put" after being locked up? Mostly, but consider Timothy Clausen and Armon Dixon who escaped from the Lincoln Correctional Center on June 10, 2016. They were serving up to a combined total of 333 years for very serious offenses. It was only a miracle that no one was seriously injured or killed during their brief freedom.

Are other inmates (or staff members) safe from the likes of David Dunster? Apparently not. Just ask the families of Milton Rosier or Larry Witt. And consider the major disturbance at Tecumseh on May 11, 2016 at which time inmates Donald Peacock and Shon Collins were killed by rioting inmates.

Who killed them? Obviously, other inmates. Maybe another murderer already serving a life sentence without the possibility of parole. If those responsible are ever identified and convicted, what will be the punishment? Another sentence of life without parole?

As of June 16, 2016, the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services was at 163% of capacity. Don't get me wrong. I am totally in favor of early release due to "good" behavior, parole and/or work release programs. Not everyone needs to be locked up all the time but there are people who do.

*continued on page 15*



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**Sheriff John Jensen**

**Nebraska Sheriffs' Association Member**

## The death penalty and David Dunster *continued from page 14*

Simply put, society needs to be protected from those who violently and viciously prey on others, both inside and outside the walls. Just ask the families of Della Brockamp, Milton Rosier, Larry Witt, Donald Peacock, Shon Collins or Superintendent Cupp.

I'm guessing we'll never see a death sentence carried out here in the state of Nebraska but that's ok. I've been told on very good authority that "life" on death row is no pleasant experience. It is a slow death in and by itself. Twenty three hours a day in a cell, not only isolated from the entire prison population but all other death row inmates as well. Death row is a jail inside a jail.

The privilege of work assignments in the prison shops, eating your meals in the prison cafeteria, walking across the exercise yard or playing a game of softball, visiting with other detainees are not enjoyed by those on death row.

Simple freedoms that you and I enjoy almost every day are gone. Just being able to stroll on the "outside" so to speak (albeit within the walls) and see the color of the sky, the smell of a distant barbeque, to hear a flock of Canadian snow geese flying overhead, the beauty of newly-fallen snow or the feel of a spring rain on your face are all gone.

To me, that would be the penalty of death in itself.



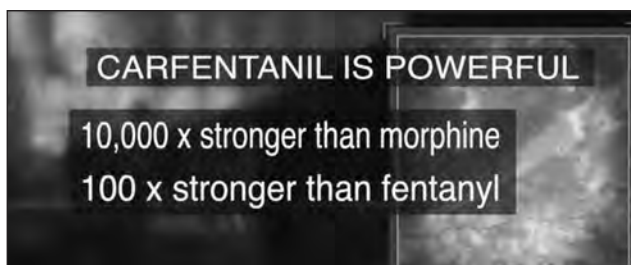
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# Carfentanil: Synthetic opioids endanger officers

Written by Laura L. Cooper

*Laura L. Cooper, a former police officer, lives in Nebraska and writes about crime and public safety. She is a member of the Public Safety Writers Association, The Nebraska Writers Guild, and Sisters in Crime. She contributes regularly to The Nebraska Sheriff Magazine. Visit her website at [www.LauraLCooper.com](http://www.LauraLCooper.com).*

In the United States, SWAT members, narcotics officers, and police dogs have sought medical treatment after exposure to fentanyl and fentanyl-related compounds. The strongest of the synthetic opioids, carfentanil, hit U.S. streets in 2016. Carfentanil is up to 100 times stronger than fentanyl, 5,000 times stronger than heroin, and 10,000 times stronger than morphine. Users are over-dosing. Law enforcement officers are at risk.



As the heroin/opioid epidemic continues, fentanyl and fentanyl compounds, which are made easily and inexpensively, are spreading throughout the illicit drug trade. "Fentanyl, now, is being sold as heroin, in virtually every corner of our country," said Jack Riley, Deputy Administrator of the DEA. Overdose numbers rise quickly as synthetic drug use increases. Carfentanil, the strongest of these man-made drugs, has no safe dose for humans. Even opioid-tolerant users are likely to die before they experience a high.

## THE DANGERS OF FENTANYL-RELATED DRUGS

"Not only has fentanyl been found in busts involving heroin, morphine, oxycodone and hydrocodone; it has also been found in cocaine and synthetic marijuana (AKA "Spice"). The streets have gotten even more dangerous" (Officer.com). Law enforcement personnel and canines are at risk from exposure to synthetic opioids.

Two New Jersey officers were exposed to fentanyl powder when sealing a bag of confiscated narcotics in August 2015. "I felt like my body was shutting down," said Detective E. Price of the Atlantic County Task Force. "I thought that was it. I thought I was dying" (DEA).

In September 2016, eleven police officers went to the hospital in Connecticut after suffering from air borne exposure to fentanyl. In a search warrant that netted 50,000 bags of heroin, the SWAT team used flash grenades when gaining entry. This may have sent the powder into the air. The resulting symptoms included light-headedness, nausea, sore throats, headaches, and vomiting. All of the officers were treated and released (NBC Connecticut).

After a series of OD deaths in Vermont, law enforcement officers realized that dealers were also using more caution when working with synthetic opioids. "Troopers have recovered gloves, masks and other protective gear from suspected fentanyl distribution sites," said Capt. John Merrigan of the Vermont State Police (VTDigger.org).

Medical personnel are following protocol used with contagious airborne diseases and hazardous materials. If it is suspected that a patient used carfentanil, or if one dose of naloxone fails to have an effect, ER staff will wear masks, shields, gloves, and gowns as if treating an Ebola patient. "This is one kind of drug where we're actually worried about our own staff," said Dr. Bill Krizmanich, Hamilton Health Sciences in Ontario, Canada (CBC.ca).

Now carfentanil is making the game even more dangerous. "We're talking about something the size of a grain of salt that can kill a law enforcement officer in under 3 minutes," said Jason Greline, Missouri Narcotics Officers Association (officer.com). According to the DEA alert on carfentanil, "It is crazy dangerous."

## CARFENTANIL COMES TO THE U.S.

Carfentanil (trade name Wildnil) was originally synthesized in 1974 and only cleared for use as a tranquilizer for large animals like elephants and rhinos. It has no accepted human use. Russian Special Forces used carfentanil with remifentanyl (another fentanyl analog) in an aerosol to incapacitate Chechen separatists in 2002. Insufficient medical treatment was offered and 125 people died. Drug users began to take it illicitly in Estonia and Lithuania in the early 2000s. Although those who took carfentanil there were generally aware of its potency, Estonia still had the most drug deaths in Europe.

In July 2016, carfentanil erupted onto the U.S. drug scene where it was often used to lace heroin and other street drugs without the user's knowledge. It is also used to produce counterfeit opioids. Dealers cut it in to increase the potency of other drugs and reduce their production costs. It is easier to smuggle than other drugs because of its concentration.

