

PENNINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF

ANNUAL REPORT



2020



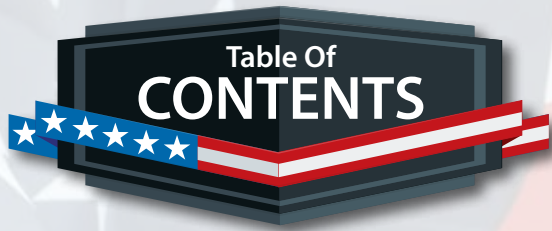


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2020 was a year that'll go down in history books. Unprecedented challenges such as the Covid-19 pandemic made this year unlike any other. As I reflect, I'm proud of how the dedicated employees and volunteers of the Pennington County Sheriff's Office adapted to these trials. Regardless of the circumstances, we remained committed as ever to serving the citizens of Pennington County to the very best of our abilities.

Like many other essential service providers, we scrambled to secure as much personal protective equipment (PPE) as possible to protect the health of our staff and those we serve. Despite our best preventative measures and use of PPE, it was difficult to avoid the virus considering our front-line role in the community. In 2020, approximately one-third of PCSO staff contracted the virus.

Life often gives us the test first and the lesson later, and that was certainly our experience as we learned to adapt to Covid-19. Sheriff's Office staff and volunteers bravely continued to provide services that are so critical to our community. Unfortunately, crime did not cease during the pandemic. Our community saw a record number of homicides throughout the year.

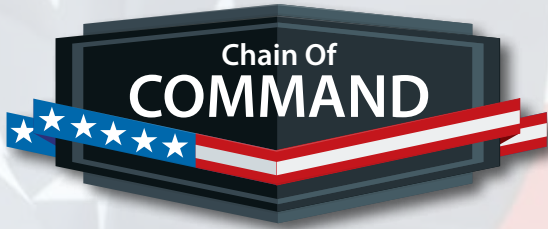
On July 3, we welcomed President Donald Trump and Governor Kristi Noem to Mount Rushmore. We dealt with protests during this presidential visit, and also throughout the year as protests and riots occurred in much of the country. These brought unique challenges for our office and community. We remain committed to working with all individuals to enhance the quality of life for all.

Despite a call by some to "defund the police," we continue to enjoy strong community support for law enforcement in Pennington County and South Dakota. For years, law enforcement has become the safety net for homelessness, substance abuse, and mental illness. Now, some are critical of us for shouldering this role that was thrust upon us. If there are more effective ways to address these issues, then yes, we should pursue those options. Defunding law enforcement is not the answer.

This annual report highlights our continual commitment to being the best stewards of our community. Day in and day out, we strive to earn the trust which you have placed in us. On behalf of the Pennington County Sheriff's Office, I want to thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Best,
Sheriff Kevin Thom