The potency of carfentanil (4-carbomethoxyfentanyl) overshadows all other commercially available drugs. Any form of exposure can quickly result in symptoms such as disorientation, respiratory distress, or cardiac arrest. "It can potentially kill anyone who comes into contact with it," Pennsylvania Secretary of Health Karen Murphy told the AP.

*continued on page 19*



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**Sheriff Jeffery Franklin**

**Nebraska Sheriffs' Association Member**

## On the Lighter Side



The driver woke up when the sheriff's deputy tapped on the window. Seeing the rotating lights in his rear view mirror and the uniformed deputy standing next to his car, the man panicked, jerked the gearshift into "drive", and hit the gas. The car's speedometer was showing 20, then 30, then 40, and finally 50 mph. However, the car was stuck in the snow, wheels spinning madly, but going nowhere.

The deputy, having a sense of humor, began running in place next to the "speeding" but still stationary car. The driver was totally freaked out thinking the officer was actually keeping up with him. This went on for about 30 seconds. That's when the deputy yelled at the driver and ordered him to "Pull over!" The man obeyed, turned the steering wheel to the right, and stopped the engine.

*Used with permission. <http://funny copstories.com>*

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## Carfentanil *continued from page 16*



Carfentanil was seized in over 400 cases in eight U.S. states in the last half of 2016. "Fueled by a thriving trade out of China, the weapons-grade chemical is suspected in

hundreds of drug overdoses in the U.S. and Canada" (AP, Kinetz).

### **OPIOID TOXICITY**

When a trace amount can kill a person, there is no safe level of carfentanil exposure. Even the slightest amount accidentally touched, inhaled, or ingested may lead to overdose. These symptoms of opioid toxicity may arise within minutes:

- Pinpoint pupils
- Cold, clammy skin
- Nausea and vomiting
- Weak pulse/no pulse
- Shallow breathing/no breathing
- Drowsiness and disorientation
- Lethargy/loss of consciousness

### **OVERDOSES AND DEATHS ON THE RISE**

In 2016, carfentanil overdose deaths occurred in Ohio, Michigan, Florida, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania. Canadian officials have connected deaths to carfentanil in Alberta and British Columbia. As cases are confirmed with toxicology results, the number of individuals and states involved grows. The DEA statistics have to wait on confirmation by federal, state, or local laboratories; however, not all labs have specifically tested for carfentanil or have the means to do so. Besides, drugs laced with it may have dosages of carfentanil too small to detect.

### **WEAPONS-GRADE CHEMICAL**

Carfentanil is considered a weapons-grade chemical. "Terrorists could acquire it commercially as we have seen drug dealers doing," said Andrew Weber, former U.S. assistant secretary of defense for nuclear, chemical and biological defense programs. In June 2016, one kilogram of carfentanil was seized in Vancouver. That is enough of this potent narcotic for 50 million fatal doses. The potential dangers of carfentanil misuse are unlimited.

### **HANDLING SUSPECTED CARFENTANIL/ OTHER FENTANYLS**

The DEA warns law enforcement officers to recognize the dangers of synthetic opioids and work to prevent contamination. Law enforcement officers are advised to be vigilant with any suspected fentanyl-related narcotic.

- Exercise extreme caution
- Don't collect samples without special training and protective gear

- Do not field test or transport samples to the office
- Be aware of signs of exposure
- Seek IMMEDIATE medical attention
- Administer naloxone as directed

Treat suspected carfentanil or any fentanyl-related drug as the deadly substance it is. Only designated personnel who are specially trained and outfitted should handle samples. Special equipment should include an approved Self Contained Breathing Apparatus.

These narcotics may resemble powdered cocaine or heroin, or be cut into them. Carfentanil may be found in a powder, blotter paper, tablet, patch, or spray form. Avoid field testing and, instead, carefully label and transport suspicious substances directly to a laboratory. React quickly to any signs of exposure.

Immediately call EMS for exposures. In case of inhalation exposure, move the victim to a safe area with fresh air. If touched, wash the area thoroughly with soap and water. When drugs are ingested by a still-conscious victim, use cool water to rinse out the victim's eyes and mouth. Do not induce vomiting. Also, give naloxone as described below.

### **NALOXONE/NARCAN**

Administering naloxone (also known as Narcan) may reverse the effects of opioid overdose. However, up to six doses may be necessary to treat toxicity from carfentanil. "It can take hours for the body to metabolize carfentanil, far longer than for other opioids. That means a longer-lasting high. But it also means that when someone overdoses, it's more difficult to revive them" (NPR.org).

Make sure you have a supply and are trained to use naloxone. The DEA advises to "continue to administer a dose of naloxone every 2-3 minutes until the individual is breathing on his/her own for at least 15 minutes or until EMS arrives."

### **PURCHASING SYNTHETIC OPIOIDS**

Most synthetic opioids which end up being trafficked are made in Chinese labs. Some enter the U.S. after being mixed with heroin or other drugs in Mexico. Others are purchased directly from those labs over the Internet or Dark Web and delivered via the mail service. One Chinese site on the open Internet offered to sell carfentanil for \$8,000 a kilogram (AP, Kinetz). On the Dark Web, the AP found 118 listings for carfentanil.

Two packages from China were confiscated from an airport in Canada in December 2016. Lab results just revealed their contents: 209 grams of carfentanil...enough for 10 million lethal doses. Some are looking at this narcotic beyond its dangers to individual users and those near them. It could be used in terror attacks and chemical warfare.

*continued on page 23*



### PARTNERSHIPS

The Nebraska Sheriffs' Association works in partnership with all law enforcement agencies to enhance technology, share information, and provide the highest quality of protection to all Nebraskans.

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## Stanton County Sheriff Mike Unger received the 2016 Stanton Rescue's Judy Paulsen EMT of the Year award

Pictured left to right: Shawnette Tomka, Stanton Rescue Captain, Sheriff Mike Unger, Colleen Butterfield, Stanton Rescue Co-Captain

Photo courtesy "The Stanton Register"

Stanton County Sheriff Mike Unger received the 2016 Stanton Rescue EMT of the Year award. Sheriff Unger has been with Stanton Rescue for 25 years and this is the fourth time he has received this award. Sheriff Unger served as Captain of the Rescue Squad for more than 20 years, until stepping down in 2016.

This award is presented every year to the EMT who has gone above and beyond the normal call of duty. Sheriff Unger has made more than 90% of all the calls for service over the past 25 years. Stanton County averages 160 emergency medical service calls each year. The award is named for Stanton EMT Judy Paulsen who died while a member of the squad.



## Stanley C. Herrick Chief Deputy Cuming County Loses Fight with Cancer

On July 27, 2016 Chief Deputy Stanley C. Herrick of the Cuming County Sheriff's Office, after a year-long battle with B-Cell Lymphoma, lost his battle with cancer. At the time of his death, Stan was a 36-year veteran of law enforcement and Chief Deputy for the Cuming County Sheriff's Office. Stan was 60 years old.

Stan was born on May 22, 1956, in Council Bluffs, IA. Before the family moved to Norfolk, NE, he started his "law enforcement career" at a Council Bluffs school by being on the Safety Patrol team from 1966 to 1968.

After graduating from Norfolk High in 1974, Stan enlisted in the United States Navy Seabees. That same year, Stan and his wife, Bonnie (Deitloff) were married. In 1977, Stan joined the Norfolk Police Reserves and later graduated from the Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Academy. He worked as Chief Deputy in the Stanton County Sheriff's Office and later as Chief Deputy in the Wayne County Sheriff's Office. Stan then joined the Cuming County Sheriff's Office in January of 1989 and was Chief Deputy at the time of his passing.

Stan was a member of the Sons of the American Legion, the National Rifle Association, and the Fraternal Order of Police. He was also a member of the Nebraska Law Enforcement Intelligence Network, the Blue Knights, and the Nebraska Sheriffs' Association.

Stan received his sharpshooter certificate in 1973 and enjoyed spending his spare time riding his motorcycle.

Survivors include his spouse, Bonnie Herrick of Wisner; son Charles (Shannon) Herrick of Weeping Water, and their children Cassandra, Kiley, Kaelyn, Corianne, and Keira; a daughter Amanda (Brice) Buryanek of Sergeant Bluff, IA; his parents, Robert and Helen Herrick of Norfolk; a sister, Diane (Gene) Cederburg of Pierce; a brother, Brian (Jennifer) Herrick of Battle Creek; as well as other nieces and nephews.

**Our condolences to Bonnie and all Stan's family and friends, especially members of the Cuming County Sheriff's Office.**



## Grant County outlaw Maurice "Blondie" Denning

Maurice "Blondie" Denning, once an Iowa farmer, found his way onto the wrong side of the law at age 23. While serving a bootlegging sentence, he hooked up with several other men to form a gang. After numerous robberies across the Great Plains in 1934, the gang hid out in the nearly deserted town of Kinney, NE, in Gage County. Sheriff Thomas Dunn recruited a number of officials to raid the hideout, but Denning wasn't there. He and fellow gang member Thomas Limerick arrived in Kinney

around midnight in a car they had stolen hours earlier. Finding the area guarded by officers, they ignored the order to halt, speeding through a flurry of gunfire and into the night, eluding capture.

Their stolen car was found December 4, 1934, in an abandoned barn near Odell. Bullet holes were visible in the gas tank and above the rear door. There was no sign of Denning or Limerick. Reports came in over the next several days of possible sightings in Omaha and farther east in Iowa, but nothing was known of their whereabouts until a January 5, 1935, bank robbery in Hudson, S. D.

Denning was never seen nor heard from again. On July 20, 1936, FBI Director John Edgar Hoover named Denning "Public Enemy Number One" after the death of Dillinger associate John "Red" Hamilton. Staying on the FBI's radar until the 1960s, Denning was never apprehended, making him the most successful public enemy of all time. Used with permission. <http://journalstar.com>

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### Did You Know -

Mounted to the exterior of patrol cars, electronic tag readers are becoming more prevalent among larger departments and traffic-oriented agencies. Using cameras connected to vehicle information databases, electronic tag readers instantly analyze license plates on every vehicle that comes within their range of view.

Instead of having to call in tags to dispatchers one at a time in order to check for stolen vehicles or compare BOLO information, officers can be alerted to the fact that they are behind a stolen vehicle without having to lift a finger. Tag readers have the potential to increase the number of vehicles recovered and criminals apprehended. (Timothy Rouka - [www.thebalance.com](http://www.thebalance.com))

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## Carfentanil *continued from page 19*

The DEA says China is the main source of fentanyl compounds for North America. China does not regulate carfentanil and has been resistant to help block its sale. According to an AP study, nine companies continued to sell carfentanil to anyone with an Internet connection.

### TIGHTENING REGULATIONS

Fentanyl and fentanyl-related drugs are generally legal to produce. Vendors rely on the lack of restrictions on trading platforms in South Korea (EC21.com) and China (LookChem.com) to move their products. They also misspell their products or imbed the names in graphics to avoid being caught in screenings.

Bills have been introduced in Congress to try to stop the flow of fentanyl derivatives into the U.S. Some are aimed at tightening restrictions on international mail delivery to make it easier to electronically track items to their source. There is an effort to make it illegal to mail presses used to produce counterfeit opiates. Other regulations would update our criminal code on fentanyl drugs.

Some illicit labs work hard to make minor chemical alterations to create new and as-yet unregulated drugs. For instance, a new synthetic opioid U-47700, known as Pink (the color of its powder form), has been sold over the Internet as a “research chemical” linked to 31 deaths in New York and 10 deaths in North Carolina. On November 14, 2016, it was temporarily added to the list of schedule I drugs by the DEA. This tactic gives narcotics enforcement officers a chance to curb its flow into our country while the new compound is studied for official classification.

### CONCLUSION

The last available CDC statistics for synthetic opioid deaths was 5,554 in 2014. Fentanyl-related drug abuse has surged since then. So long as new fentanyl derivatives are being cooked up and carfentanil remains unrestricted in China, the rate of deaths is likely to rise. Make sure that you and your staff are not one of the statistics.

1974	Originally synthesized as a large animal tranquilizer
2002	Part of an aerosol used by Russian forces against separatists, 125 died
Early 2000's	Used illicitly in Estonia and Lithuania
June 2016	One kilogram (50 million doses) from China seized in Vancouver, Canada
July 2016	Suspected in 236 overdoses and 14 deaths in Akron, Ohio, over 3 weeks
Aug 2016	In Huntington, West Virginia, 27 overdoses and 2 deaths from carfentanil
Sept 2016	Eight deaths caused by carfentanil overdoses in Cincinnati, Ohio
Sept 2016	DEA busted a Utah lab for pressing carfentanil into “oxycodone” pills
July-Oct 2016	In Wayne County, Michigan, 19 deaths were linked to carfentanil
July-Nov 2016	Over 53 deaths caused by carfentanil in Broward County, Florida
Fall 2016	Fifteen deaths linked to carfentanil use in Alberta, Canada
Nov 2016	First carfentanil overdose death in Vancouver, British Columbia
Dec 2016	The Canada Border Services Agency intercepted 209 grams from China
Nov/Dec 2016	Two deaths have since been attributed to carfentanil in Pennsylvania
July-Dec 2016	Over 400 seizures of carfentanil in eight U.S. states
2016	Preliminary results from the Miami-Dade Medical Examiner's Office show carfentanil involved in 107 deaths in 2016

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## Loss of life on Nebraska's roadways can be reduced

Written by Beverly Reicks, President/CEO National Safety Council

National Safety Council, Nebraska takes this opportunity to remind Nebraskans to buckle up to save their lives. From January 19 to January 25, 2017, five Nebraskans have lost their lives in fatal crashes on Nebraska's roadways. In each crash, it has been reported that the victims were not using seat belts. Our hearts go out to the friends and family across the state of Nebraska who are mourning the loss of their loved ones.