Citizens of PENNINGTON COUNTY



Chief Deputy
Brian Mueller



Sheriff
Kevin Thom



Chief Deputy
Willie Whelchel



Commander
Joe Guttierrez
Western SD Juvenile
Services Center



Commander
Rob Yantis
Pennington County Jail



Captain
Tony Harrison
Investigations



Captain
Mark Hughes
Patrol



Captain
Casey Munsch
Pennington County Jail



Captain
Wade Anderson
Pennington County Jail



Director
Deanna Nolan
Care Campus Clinical



Captain
Kraig Wood
Warrants, Civil,
Transport,
Courthouse Security

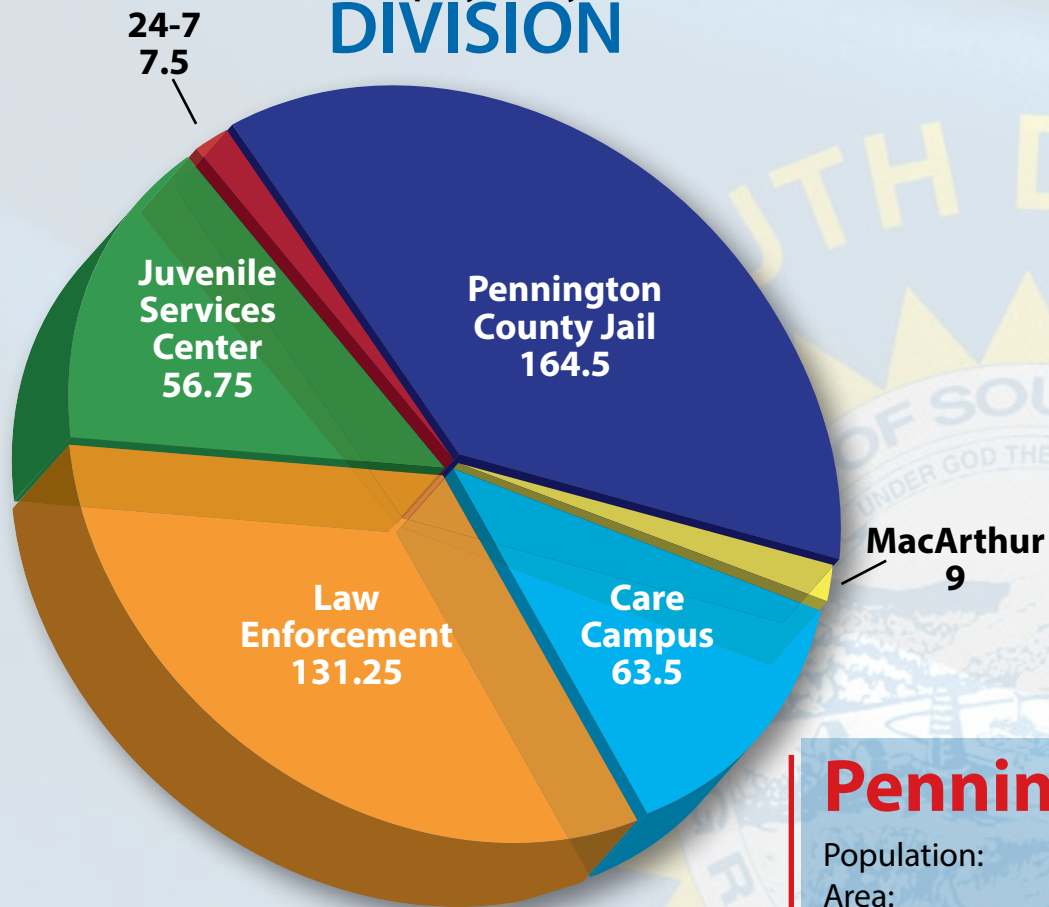


Director
David Oster
Care Campus Housing

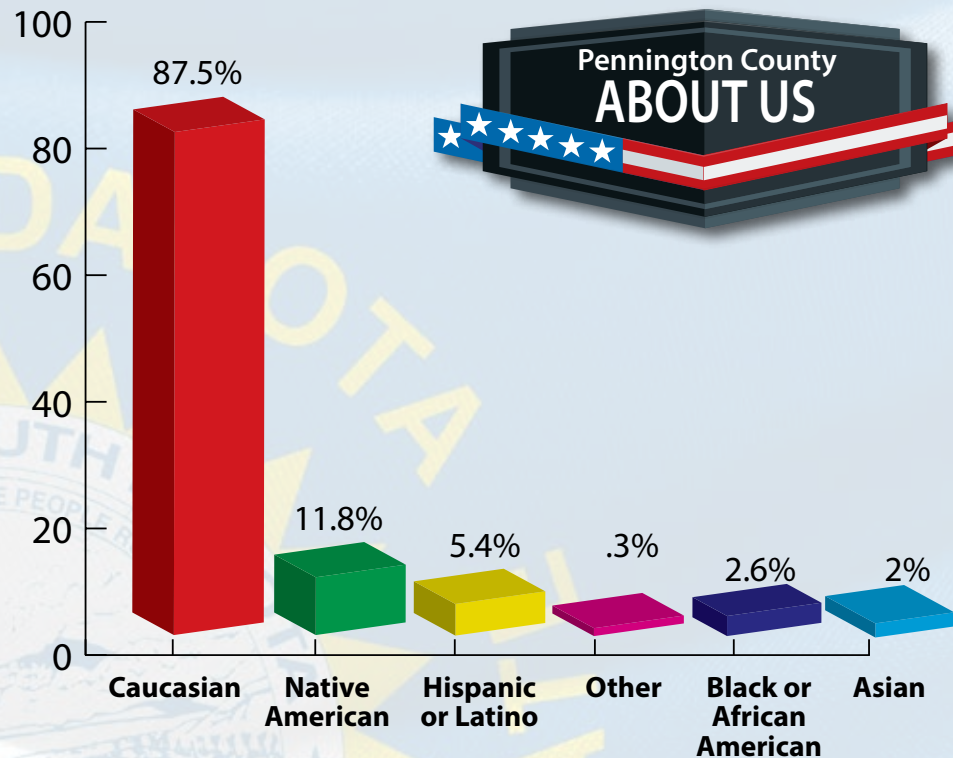




Employees By DIVISION



The Pennington County Sheriff's Office has 432 full and part-time employees and 125 volunteers



Pennington County 2020

Population:	113,775	Persons in Poverty:	13,231 (12%)
Area:	2,784 square miles	Education:	94% high school diploma
Median Age:	40.3 years		31.8% bachelor's degree or higher
Median Income:	\$58,085		
Median Home Price:	\$201,500		

* Source: Black Hills Knowledge Network, US Census Bureau, 2018 American Community Survey 1 Year Estimates
Benchmark Data Labs

Total 2020 County Budget
\$103,924,821

Sheriff's Office Budget
\$37,139,187

36% of total 2020 County Budget

48% of budget comes from outside revenue, not taxpayer dollars





MOUNT RUSHMORE - President Donald Trump and South Dakota Governor Kristi Noem hosted the national fireworks celebration at Mount Rushmore on July 3. Security and logistics took a year to plan with all hands on deck on the day of the event.



COVID-19 - The Pandemic brought changes to how we interact with the public. Mask-wearing, taking daily temperatures of staff, inmates, and customers, mass antibody testing, rapid Covid testing and the purchase of large quantities of personal protective equipment were several ways the Sheriff's Office took additional precautions.



Paramedic, Transport Officer Neal Hofer set up and staffed a quick on-site testing station for employees on the second floor of the Public Safety Building. From Nov. 5 through Dec. 31, a total of 381 people were tested (81 people tested positive).



PROTESTS - Law enforcement kept the peace at protests and marches dealing with Black Lives Matter, Presidential visit, Native Americans' Day and pipeline protests.



Deputies Matt Scharn and Cam Ducheneaux stand watch in front of the Public Safety Building during Black Lives Matter protest, June 12



Deputies encounter protestors who violently blocked a highway in Keystone before national fireworks celebration, July 3



Sheriff Thom participates in a community-wide gathering of leaders denouncing violence at Main Street Square, June 12



Transport Officer Bruce Seumanutafa bumps elbows with a Native Americans' Day demonstrator on St. Joseph Street in front of the jail, September 24



DEPUTIES spend summer months patrolling Sheridan Lake, Pactola Reservoir and the Mickelson Trail helping when needed and ensuring citizens follow the laws on land and water. A big part of the job is making sure people have a personal flotation device, fire extinguisher and life jacket for each person on board.



Deputies Jones and Whittle check boats at Pactola Reservoir



Deputies Isakson and Andrews work UTV patrol



Boat Patrol

26	Shifts
95.25	Hours spent in boat
681	Contacts made
66	Verbal warnings
8	Written warnings
0	Arrests

UTV Patrol

23	Shifts
82	Hours spent on UTV
564	Contacts made
19	Verbal warnings
1	Written warnings
0	Arrests

STURGIS MOTORCYCLE RALLY



Sergeant Scott Sitzes, Deputy Randal Southern, Sergeant Jerome Smith in Hill City

Sturgis Rally Recap • August 7-16, 2020

Pennington County Rally Tally	2018	2019	2020
Calls for Service	1,715	1,939	1,751
Motorcycle Accidents	22	23	21
Injury	6	10	9
Non-injury	16	13	12
DUI Arrests	5	9	16
Fatalities	0	1	1

Note of interest: One fatality in Pennington County but PCSO handled coroner duties on four other rally-related deaths.



Deputies Will Christopherson and Hope Bearden



Deputy Jodi Glasgow



Deputies Joseph Lupher, Thad Schmit, Sgt. Scott Sitzes, Reserve Deputy Patrick VanLoan and Deputy Matt Veal in Keystone

HILL CITY, KEYSTONE, NEW UNDERWOOD & WALL - Four towns in Pennington County partner with the Sheriff's Office to staff and maintain law enforcement services.



From left: Wall Deputies Jake Tweeten, Kari Smith, Will Christopherson, Sgt. Randy Harkins, Chris Plawman from Keystone and Hill City Deputies Doug Kimball, David Riley and Jim Waldrop. Not pictured Jeff Jones (New Underwood)



CAPTAIN MARK HUGHES - 2020 brought unique challenges to the patrol division including a presidential visit, protests involving Black Lives Matter, Land Back movements and obviously Covid-19. In 2020, we began using new resources to provide cutting-edge services including our drone program and a new Helmsley Foundation

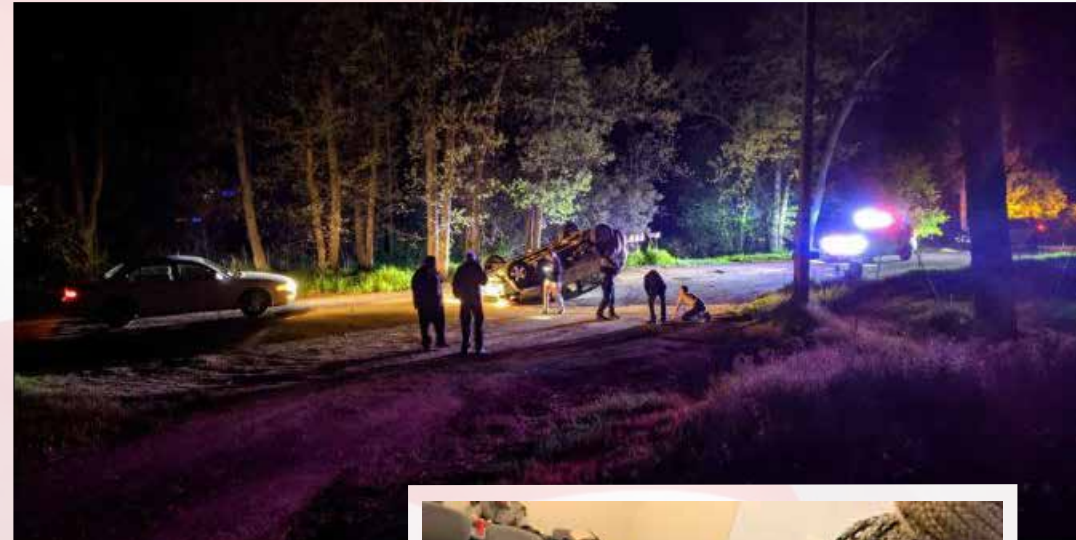
pilot program called Virtual Crisis Care which aids in the assessment of people in mental health crises. The Pennington County Patrol Division is comprised of one Captain, three Lieutenants, seven Sergeants and 41 deputies. These men and women are out 24/7/365 serving the citizens of Pennington County.