In 2015, on Nebraska's roadways there were 191 fatal motor vehicle crashes; in 142 cases the victims were not wearing seat belts. Nearly 75% of all motor vehicle fatalities in Nebraska are not wearing seat belts. Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death among those ages 5-34 years old. Seat belts, when used properly, reduce the risk of fatal injury to front-seat passenger car occupants by 45% and light truck occupants by 60%. It's a fact – seat belts save lives.

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# 2016 NSA/POAN Awards Banquet OCTOBER 4, 2016



Lancaster County Sheriff Terry Wagner presented the Officer of the Year Award to Deputy Julie Hoffman

Right: Polk County Sheriff Dwaine Ladwig presented the NSA Hall of Fame Award posthumously to Butler County Sheriff Mark Hecker. Attending the awards ceremony were four of Sheriff Hecker's daughters.



## Officer of the Year

### Deputy Julie Hoffman, Lancaster County Sheriff's Office

Deputy Hoffman is an eight year veteran of the Lancaster County Sheriff's Office. She earned her B.A. in Psychology from UNL in 2008 and her Masters of Forensic Science from Nebraska Wesleyan in 2009. She is a graduate of the 172nd Basic Class at NLETC where she earned the Academic Award for the Highest Overall GPA.

Deputy Hoffman was nominated for her work as an undercover investigator for the Lincoln/Lancaster County Task Force. Her nomination letter states, "In the 35 years the Task Force has been in existence, there has never been an investigator who has worked undercover for the entire tour of duty. Julie is the exception. She is known professionally for her fearlessness, persistence, selfless mission orientation, organizational skills and professional maturity."

Hoffman is known for her willingness to serve the greater purpose of the unit and the mission, the quality of her research, and analysis of data. Praised by prosecutors, her reports are used as training guidelines within the task Force. (Read more at [www.nesheriffsassoc.org](http://www.nesheriffsassoc.org))

## Hall of Fame

### Sheriff Mark Hecker, Butler County

On August 7, 2014, Sheriff Mark Hecker left his office to do what he was best known to do - help someone. He answered a call for service regarding a subject who was mentally ill. He attempted to take the subject into protective custody when she became non-compliant, resisting Sheriff Hecker and other officers on scene.

In the early morning hours of August 8, 2014, Sheriff Hecker, suffering with chest pains, drove himself to the Butler County Hospital. He was transported to Bryan Hospital in Lincoln and from there to UNMC in Omaha where he passed away on August 12, 2014.

Mark Hecker started his law enforcement career in the Humphrey Police Department at the age of 19. He then worked

for the David City Police Department until joining the Sheriff's Office in 1988. He had served as the Butler County Sheriff since 1999.

Sheriff Mark Hecker's name was added to the memorial wall during the annual Law Enforcement Memorial Ceremony in Grand Island on May 11, 2015. His name was added as a "Line of Duty Death."

Members of Sheriff Hecker's family attended the October NSA/POAN award ceremony to accept on his behalf. He has now been officially inducted into the Nebraska Sheriffs' Association "Hall of Fame."



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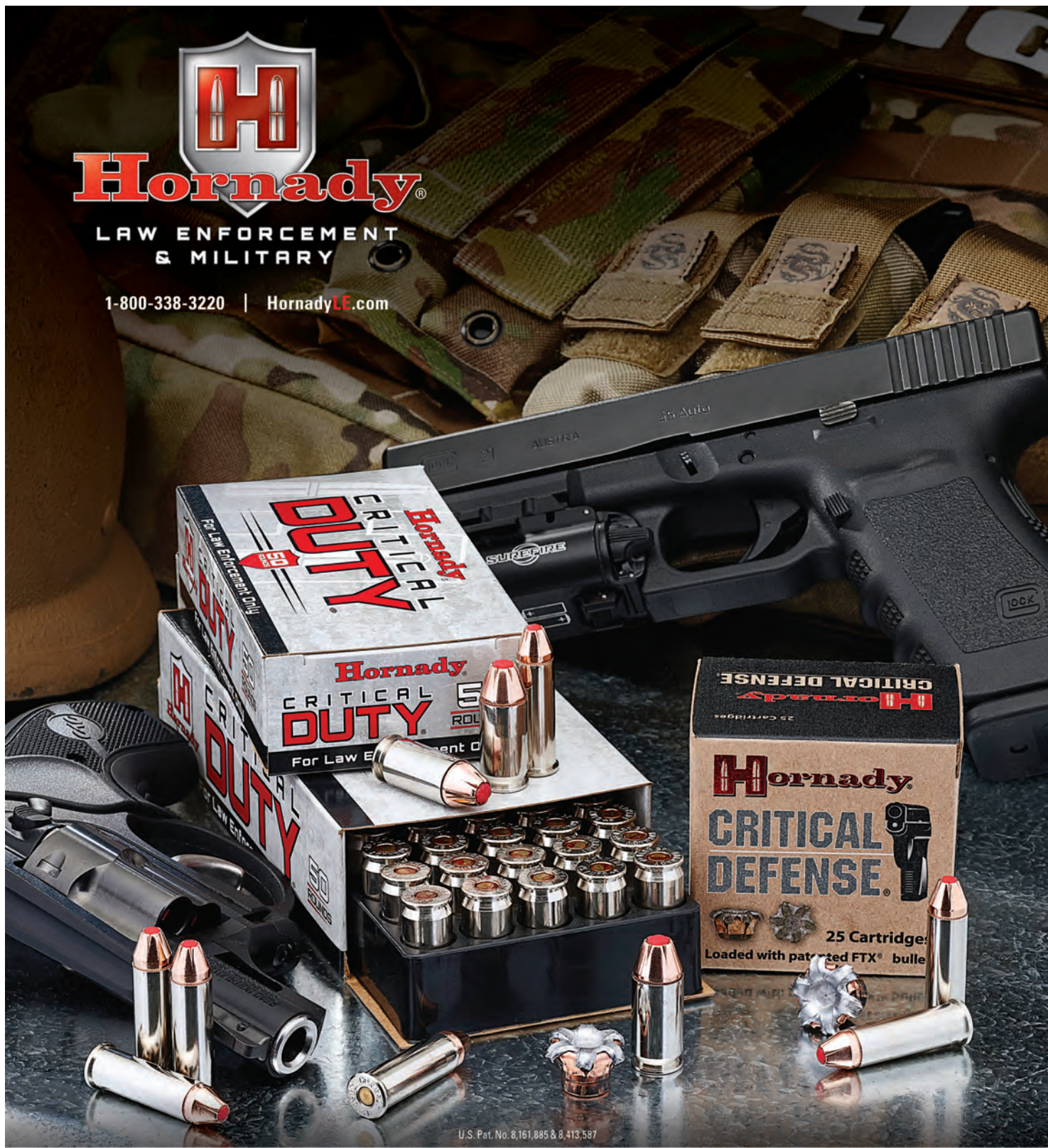




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# Alias Nixon and Johnson

Written by Tim Dempsey (see page 13)

## The Confession

In December of 1878, Mary Harelson and her three children were savagely murdered by Stephen (Sam) Richards at their farm near Minden, Nebraska. Richards died on the gallows in Minden on April 26, 1879 for killing a farmer in Kearney County. Before he went to his death, he confessed to killing Mrs. Harelson and her three children. He admitted to three other murders in Nebraska as well. In his confession, Richards said that he originally came to Kearney to see his friend Jasper Harelson, Mary's husband, who was in the Buffalo County jail with Henry Underwood. Underwood was being held as one of the Big Springs train robbers, and Richards referred to Underwood as Nixon, Underwood, and the "Train Robber." At the time, and for years to come, the robbery was one of Nebraska's most infamous events.

## THE ROBBERY

George Barnhart, the agent for the Union Pacific Railroad at Big Springs Station in Cheyenne County in Nebraska, was sitting in front of his telegraph key waiting for the Union Pacific Express train on the night of September 18, 1877. The train was due at 10:48 P.M., and typically just slowed enough to toss out the mail pouch as the Express passed through the station. Suddenly, Barnhart's tranquil evening was interrupted by several masked men pointing their Navy Colt revolvers at him. The bandits smashed Barnhart's telegraph apparatus and forced him to put out the red lantern, which was the signal for the express train to stop.

Once the train stopped, the bandits rushed the locomotive and converged on the express car. A shot was fired just missing the obstinate engineer. Showing that they meant business, the desperados quickly began a methodical task of robbing the train with the assistance of a more obliging crew. After gaining entrance to the express car, the bandits tried to force Charles Miller, the car messenger, to open the safe. Miller was roughed up, but was finally able to convince the holdup men that he did not have the safe's combination. The masked men relinquished their interest in the safe, but found three locked chests in the car which they were able to force open. The strongboxes contained \$60,000 in gold coins. After robbing several passengers, the raiders fled, presumably on horseback, taking with them their weighty loot.

Witnesses were sure that there were at least six men who participated in the robbery. Some thought it may be more. An incoming freight train arrived at the station shortly after midnight, and the word of the robbery quickly reached Ogallala, a small city situated approximately 20 miles east of Big Springs. Cheyenne County Sheriff Con McCarty and Lincoln County Sheriff A. H. Bradley each formed a posse and began searching for the bandits. Several people speculated that the heist was the work of the James or Dalton gangs. Unfortunately for the hold-up men, one of the passengers, Andrew Riley from Omaha, recognized one of the bandits as Joel Collins, a cowboy from Texas who was living in Ogallala. Collins and several other trail hands had recently drifted into the Keith County area. The men drove a herd up from Texas, and spent some time robbing stages in South Dakota's Black Hills before ending up in Nebraska. Although he was masked, Riley recognized Collins as a man he shared a lengthy stage coach ride from Sidney to

### The Kearney Co. Butchery.

The Omaha Bee gives the following particulars of the murder of Mrs. Harlson and her three children:

"It is believed that this family were murdered by a man named S. D. Richards in order to obtain possession of a span of mules, some grain and a homestead claim.

Mrs. Harlson's head was smashed with a smoothing iron; also, one child killed with the same instrument. One was taken by the heels and had its brains dashed out against the floor. The third child was kicked to death.

Still another murder was committed in Kearney county, the victim being Peter Anderson, who lived about five miles from Mrs. Harlson's place.

He was found dead in the cellar of his house, under a coal pile. It is thought the deed was done by the same party. He was pounded on the head with a hammer, and was killed for a little money he had with him at the time."

Deadwood only a year earlier. The five other outlaws were later identified by newspaper accounts as Collin's fellow Texans Sam Bass and Bill Heffridge, James Berry from Mexico, Missouri, Tom Nixon, and a man known as Jack Davis.

When word of the robbery reached Union Pacific headquarters in Omaha, the railroad quickly responded by establishing a \$10,000 reward for the capture of the bandits. E. M. Morsman, Superintendent of the Union Pacific Express Company, was immediately dispatched to Ogallala to personally take charge of the investigation. Morsman retained the services of M. F. Leech, a former Union Pacific detective and current resident of Ogallala, to search for the bandits. Superintendent Clark also contacted General George Crook. Crook was the commander of the Military Department of the Platte headquartered in Omaha. Crook in turn notified officers under his command stationed throughout Nebraska and Wyoming. It was not an uncommon practice for the military to assist civilian law enforcement officers at that time. The powerful Union Pacific Railroad was able to get the Army's full cooperation.

## THE CHASE

Joel Collins, not knowing that he had been identified, spent the next day in Ogallala. The gang lingered around town, bought provisions, and planned on going back to Texas.

continued on page 39



## Law enforcement and the use of drones on patrol



Critics decry them as harbingers of an Orwellian police state, a la 1984. Proponents point to the vast potential to solve and prevent crime. Wherever you fall in the argument, the fact is that drones are well on their way to becoming eyes in the sky for law enforcement officials.

Unmanned drones can help patrol in many ways and areas that police officers simply cannot. They can provide real-time information to police dispatchers and to crime analysts so that officers can get vital information about crimes in progress and dangerous situations, as they unfold. This can help them better plan emergency responses and save lives.

In addition, drones can capture video and images of crimes as they occur, providing crucial evidence in future court proceedings. Imagine a bank robbery in progress; a surveillance drone could be quickly dispatched to the area and follow a fleeing suspect to his home or hideout without his knowledge, avoiding a potential hostage situation or unnecessary injuries.

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Timothy Roufa, November 8, 2016*

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*(http://nebraskafacts.facts.co/funnebraskafacts)*



## Alias Nixon and Johnson *continued from page 37*

The outlaws thought they would be inconspicuous by posing as Texas bound drovers. By the time Morsman and Leech realized that Collins and the others were responsible for the robbery, the bandits were gone. Morsman sent Leech after the unassuming outlaws who were traveling south as if they were in no particular hurry.

Leech caught up with the men by the end of the first day. He discovered where they stopped for the night, and quietly crept up to the encampment as the bandits slept. After making sure that the men were in fact his quarry, Leech snuck back to his horse and waited for daylight. When the men broke camp, Leech waited an hour and continued following them. Leech stopped at the first ranch he came upon and hired a man to get a message back to Morsman that he located the bandits and was continuing to track them. The following night the outlaws made camp again, and Leech carefully moved close enough to the unsuspecting group to see and hear Collins and the others take an oath not to divulge anyone's identity in the event that one or more of the men were captured. Leech also saw Collins divide the proceeds of the robbery between the six men.