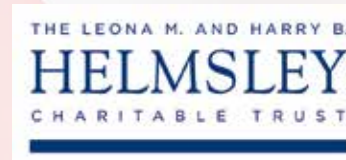
Deputy Cody Rhoden with PCSO drone



Rollover on Red Rock Canyon Road, May 28



Car-train collision in Box Elder, May 17



Deputy Kelsey Schwartz demonstrates the use of an iPad for Virtual Crisis Care





Logger crashes near Hill City, January 7

Strong winds wreak havoc with tipped semi on I-90, January 17



Drone search helps deputies locate and arrest murder suspect, September 16

Calls for Service

Citizen	32,991	Citations	1,468
Deputy	12,416	Warnings	4,809
Arrests	4,404	DUI	281
Case Reports	5,809	Drone Deployed	25
Vehicle Stops	8,936		



Out In The
COMMUNITY



Lip sync challenge at Black Hills Stock Show, January 31
Correctional Officers Reese Wallum, Anesha Morton,
Murphy Casey and Deputy Jeff Jones



Sherp Pro at First Responder Night at Rush Hockey,
February 15



Deputies Dustin Meyer and Will Christopherson
stop at a young entrepreneur's lemonade stand in
Rapid Valley, June 26



Drive-by for 7 year old's birthday party during Covid-19
social distancing, May 9, Deputies Alix Whittle
and Matt Bowman



Deputy Thad Schmit takes students to Rush Hockey games
as part of Badge Buddies, February 15



Autism Society ice cream social at Armadillos, August 11
Civil Deputy Tana Gajeski with Deputies Lisa Pelton,
Kent Przymus, Kelsey Schwartz and Sam Black



First Responders salute health care providers during Covid-19 crisis, April 7



Jail medical staff Jordan Nelson, Trisha Afraid Of Bear and Meg McPadden



Box Elder pumpkin giveaway with Jail Lt. Kathleen Houston, Commander Rob Yantis and Captain Casey Munsch, October 3



Law Enforcement challenges Hill City Schools in volleyball game, October 17



Cruiser night on Mount Rushmore Road, June 22

SHOWING SUPPORT



Tough Enough to Wear Pink efforts to support breast cancer survivors in law enforcement, Juvenile Services Center and Care Campus



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Recognizing our unique relationship with victims and Working Against Violence Inc. (WAVI), staff wears purple every Friday all month. The color purple signifies a wounded warrior or a survivor of trauma or abuse.





SPECIAL OLYMPICS VEHICLE

To protect athletes, Special Olympics was canceled in 2020. Sheriff Kevin Thom, athlete Josh Gilbert and Police Chief Karl Jegeris unveiled Law Enforcement's Special Olympics theme vehicle at Black Hills Harley Davidson on March 24.

CHRISTMAS EFFORTS BENEFIT LOCAL CHILDREN



Badges N Kids shopping events at Target and Walmart



Rockerville Volunteer Fire Department led the gift drive for children at Black Hills Children's Home



Led by Deputy Vic Gust, Douglas School Resource Officers filled the Christmas lists of needy families

Community SUPPORT



Law Enforcement Spouse Support Group, June 6



Staple and Spice/Lintz Bros pizza delivery, June 11



Fork Real lunch to staff, June 4



Construction Industry Center, \$1000 donation to Chaplains, September 18



Regular donut deliveries from community



Brian Blair Farmers Insurance snack donations, June 4



Community
SUPPORT



Mary Clelland sews and donates hundreds of masks for employees, April–December



Armadillos donates ice cream for all divisions during Covid-19 crisis, April



Joe Smith, Shift Garage, sanitizes patrol vehicles, April 21



Citizens donate home-cooked meal, June 8



Cathedral Heart & Light snack donation, October 15



Donation from family in memory of Oglala Sioux Tribal Officer William Dean Murray, May 27



CAPTAIN TONY HARRISON took over the Criminal Investigations Division, a group of deputies responsible for the investigation of crimes against people and property. The division further specializes in teams focusing on domestic violence and sexual assault. 2020 stands out for its spike in homicide cases. 14 deaths were ruled homicides.

The division includes 13 investigators, two victim specialists, one crime intelligence analyst, one computer forensic examiner, support staff and two Rapid City Police

Department detectives who assist with domestic violence and sexual assault cases.

The Sheriff's Office partners with the Rapid City Police Department and the South Dakota Division of Criminal Investigation to share duties with the Internet Crimes Against Children Unit (ICAC) and the Unified Narcotics Enforcement Team (UNET). The Investigations Division also handles coroner duties and oversees the School Resource Deputy Program.





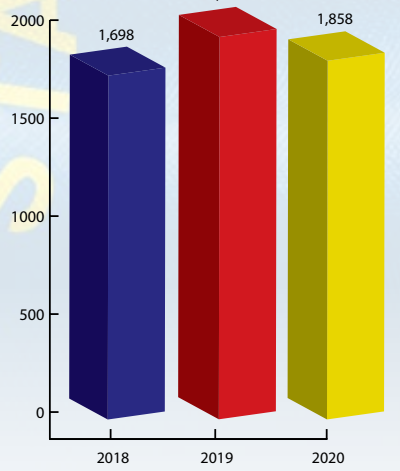
Pennington County Sheriff's Office Data*

	2018	2019	2020
Murder	1	0	2
Sexual Assault	138	139	57
Aggravated Assault	54	65	102
Robbery	1	2	7
Burglary	97	79	101
Theft	433	340	366
Stolen Vehicles	44	46	48

Overall Crime Data in Pennington County**

	2018	2019	2020
Murder	6	5	14
Sexual Assault	333	325	198
Aggravated Assault	413	431	659
Robbery	67	77	120
Burglary	586	612	803
Theft	2,375	2,608	2,833
Stolen Vehicles	352	416	581

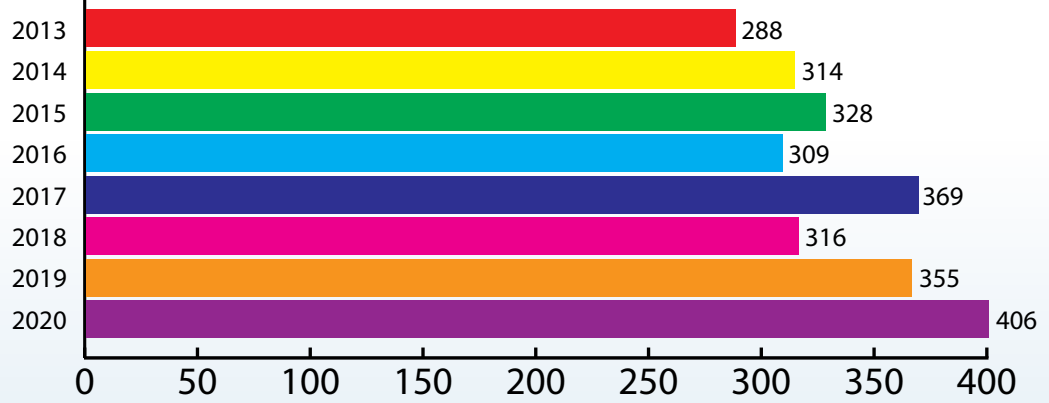
Domestic Violence



*Statistics represent crime data in Pennington County only. Some crimes may have occurred in other jurisdictions.