### THE BANDITS

In the morning, the gang again broke camp, but instead of continuing on together, they set out in different directions in pairs. Leech, who had retreated a safe distance from the camp, was still waiting for Sheriff Bradley's posse. He made a decision to follow two of the men. James Berry and another of the bandits, believed to be Tom Nixon, headed south and east with Leech following at a safe distance. Sam Bass and Jack Davis also headed off in a south-easterly direction, and Leech was sure that the posse would be able to catch up with him and could capture four of the outlaws. Not knowing the gang split up, Morsman and Clark decided to send help to Leech on a special train that would arrive ahead of the gang. Kansas's Ellis County Sheriff George Bardsley, Nebraska's Douglas County Deputy David Burley, A. W. Watts, a Pinkerton detective, Army Lieutenant Leven Allen, and ten troopers under Allen's command boarded a special train on September 25, 1877, and headed to Buffalo Station in Kansas. The depot was a small water stop on the Kansas Pacific Railroad located approximately 80 miles south of McCook, Nebraska.

The train arrived around midnight. Burley and several others left on horseback towards Colorado searching for the

outlaws while Lieutenant Allen divided his men and sent them out on patrol in different directions. Meanwhile, Joel Collins and Bill Heffridge were making their way south towards Texas. As their luck would have it, on the morning of the 26th of September, the pair stopped for provisions at Buffalo Station. Bill Sternberg, the telegraph operator, was aware of the hold-up, and had the description of the wanted men. Collins and Heffridge had Sternberg believing that they were two Texas cowhands headed home. They told him they were just stopping for a few supplies. Unfortunately for Collins, he inadvertently dropped an envelope from his pocket which happened to be addressed to him. Sternberg asked Collins if his name was Joel Collins after noticing the letter, and Collins, not suspecting that he and the others were wanted, told him that he was Collins. The two men finished their business and slowly continued on their way.

Sheriff Bardsley, Corporal William Eddy, and several troopers caught up with the two riders about 800 yards south of the station. At first, Collins and Heffridge were accommodating and agreed to accompany the Sheriff and the soldiers back to Buffalo. As Collins turned his horse, he apparently decided to fight it out, and the two bandits drew their revolvers. Corporal Eddy and three other troopers fired their carbines before the desperados were able to get off a shot, and both men fell from their horses. Heffridge died instantly and Collins was able to momentarily get to his knees before dropping dead. A search of the men and the pack horse they were leading led to the discovery of \$19,456.00.

Detective Leech, for some reason, abandoned his pursuit of Berry and Davis, and headed back in the direction taken by Collins and Heffridge. Nearly a month went by before James Berry was spotted in his hometown of Mexico, Missouri. He eluded authorities for several days, but was subsequently tracked down by Callaway County Sheriff H. Glascock. Berry tried to flee and was struck in the leg by a bullet from the Sheriff's gun. Berry lingered a few days, but succumbed to the wound which had become infected. Berry confessed to the robbery on his deathbed, and named Joel Collins and the four other men as his accomplices. When he was asked about the whereabouts of Nixon, he said Nixon went to Chicago.



Joel Collins and Brother Joe Seated Left to Right - Sam Bass and J. E. Gardner Standing Left to Right  
(Photo Courtesy Western History Collections, University of Oklahoma Library, Norman)

*continued on page 42*

## Do you want to die? Written by Wendy Piercy, MS, LPC

Wendy Piercy is a Grand Island, NE police officer. In addition to being a police officer, she is a licensed mental health therapist. Her career as a therapist has spanned 17 years with areas of expertise in child abuse, interpersonal communications, crisis response, stress management and crisis de-escalation.

“Do you want to die?”

This question is about the same social faux pas as farting in church. Asking someone if they want to die can be very uncomfortable. What if the person wasn't thinking about it and now you have said something and they started thinking about it? Asking someone if they want to die seems rude and disrespectful. We all have been in dark places in our own personal life, when it felt like even the dog or telemarketers didn't like us. It might be hard to imagine being in a place so dark and alone, where taking your own life becomes the best solution. For reasons which sometimes only make sense to that person, they feel like their only option is to die.

Why do adolescents who seem to have the world at their fingertips, bright futures ahead of themselves, make a choice to end their life? A situation at school where the adolescent was teased/bullied/humiliated or didn't meet an expectation they had for themselves or felt they didn't meet an expectation they thought someone else had for them. Adolescents view life in an all or nothing mentality. The pain from what is going on in their world hurts so badly another day just becomes just too much.

An elderly person who has lived longer than they thought they would. Physically their body is broken/tired/wore out and just keeps going. The nest egg they had to let them retire and enjoy life is dwindling and there is no extra money coming in and more money going out because they didn't expect to live 25-30 years past retirement. Death is inevitable and every day they live is one more day of being a burden on their family or their families seem to have forgotten they are alive.

Men and women in the prime of their lives. The world in front of them, people ready to make an impact and make a difference. Somewhere in their journey, maybe they took a wrong turn. Alcohol/drugs, overwhelming pressures or expectations, mental illness, infidelity, problems at work, financial. The list could go on and on, as to why death seems better than life.

### Your safety is still a priority

At one time or another, we have all been dispatched to a suicidal person. Remember, your safety is still a priority. Ask dispatch if the person has any weapons and what kind. Who else is in the house? Take the extra minute to look up past involvements and read the reports.

See if you can figure out what has been happening in the person's life for the last few months. If your computer is down or not available give someone a call who would know.

Pay attention to your surroundings. Suicide by cop in the eyes of the person is better than by their own hand. Remember to breathe. Keep your vision field open. Call the person by their name and continue to do so. Start with acknowledging that they are having a tough day.



*Do ask, “Do you want to die?” If you are there because someone is suicidal, you are not planting a seed that has not already been put in the ground. Call it what it is.*

### Ask what has been happening

Have you had any family members or close friends commit suicide? If they have had someone commit suicide, the taboo has been broken. It can help the person justify their decision. Uncle Tom or cousin Sue committed suicide so if they did so can I. If they had a close friend die by their own hand, there is the possibility of survivor guilt. Why didn't this person come to me? Why did this person leave me. If they have had someone, this increases the risk factor.

Have they ever attempted suicide? If yes, what did they do? What is their plan? Gauge the level of lethality. There is a difference between ingesting 4 vitamins vs 150 acetaminophen. According to the American Foundation of Suicide Prevention, men die by suicide 3.5 times more than women but women attempt 3 times more than men. Historically women have used more “gentle methods” such as overdosing or asphyxiation. It certainly is not unheard of for a female to use a firearm. Firearms are the leading method of completed suicides. This also increases their risk factors.

Have you ever felt this way before? When was it and what helped them to not? Obviously something worked to stop them or you wouldn't be talking to them.

What has been happening in your life, which makes taking your own life an option? Suicide is a permanent action to a temporary situation.

*continued on page 45*





## An underwater ghost town hiding in Nebraska

Over the years, the Nebraska landscape has changed many times and for many reasons. Towns sprang up and disappeared all over the state, usually because of the arrival or departure of nearby railroad routes. But one town disappeared for quite a different reason.

The tiny town of Lemoyne (in northern Keith County) still exists on the banks of Lake McConaughy, but it's not the town's original location. Lemoyne was founded in the early 1800s by Lemoyne Jacobs. It sat in a lovely part of the North Platte Valley. Residents campaigned to bring the railroad to town and succeeded.