**Includes Box Elder, Rapid City and Pennington County combined

Coroner Calls



The Sheriff's Office serves as county coroner and currently has deputies certified as Deputy Coroner in the event of a death. The coroner investigates deaths that are a result of an accident, homicide, suicide or natural death that occurs outside the care of a medical provider.



THE PENNINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE in cooperation with the Rapid City Police Department established the joint Victim Assistance Program in 2016. A Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant funds 80% of the PCSO Victim Specialist Program to provide two full-time Victim Specialist positions and resource funds for crime victims in need.

Victim Services Provided to Individuals

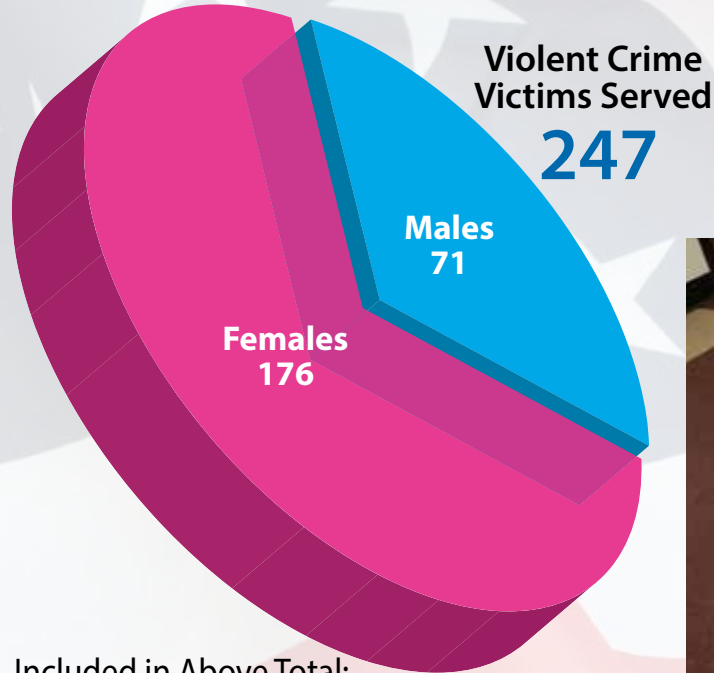
- Assisted with Victim Compensation - **24**
- Emotional Support or Safety Services - **42**
- Sexual Assault Services - **71**
- Information & Referral - **235**
- Crisis Intervention/Counseling Line - **31**
- Personal Advocacy & Accompaniment - **58**
- Transportation Assistance - **11**
- Criminal/Civil Justice System Assistance - **140**

Percentage of Victims Served by Race

- Native American – **49.8%**
- Caucasian – **42.9%**
- Black/Asian/Hispanic – **6.8%**
- Unknown Race – **.5%**



Victim Specialists Scott Hultgren and Teresa Kenrick in Victim Waiting Room



Volunteers of America care bags given to families in crisis: diapers, baby items, coloring books, non-perishable food

Included in Above Total:

Under Age 18 = **51**

Over Age 60 = **12**

*Reporting period 12/01/19 – 11/30/20



SERGEANT SCOTT SITZES oversees the ten School Resource Officers in Rapid City, Hill City, and Wall, and partners with the Box Elder Police Department at the Douglas School District. The SRO program does much more than respond to incidents and situations disruptive to the educational environment. At any given time, an SRO can be found as a guest speaker, interacting with students, or setting up and implementing safety trainings. Due to Covid, all schools

moved to remote learning in the spring. Schools were operating close to normal by the start of the new school year with some temporary disruption. School Resource Officers continued to serve their schools in innovative ways such as helping to distribute and deliver school lunches and visiting students at home. Many returned to work in the patrol division to serve the citizens of Pennington County.



Deputy Thad Schmit with Sgt. Scott Sitzes at Stevens High School



Deputy Alix Whittle at East Middle School



School Resource Officers Jayson Herra and Vic Gust with Box Elder Police Officer Chris Swan in the Douglas School District



Deputy Cody Rhoden at Stevens High School



Deputy Kristina VanLoan at Southwest Middle School



Deputy J. Marcus Isakson in Hill City



Reserve
DEPUTIES

NINETEEN MEN AND WOMEN volunteered to serve as reserve deputies. Most have full-time jobs and still find time to give back to the community by serving and assisting the mission of the Pennington County Sheriff's Office. Reserve hours were impacted by

Covid. Even with operations suspended for approximately eight months, reserve deputies still provided 553 hours in 2020 including patrolling our lakes and trails, Central States Fair and Motorcycle Rally.



Travis Cookson



Sam DeCory



Keith Fenner



Jonathon McCary



John Kaiser



Kyle McSherry



Thad Fitch



Jason Lind



Scott Jungck



Donald Lampert



Doug Noyes



Corey Nelson



Mark Bartik



James Hogue



Joe Prouty



Patrick VanLoan



Chad Strobel



Kevin Sosa



Andrew Rasmussen

Academy GRADUATES

The Sheriff's Office had eight deputies graduate from the Law Enforcement Academy in Pierre in 2020. From left, Captain Mark Hughes, Deputies Paul Jacobson, Joseph Lupher, William Christopherson, Kari Smith and Sgt. Scott Sitzes, February 28



Deputies Ryan Trupe, Donald Ballard, Kaitlin Leising and Matthew Wilson graduated July 1



Deputy Kari Smith receives Blue Courage Award, selected by fellow students to the person who best represents the values of law enforcement



Past and current Coler-Williams Award recipients Training Manager Tony Verchio, Deputy Kari Smith and Sgt. Scott Sitzes



As the honor graduate, Deputy Kari Smith accepts Coler-Williams Award



Team examined 414 mobile devices plus 448 other digital forensic examinations, scouring more than 58 terabytes of data. 486 subpoenas were issued and 61 search warrants were served.

Possession/Distribution/
Manufacture of Child
Pornography Cases

2018 - 54

2019 - 84

2020 - 79

Solicitation of a
Minor Cases

2018 - 30

2019 - 15

2020 - 34

**DIVISION OF CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION/
SUPERVISORY SPECIAL AGENT BRENT
GROMER** - Covid -19 had a big impact on the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force. The ICAC Unit received 504 cybertips—almost a 25% increase over 2019.

The pandemic caused many industries to shift to remote work environments, including our partners at NCMEC (National Center for Missing & Exploited Children). Unable to triage in remote settings, the workload shifted to investigators in the ICAC unit.

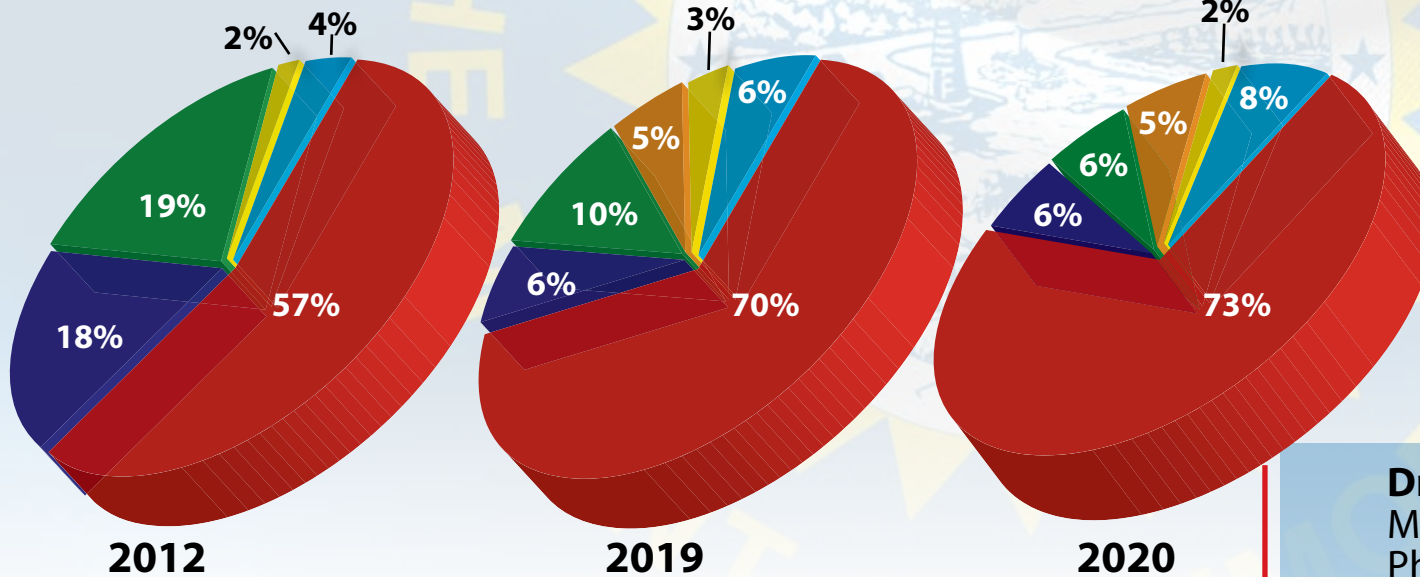
This is evidenced by a 60% increase in the number of subpoenas and search warrants prepared by investigators.

The mission of the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (ICAC) is to safeguard our children online. The ICAC Unit includes a Pennington County Sheriff's Office investigator and forensic analyst who partner with the Rapid City Police Department, South Dakota Division of Criminal Investigation, and United States Homeland Security Investigations.



THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE is dedicated to the health, safety and welfare of its citizens and visitors by countering the negative effects of illegal drug use and distribution. The Unified Narcotics Enforcement Team continues its vital mission of identifying, disrupting and

dismantling drug trafficking organizations in our community. The task force includes city, county and state investigators who work under the authority of the Attorney General's Office to enforce state and federal laws.



Drug possession arrests

Methamphetamine.....	1,197
Pharmaceuticals.....	94
Marijuana	93
Heroin	89
Cocaine/Crack.....	35
Fentanyl	6
Other	137*

**Bath Salts, LSD, Hashish, Mushrooms and PCP, MDMA/Ecstasy*



In 2020, UNET seized 18,415 grams of meth and 170 grams of heroin

Number of search warrants executed	Currency and property seized	Firearms seized
255	\$735,319	60



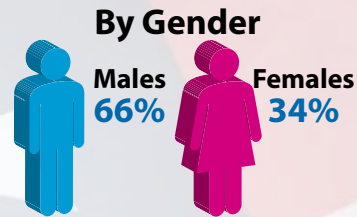


COMMANDER ROB YANTIS - 2020 was a historic year with the Covid-19 pandemic. Nationally corrections engaged in the daunting task of keeping staff and inmates safe from illness. The Pennington County Jail team responded to early information in February and began screening staff and inmates in March. Securing supplies, robust sanitation practices, personal protective equipment protocols, quarantine strategies and rapid responses to symptoms was an all-staff approach to infection control. We engaged safety and justice partners to reduce the jail population using timely

initiatives that were years in the making due to the foresight of community leaders. We asked the tough questions of each other when the science was still developing. We balanced safety and quality of life with common-sense approaches to community spread. We adopted the philosophy of rapid response to any threat of illness by doing the hard thing, right away. Our dedicated staff were invested in our mission and responded to any request with determination and grit. Because of their hard work, Covid-19 never became a plague inside the jail.

Average Daily Jail Population **519**

Total Inmates: **10,010**
Total Days: **195,690**



Jail Racial Demographics:

Asian: .41% (41 Inmates)	Native American: 55.83% (5,589 Inmates)
African American : 3.72% (372 Inmates)	Caucasian: 40.04% (4,008 Inmates)

Average Length of stay (days)

2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
15	15.4	17.01	18.74	18.74





Captain Casey Munsch supervises support operations including medical/mental health, facility maintenance, electronically monitored work release, inmate trustees, inmate programs and volunteers, inmate communication services, laundry and food services.

Captain Wade Anderson supervises facility security, maintains internal order and discipline with the direct supervision philosophy, and oversees staff development and accreditation.

Lieutenant Kathy Houston supervises daily housing and classification operations, staff and inmate safety and security, and adherence to policy and procedures.

Lieutenant Ken Wilson supervises inmate intake and release, control functions, and is the liaison with courts and law enforcement.



New jail kitchen and laundry areas opened in 2020, replacing equipment and facilities dating back to 1990. The facility better accommodates the needs of a population requiring 750,000+ meals annually at the Jail, Juvenile Services Center and Care Campus.



SALUTE TO JAIL MEDICAL – Especially in 2020, we thank the men and women on the front lines in caring for the population we serve at the Jail, Juvenile Services Center and Care Campus. 30 people serve in various medical roles under the direction of Medical Director Dr. Nathan Long and Certified Nurse Practitioners Rachel Waddell and Michelle Mehrer.



Jail medical team played a pivotal role dealing with Covid-19 in staff and inmate population



Nurse Jessica Mutschelknaus and Med Tech Ashley Green



Certified Nurse Practitioner Rachel Waddell evaluates an inmate's x-ray scan



Medical Technician Ashley Green delivering medication



LPN Tina Morford checks vital signs of JSC detainee

When Covid hit Pennington County, strategies were in place to safely reduce the jail population. In December 2020, Pennington County met the jail reduction goal of 22% and will continue efforts to reduce racial disparities in the justice system.



TRIBAL OUTREACH

There were 27 outreach events held in 2020. The Community Engagement Workgroup focused on attending Lakota Mental Health First Aid with Rick and Ethleen Two Dogs.

ALTERNATIVES TO INCARCERATION

I.Am.Legacy provided mentoring and navigation assistance to system-impacted individuals

- 278 groups/meetings held (107 women-specific and 191 male-specific)

Seven Directions a culturally-based treatment program, continued for those in jail and Drug Diversion Program participants

- Jail programming was not provided due to Covid. There were 40 classes for diversion participants, most held virtually

Care Campus provides multiple services under one roof, and is an opportunity for diversion from justice system contact

- 24,504 intakes including 17,477 intakes into a Safe Solution bed – a short-stay sobering program for non-violent individuals

Pretrial Monitoring Program pilot launched. Individuals check in with Pretrial Staff either in person or by phone for court reminders, answering questions and providing resource referrals

24-7 Indigent Fund, overseen by the Public Defender’s Office, assists with 24-7 Sobriety Program costs in order to reduce failures due to an inability to pay testing fees

- 80 individuals used the funding in 2020

Community Work Program, in lieu of jail stays, had 120 unique participants who completed 2,806 hours of community service

- Eligibility expanded to individuals with a probation or specialty court sanction

CASE PROCESSING

Warrant Resolution efforts continued with the hotline at the State’s Attorney’s Office (1-800-262-2149), outreach and reviewing aged warrants

- 106 warrants were reviewed and resolved

Jail Review Team reviews individuals in jail custody that may be eligible for release or have case processing delays

- Staffed 665 cases, release recommendations saved 2,664 jail bed days

Court Notifications expanded to include most offense-related hearings

- 40,884 court notices were provided via text message or at The Hope Center for individuals without an active phone number