Then the town flourished. It boasted stockyards, a general store, hotel, barbershop, school and bank. By the 1920s, the population grew to about 200.

In the 1930s, plans began to take shape for an ambitious new project: the Kingsley Dam. The enormous structure would become the second-largest hydraulic dam in the world, and it would create Lake McConaughy. The problem was that the little town of Lemoyne stood in the way.

In 1937, the plan was that the town and its residents were to be relocated. Buildings were moved off their foundations and set down in the new site or nearby towns. Many of the residents were unhappy with the plan and resisted leaving as long as possible, but they, too, were eventually forced to move. When the dam waters rolled in, the remnants of Lemoyne were hidden beneath the lake.

In 2004, a near-record drought took Lake McConaughy's levels down to one-fifth of its capacity. When the waters receded, the remains of the original town surfaced. Building foundations, tree stumps, pottery and the like were all that remained.

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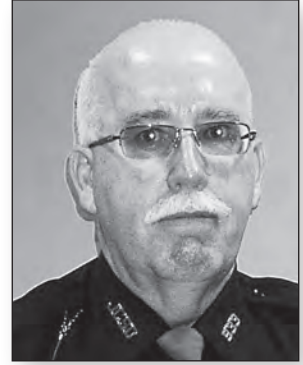
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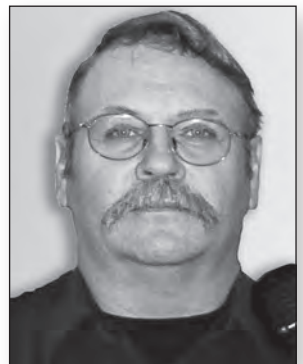
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Sheriff Jeffrey Kirsch

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## Alias Nixon and Johnson *continued from page 39*

### THE BASS GANG

Sam Bass surfaced a few months later in his home in Denton, Texas. Jack Davis took his part of the loot and purportedly headed for New Orleans. Bass quickly became one of the most notorious outlaws of the Old West by recruiting new gang members, including Seaborn Barnes and Frank Jackson. The Bass gang, which included a man named Henry Underwood, who bore a striking resemblance to Tom Nixon, was implicated in at least three train robberies within a few short months. Bass and his gang were running low on funds and decided to rob the bank at Round Rock, Texas. After the heist, they planned on heading to Mexico where they could lay low for a while.

On July 19, 1878, a Williamson County deputy sheriff, Alijah Grimes, and Travis County deputy Maurice Moore, were helping the Texas Rangers in Round Rock looking for suspicious characters when they

noticed three strangers in town. The outlaws were casing the bank and planned on coming back the following day to commit the robbery. Bass was just leaving a store after buying chewing tobacco when Grimes approached Barnes and Jackson. The three desperados pulled their six irons and opened fire, killing Grimes and wounding Moore. Barnes was shot dead and Bass was wounded. Bass managed to escape with the help of Jackson. The following day, Bass was found about three miles from Round Rock suffering from mortal wounds. He was taken back to town and died the following day.

Henry Underwood missed the Round Rock shootout. The previous Christmas Eve, Texas's Grayson County Sheriff Everhart arrested Underwood at his home in Denton, Texas. Several persons swore that Underwood was Tom Nixon.

*continued on page 46*

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## Mock Crash Exercise shows Elkhorn students the dangers of impaired and distracted driving

Written by Lt. Russ Zeeb, Sarpy County Sheriff's Office (retired). Photo courtesy Russ Zeeb.

On September 30, 2016, area law enforcement agencies presented the dangers of underage drinking, drinking and driving, texting and driving, and the importance of seat belt usage, to juniors and seniors at Elkhorn South High School, in preparation for upcoming special events such as Homecoming, Prom and Graduation.

To kick off the presentation, students had a first-hand look at the devastation caused by some of these dangers. A mock crash was staged in the parking lot with two mangled cars and eight Elkhorn South students involved.

As in a real emergency of this magnitude, there was a 911 broadcast of an erratic driver and a law enforcement and fire dispatch, all travelling with red lights and sirens. Participants were made to look like they had real injuries. Each also had a script of their injuries and were assigned role a in the crash. One student was deceased. One was critically injured and eventually flown by a Life Net helicopter from the scene. (Omaha Fire and Rescue provided extrication of the students.)

*continued on page 48*

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**On the Lighter Side**

A Bend, Oregon police officer had a perfect spot to watch for speeders, but wasn't getting any. Then he discovered the problem: a 12-year-old boy was standing up the road with a handpainted sign that read "Radar Trap Ahead." The officer also found the boy had an accomplice who was down the road with a sign reading "Tips" and a bucket full of money!

Used with permission. [outwentthelight.blogspot.com](http://outwentthelight.blogspot.com)

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TILDEN



## Do you want to die? *continued from page 40*

Is the person under the influence of alcohol or illegal substances or under the influence of prescription medications? Alcohol is a depressant and makes bad things seem way worse. Get them to put the bottle down. Find out what medications they are prescribed or taking without a prescription.

What types of medications are you taking? Do you have any medical conditions? Sometimes a reaction to a medication or a medical condition can create suicide ideation or psychiatric type conditions.

What happens when someone calls and reports "Tom" or "Whitney" is suicidal but no one can find the person? These are some questions to ask:

Has the person given away items which are meaningful to them? Have they made arrangements for someone to take care of their pets? Often times people will make sure their pets will not suffer. This may require talking to family or friends. I went to the apartment of someone who made the choice to take their life via train. In the apartment was a note addressed to the police asking us to take care of his fish. He had placed enough fish food in the bowl to feed the fish for a few days. This is a high risk factor.

Has the person's mood suddenly changed? Have they gone from depression and isolation to "happy" or "back to their old self"? If a person has made the decision, it is like a burden has been lifted from their shoulders. This is also a question you may need to ask family and friends. They have a plan and one that in their mind gets them out of the deep dark place they have been in for while. This is also a high risk factor.

What has been happening in the person's world? Include questions about relationships, job, finances, gambling, alcohol and drug issues.

Check their social media and also their computer history. Have they posted goodbye notes or have they researched different methods of killing themselves.

Where is somewhere meaningful for the person? Check cemeteries, favorite fishing holes, fields, girlfriend/boyfriend residence if they have been not getting along.

Each of us have our own personal views on someone taking their own life.

When faced with the former, there are some things which are less helpful than others when talking with someone who is suicidal.

### What not to say

The following are some phrases which are less helpful:

- You'll snap out of it.
- It's just a phase.
- Stop being so selfish.
- You're just trying to get attention.
- You should just pick yourself up by your own bootstraps.
- You will go to hell if you die by suicide.
- Other people have problems worse than you and they don't want to die.
- You have so much to live for.
- Suicide is cowardly.
- What would your mother/father/sister/kids/etc think?