Erik BringsWhite - I Am Legacy

24-7 Sobriety PROGRAM

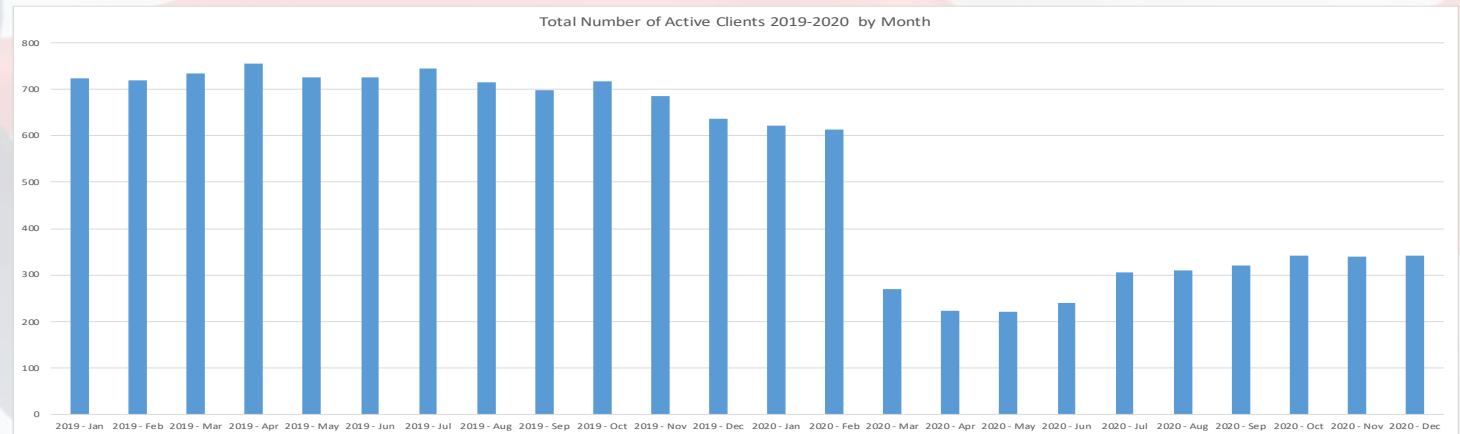


PROGRAM DIRECTOR LUCAS OYLER - The 24-7 Sobriety Program made big changes in 2020 to deal with Covid-19. In March we started a multi-tiered approach to protect staff and participants. Besides extra cleaning and plastic barriers, we moved every breath test participant to a mobile testing option. We used both SCRAM (Secure Continuous Remote Alcohol Monitor) ankle monitors and remote breath devices. Additionally judges suspended 24-7 testing when possible, resulting in far less testing.

In August, 24-7 transitioned back to regular on-site PBT breath tests. Although there was a slow increase in the total number of clients, it is considerably lower in overall numbers.

In 2020, 24-7 acquired the ability to do urinalysis testing on a random basis. From a sobriety standpoint, it is considered more effective than fixed day testing which we were doing exclusively. It benefits the participant because it means less testing.

Services can be used by judges as a condition of bond, condition of sentence or in child custody cases. It is also used by both probation and parole officers to monitor compliance. The program benefits offenders by allowing them to maintain employment, family obligations and community ties.



Program Director Lucas Oyler with remote PBT test

Stress is part of the job in law enforcement and corrections. The Sheriff's Office Chaplains are there in times of crisis for employees and staff, as well as the public. These volunteers are available day and night. Three chaplains left and four joined the team in 2020.



Instead of a big annual Christmas party, the Chaplains and Wellness Coordinator Corey Brubakken hosted many smaller meals for shifts in all the divisions in December. They also gave away hundreds of dollars in gift cards.

**2020
Chaplains**
Denny Dickson
James Smith
Becky Piper
David Piper
Chris Baesler
Todd Lynch
Chris Swarthout



New chaplains Todd Lynch, Chris Swarthout and Chris Baesler joined the team in November



James Smith met weekly with staff, often bringing famous Wall Drug donuts



CHIEF DEPUTY WILLIE WHELCHER - The Care Campus continues to be a highly used and effective facility, providing addiction and mental health services with over 50,000 intakes in its first two years of operation. Overall admissions were only slightly down from 2019 and in-patient and out-patient addiction treatment services continued to be provided.

- RESIDENTIAL ADDICTION services were near capacity in March, before bed space was reduced in response to Covid-19. For the safety of clients and staff, outpatient services were temporarily suspended or provided via telehealth. For the year treatment assessments and referrals decreased about 30%.

- DETOX services stayed busy and saw a slight increase in admissions.
- SAFE SOLUTIONS saw a 10% decrease with a change in policy allowing only one stay for a client in a 24-hour period.
- CRISIS CARE saw a decrease in admissions and an expansion in services provided in 2020. Law Enforcement and select agencies can now use the front entrance during certain hours to access Crisis Care without having to go through Detox. Behavior Management Systems counselors began offering limited appointments and telehealth services.



Team members separated by at least six feet and daily temperature checks



Plexiglass protections for staff



CARE CAMPUS

24,482 Total admissions

DETOX

6,008 Detox admissions

SAFE SOLUTIONS BEDS

17,495 Safe bed admissions (beds turn-over multiple times each day)

ADDICTION TREATMENT SERVICES

46 Individuals in 12-hour DUI class

403 Treatment assessments

236 Admissions for residential treatment services

BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS CRISIS CARE

1,025 Total intakes

* Some clients use more than one service



Deanna Nolan
Clinical Director



David Oster
Housing Director



Tommi YoungBullBear counsels those battling addiction



EMT Mary Feiner takes special safety precautions when checking clients



COMMANDER JOE GUTTIEREZ - Nationally accredited, Western South Dakota Juvenile Services Center continues to be one of three detention facilities in the country to house federal juveniles for the Bureau of Prisons. With a joint powers agreement, it serves as a regional youth detention facility for Pennington, Fall River, Custer, Meade, Lawrence, Butte and Harding Counties.

With the onset of Covid-19, WSDJSC modified and restricted services to include more stringent intake screening and housing precautions. Professional visitors and staff wore masks and followed socially distancing guidelines. In-person and remote programs continued, including life skills, education, vocational and career development. Detainees

also took advantage of mental health, anger management, chemical dependency and sex offender programming. As a means to stay in contact with friends and family, video visitations and phone calls increased significantly.

The Juvenile Services Center offers alternatives to detention through electronic monitoring, including home detention and community monitoring. 115 juveniles participated in the electronic monitoring program in 2020 for an average of 22 days. Located on the campus, the Arise Youth Center also offers alternatives to incarceration with a reception center, shelter care and evening reporting center. They also have a grant to house and work with homeless and runaway youth. 728 juveniles were processed in 2020.



JSC welcomes Robert Hatfield, Cheyenne Royer, Nichole Winckler



Community Monitoring Officers Darren Patterson and John Martin



Sergeant Phil Rivera works with juveniles in quarantine



James Muhlbeier and Murphy Casey deliver meals

Total Intakes: **379**
 Average Age: **17 years**
 Males: **69%**
 Females: **31%**

Native American: **67%**
 Caucasian: **27%**
 Average Daily Population: **31**
 Average Length of Stay: **30 days**

Local: **14 days**
 Federal: **138 days**
 US Marshals: **88 days**
 Bureau of Prisons: **178 days**

2020 EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH



Becky Elger



Agnes Standing



Kyle Worden



Jenn McClain



Kasey Spaur



Gerald Scherr



Jasen Saivong



Melissa Reckling



Carrie Ackerman



Phil Rivera



James Muhlbeier



Paetyn Swigart



Humane Society provides weekly programming with animals



Daily staff briefing at shift change



WSDJSC utilizes video court for hearings



Just Gifted program teaches good life choices



CAPTAIN KRAIG WOOD oversees the Civil, Warrants and Transports Divisions. Civil deputies are tasked with notifying individuals when they face legal action in a court of law or administrative court. These delivered documents may include summonses, complaints, subpoenas, writs or other legal paperwork from the courts, attorneys or citizens. Fees brought in by the civil division support the Sheriff's Office budget.



Civil Deputy Bob Sanders handles vehicle levy

Civil Deputy Tana Gajeski posts eviction notice on front door



Civil Deputy Dave Vandenhemel and Kent Przymus post eviction notice



Papers Served
 2018 - 9,401
 2019 - 10,616
 2020 - 9,002

Money Collected:
Executions
 2018 - \$234,012
 2019 - \$155,852
 2020 - \$725,486

Tax Warrants
 2018 - \$170,431
 2019 - \$122,484
 2020 - \$108,686

Civil Fees
 2018 - \$221,706
 2019 - \$219,769
 2020 - \$192,085

Sheriff's Sales on Executions
 2018 - 3
 2019 - 8
 2020 - 3

Foreclosures
 2018 - 86
 2019 - 46
 2020 - 27

2020 Pistol Permit Applications

Received **1,281** Denied **25** Regular Permit **1,108** Enhanced **141** Gold **7**

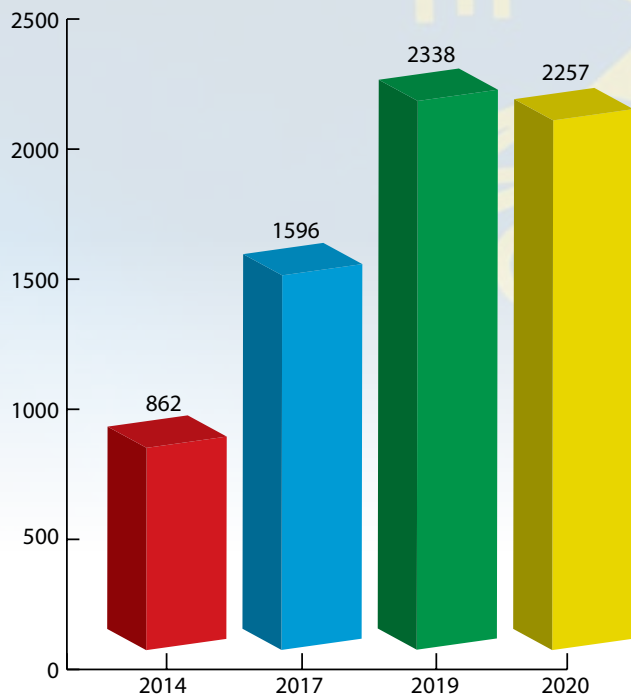
2020 Warrants Processed

- Felony 3,458
- Misdemeanor 5,389
- City 108
- Other 167

The Warrants Division primarily focuses on arresting suspects wanted for violent felonies. One Sergeant, three Deputies and four clerical staff also offer turn-in services and manage the Northwest Shuttle. 2020 was a busy year keeping track of felony and misdemeanor warrants.



Felony Drug Warrants



Total Warrants

Received **9,187**
 Served/Cleared **7,942**
 Fees Collected **\$98,518**

2020 Self-Turn-Ins
584 People
687 Warrants Cleared

Extraditions
78 Fugitives
 were brought back from other states

Transport, Courthouse SECURITY



Courthouse Security

Personnel from the Transport Division perform Courthouse Security duties. Their mission is to provide a safe environment for employees and the public. This security process includes a screening location to ensure weapons do not enter the courthouse. They provide a presence inside and outside the courtroom and courthouse to deter and detect criminal activity in the area.

Transport

Deputies and Transport Officers transport adult and juvenile inmates to court appearances and medical appointments. Video court became more prevalent in 2020, mitigating the risk of exposing inmates and law enforcement to Covid-19. They transport inmates by bus across the state with a final destination of the South Dakota State Penitentiary in Sioux Falls. This is also a service to other counties, offering a cost-effective method of moving inmates east and west.

Local Inmate Transports	10,422
Juvenile Inmate Transports	318
Inmates Transported by Bus	5,724
Round-trips to Sioux Falls	98
Trips to Human Services Center	38



The prisoner transport bus travels across the state twice weekly, picking up and dropping off passengers along the way.

A van handles smaller groups and transports to the Human Services Center in Yankton.

The Explorer program gives young men and women exposure to a career in law enforcement. It builds character through physical fitness, leadership and community service.

We encourage youth between the ages of 16 and 20 to apply to be part of the Pennington County Sheriff's Explorer program. Contact Lieutenant Dustin Morrison for details: (605) 394-6113.



Explorers, in blue shirts, always provide assistance during big annual events including the Central States Fair, rodeos and the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally. Covid limited the involvement of our 16 Explorers in events in 2020.



DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

STEPH McCOY - 2020 presented unique workforce management challenges; the most notable being the recruitment of correctional professionals. A more than 50% decrease in applicants magnified the importance of retention and the critical role corrections play in our organization. Correctional Officers, Correctional Nurses and support staff are well-deserving of recognition for the admirable jobs they do and the daily risk they face. We commend their response to quickly mitigate the impact of Covid-19 for employees and those we serve.

The Correctional Officer position specifically caters to a diverse applicant pool—new college graduate, those transitioning out of military service, those with hospitality work experience or a stay-at-home parent looking to re-enter the workforce. Starting in 2021, Correctional Officers have the option to work 12-hour shifts for a greater work/life balance, receive an 8% retirement match, generous paid time off, on-the-job training and advancement opportunities. Even during a pandemic, this career is secure.



Paramedic Neal Hofer trains RN Konechne for free on-site employee Covid testing



Jail booking area with Booking Techs Rio Shearer and DJ Osborne



Correctional Officer Alyssa Virgil celebrates her promotion with co-worker Transport Officer Halayna Ducheneaux



Jail Commander Yantis with Wes McPherson, Anna Bingham and Sgt. David Ricke



Adam Byrd checks rooms at Juvenile Services Center

FEMALE AND MINORITY RECRUITING EFFORTS

- We continue to value the benefits of a diverse workforce and actively seek all minorities to consider a career in public safety. We welcomed 18 new females and 6 new Native Americans to our team in 2020. We also celebrated several individuals who advanced professionally through the promotional process.

In 2020, the Sheriff and Chief Deputies continued their effort to implement a Native American Employee Resource Group and met with a group of minority employees to seek feedback as to what we do well and areas where we can improve.



Correctional Officers Nick Wright, Llewellyn LongWolf and Reese Wallum at shift briefing



Murphy Casey, Llewellyn LongWolf, Reese Wallum, Sgt. Michele Kaiser and Darren Riewe mask up for shift



Correctional Officer Anesha Morton and Sgt. Jolonda Ricke



WELLNESS COORDINATOR COREY BRUBAKKEN - Throughout the past year, the mere act of reporting for work has been one of bravery at all ranks, but especially at the line level. Our jobs are tough enough to begin with. Add to the mix concerns over being infected or carrying the coronavirus home to loved ones, staff shortages due to Covid-19 quarantines, longer hours and anti-criminal justice sentiment and it should come as no surprise that staff are more stressed than ever before.

The Employee Wellness Program is a professional and confidential program for all staff and their families. Our objective is to keep staff mentally, physically and

spiritually sound and to provide guidance in times of need. We continue to assess the multifaceted work environment of our employees advocating healthy options and minimizing ongoing risks.