Unfortunately, there are people whose pain is so severe or the feelings of hopelessness are so great, their best response is to no longer be part of this world. When someone takes their life, you did not fail. You can woulda/coulda/shoulda yourself forever but ultimately this person made a choice. Remember to be professional. You may have to do the death notification. You may be the one who is the first contact after a family member has found their loved one died by their own hands.

Be respectful. Be kind. Debrief with someone.

**"In the end, we are all just walking each other home." - Ram Dass**



Before Punxutawney Phil became "top dog" at predicting the arrival of Spring, various immigrants brought their cultural beliefs to our shores. The prediction of the end of Winter was among them.

When Germans arrived in the 1700s, they brought the tradition known as Candlemas Day, which comes mid-point between the Winter Solstice and the Spring Equinox.

Superstition held that if, on Candlemas Day, the weather was fair, the second half of Winter would be stormy and cold. And according to the old English saying:

**If Candlemas be fair and bright, Winter has another flight.**

**If Candlemas brings clouds and rain, Winter will not come again.**

But take heart, both the early Germans and Phil have a less-than-perfect track record when it comes to predicting the end of Winter. (<http://projectbritain.com>)



## Alias Nixon and Johnson *continued from page 42*

### BUFFALO COUNTY JAIL

After his arrest he was taken to Nebraska and held in the Buffalo County jail for robbing the Union Pacific train at Big Springs. Arkansas Johnson, who had used the last names of Huckston and McKeen in the past, was also being held at Kearney for stealing lumber. On March 14, 1878, oth Johnson and Underwood broke jail. Johnson's wife smuggled the tools for the escape using a false bottom bucket. Johnson's wife went by the name of Harelson and lived with her husband in Kearney, County. As mentioned, she and her children were all murdered by Stephen Richards. Most all agreed that Arkansas Johnson was actually Jasper Harelson. Both of the escapees fled to Texas and joined Sam Bass.

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**SAM RICHARDS**

Arkansas Johnson, who was reported as having escaped the Buffalo County jail in the company of Henry Underwood, was known in Texas as part of the Bass gang. He was tracked down and killed by the Texas Rangers before the Round Rock bank caper.

Jack Davis, Frank Jackson, and Henry Underwood were hunted for years, but never captured. For that reason, no one will know for sure the fate of Davis, Nixon, or Underwood, nor if Underwood and Tom Nixon were one in the same. In Stephen Richard's mind there was little doubt that the man who escaped from the Buffalo County jail with Jasper Harelson was Tom Nixon, Big Springs train robber.

*Author Tim Dempsey passed away December 16, 2016. He was a regular contributor to this magazine. See page 13 for more on Tim Dempsey.*

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**Did You Know -**

In July of 2016, a Nebraska company won a special use permit to build 37 wind turbines in Saline County. This will be a 74 megawatt wind farm northeast of Milligan, NE, set to begin construction in November of this year.

Supporters claim that selling the power the wind farm generates will bring money to both farmers and local government. Opponents cited many of the same studies and concerns presented in other areas: the annoyance and health impact caused by the sound of the blades, decreased property values, despoiling of picturesque views and possible harm to wildlife.

(http://journalstar.com - Nicholas Bergan)

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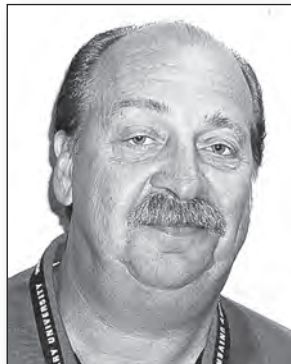
## Mock Crash Exercise for Elkhorn students

*continued from page 43*

The Douglas County Sheriff made quick work of arresting one impaired driver for causing the crash. Other students and worried parents arrived at the scene to find their children, deceased, injured or going to jail. Nebraska State Patrol and Omaha Police arrived and assisted with the crash scene and crowd control.

Following the mock crash and its devastation, students assembled in the school auditorium to

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### **Sarpy County Sheriff's Office**

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hear guests speak. Lloyd Roberts of Lincoln, NE shared his story about losing his daughter as the result of a DWI/ underage drinking crash. Douglas County Sheriff Tim Dunning spoke about the awful task of making death notifications to families after such accidents. Principal Mark Kolvoda and Superintendent Steve Baker (now retired) shared that it is possible for students to have a good time while avoiding these dangers.

Craig Nigrelli of Omaha KMTV News emceed the event. Some of the agencies represented include the Sheriff's Department, Fire Department, Emergency Medical Services, Nebraska State Patrol, National Safety Council-Nebraska, AAA Nebraska, MADD, Nebraska Department of Roads, as well as private businesses.

Sarpy County Sheriff Jeff Davis saw the need to address the reckless behavior that oftentimes surrounds high school festivities, like Prom and Graduation. Six years ago, he started the Mock Crash Program in Papillion with the guidance of two Papillion Volunteer Fire Department members, Russ Zeeb, a long-time Sarpy County Sheriff Deputy, and Lisa Beacom, an Emergency Room nurse at Midlands Hospital. The goal is to see the events go statewide, but organizers operate without a budget, with all manpower and equipment needs met by individual departments or organizations.

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#### **HELP US KEEP OUR NEBRASKA YOUTH SAFE**

Plan a Mock Crash in your community. We will assist in planning the event by providing both the script and outline.

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### Did You Know -

During the Civil War, Isaac Errit, editor of the "Christian Herald" in Cincinnati, Ohio, purchased 750 acres of land in Nebraska for \$1.25 an acre. In time he gathered a group of people interested in moving to the frontier. Calling themselves the Union Colony, they headed west with all their belongings in 1869. When they arrived at Meridian in Jefferson County, they were forced to stop because Native Americans were said to be "on the warpath."

A militia built a fort (Fort Butler) just west of what is now Hebron in Thayer County. After hearing about the savage acts by the Indians, the fort provided a measure of safety for the travelers.

Eventually the colony moved on. After their first attempt to settle in a town south of the Little Blue River failed, they moved to a plot of land north of the river and settled. Since the people referred to it as "their city of refuge," a minister gave it the Biblical name for such a place, "Hebron."

Taken in part from  
[www.casde.unl.edu/history/counties/thayer/hebron](http://www.casde.unl.edu/history/counties/thayer/hebron)

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New Jail Facility \$550,000 under budget

## BUTLER COUNTY JUSTICE CENTER



*"Prochaska & Associates worked closely with me to assure accuracy in meeting both present and future goals in corrections. If Butler County would undertake future construction projects, we would consider Prochaska & Associates without reservation."*

- Mark A. Hecker  
Butler County Sheriff



## MONTGOMERY COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT CENTER



New Jail Facility bid comes in \$500,000 under budget

## CHERRY COUNTY JUSTICE CENTER



**PROCHASKA & ASSOCIATES**

planning • architecture • engineering • interior design • facility management

11317 Chicago Circle, Omaha, Nebraska 68154 | ph. 402.334.0755 | fax 402.334.0868 | mail@prochaska.us