The pandemic offered an opportunity to address many long-ignored mental wellness challenges within our profession. The formation of the Peer Support Team is but one new program to promote overall wellness. The team consists of 25 members representing all divisions of the Sheriff's Office. Since the team's inception in April 2020, they had 145 confidential contacts with employees or family members in 2020.

• Implement more standing desks • Peer to peer support group • Annual physical fitness testing • Wellness challenges and encouragement



The Sheriff's Office provides essential and comprehensive training for all four divisions. Training in law enforcement must be constantly updated to adapt to changing times, laws and regulations.

We train sworn and non-sworn employees.

Accreditation standards require 40 hours annually for each sworn correctional officer. South Dakota state law mandates 40 hours of training every two years for sworn deputies. Domestic violence training is every four years. Additional training routinely takes place as needed.



CPR training for new employees



Annual fitness testing for law enforcement and correctional officers



Training for anyone who carries OC spray



Firearms training and certification



Leadership Academy training for employees in all divisions

TOTAL TRAINING HOURS - PENNINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE EMPLOYEES 44,310



Since 1990, the Special Response Team includes members from the Pennington County Sheriff's Office, Rapid City Police Department, Rapid City Fire Department and Emergency Services Communication Center. The team works closely with the South Dakota Highway Patrol during training and callouts.

The Special Response Team was activated 13 times in 2020, the most in team history and was put on standby numerous other times. This year the team hosted the Basic SWAT course, training new SWAT officers from across the state.



New tactical robot added in November



WHILE 2020 PRESENTED UNIQUE AND UNEXPECTED CHALLENGES, it also provided opportunities to strengthen our team and our capabilities. One of the most significant is a newly developed training program. In order to continue the progress of recently recruited members, core competency training was restructured to allow advancement while remaining safe. Smaller class sizes, more focused training, and more real-world outside scenarios proved beneficial.

We put a great deal of energy and thought into identifying equipment that was no longer serving its intended purpose. These items were prepared for surplus, combined with other donated items, and auctioned online, raising significant funds for equipment replacement, vehicles, and additional advanced training.

New equipment was added to most aspects of our rescue operations. Heavy duty lifting and stabilizing struts were added to our vehicle extrication truck to provide extended capabilities to other fire and rescue agencies in Pennington County and neighboring counties. We replaced rescue rope and associated rescue hardware on our vertical rescue truck to take advantage of advancements in rope technology. We also upgraded some patient transport assets, including a rescue trailer for use during rapid extractions with ATVs and a patient litter system, new to the United States, to use when a patient must be carried out by

foot. Lastly, funded entirely with community donations, we will be adding a second Sherp all-terrain rescue vehicle. Throughout the last year, the Sherp has demonstrated its value time and time again, allowing us to respond safely and quickly to calls that might involve water, snow, ice, downed trees, boulders, mud, or nearly any obstacle that would stop traditional vehicles in their tracks.

By year's end interagency collaboration and perseverance of Trainees and Team Members built a stronger team and helped establish a foundation of emergency support for our community when it might be needed the most.



Hippie Hole Rescue, May 15

2020 Calls for Service
198 calls
5,800 volunteer hours



Join Pennington County Search and Rescue. Contact Lieutenant Dustin Morrison at (605) 394-6113.



Sherp Pro and crew on missing person search, August 2



Rushmore Mall auction of surplus items, October 31



THE RAPID CITY/PENNINGTON COUNTY WATER RESCUE TEAM directed more than 30 calls for service in 2020 for high-risk emergency response. The team includes personnel from the Rapid City Police Department, Rapid City Fire Department and Pennington County Sheriff's Office. They

provide local water rescue and recovery as well as a regional deployable response. In 2020 they trained multiple new members, as well as conducted and facilitated training for South Dakota Task Force 1, a multi-agency rescue team service in South Dakota.



Ice rescue training at Canyon Lake

Scuba Training in area lakes

Awards And
RECOGNITION



Corey Brubakken, Child Advocacy Award from Black Hills Children's Home



Tyler Broghammer, Mary Feiner, Kim Bloomenrader, Brandon Spence given Meritorious Award (Gaylene Gibbons, Justin Hansen not pictured)



Travis Thorn
Meritorious Service Award



Kristina VanLoan
Optimist Respect for Law Award



Adam Mooney
Meritorious Service Award



Angela Williamson
Meritorious Service Award

2020 Silver Award Winner from Homeland Security for support during presidential visit



Care Campus wins 2020 National Association of Counties Award

PCSO RETIREMENTS



Marty Graves, 25 years
Warrants/Civil Captain



Corey Brubakken, 22 years
Investigations Captain



Cindy Fullen, 15 years
Civil Deputy



Collette Lucas, 20 years
JSC Corporal



Mark Osborne, 22 years
Sergeant



Craig Groseth, 12 years
Correctional Officer II



Jeff Andrews, 14 years
Deputy II



Mary McDonald, 12 years
JSC Correctional Officer II



Phillip Maxfield, 15 years
Correctional Officer II

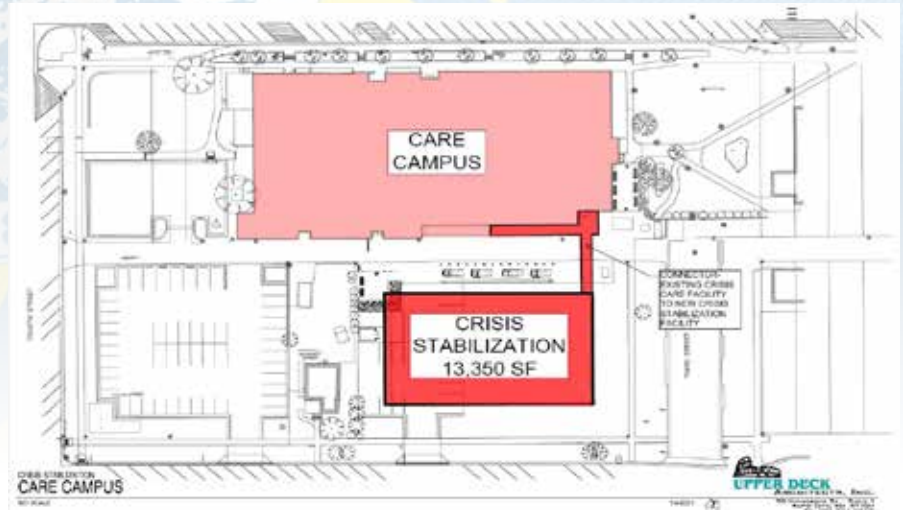
Jail Towers Remodel

A consultant team will assess the internal infrastructure of the two jail towers. Both are structurally sound but many internal issues need to be addressed, particularly in the first tower that opened in 1990. An overhaul of the internal systems will extend the life of the facilities another 30 years. Consultants will review and recommend necessary improvements to the plumbing, HVAC and electrical systems, and once the study is complete, we will work with the County Commission to fund the improvements. The scope of this project is significant and will take a couple of years to finish.



Crisis Stabilization Unit

The 24-bed facility will be an extension of the Care Campus to help meet the mental health needs in our community and potentially serve all of western South Dakota. The goal is to start construction in 2021 and be operational in 2022.



MacArthur Safety + Justice Challenge

Efforts continue to focus on outreach to neighboring Tribal communities, alternatives to incarceration, creating a more efficient case process, and community engagement with the overall goal of safely reducing the jail population and the over-representation of minorities in the justice system.



Supported by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

**Our Mission:
Promoting safety and justice to improve
the quality of life in our community.**



Kevin Thom - Pennington County Sheriff

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