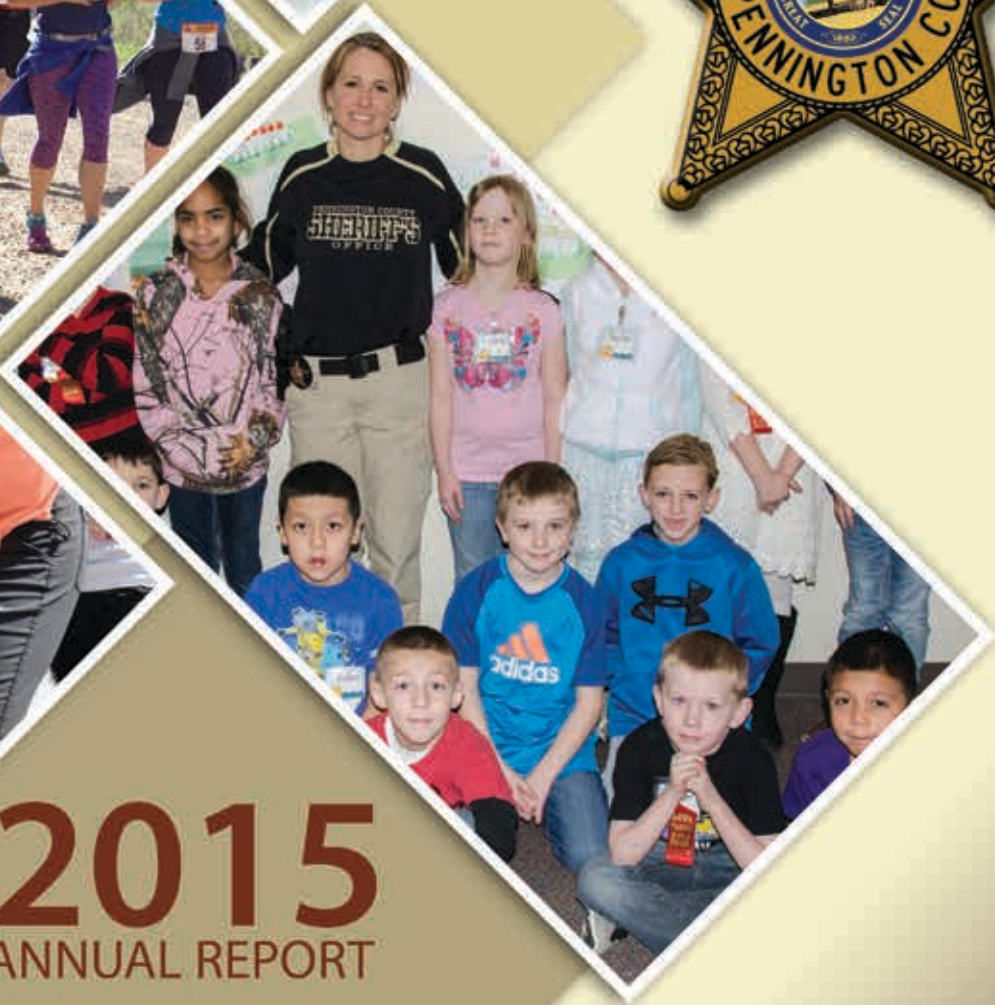


PENNINGTON
COUNTY
SHERIFF



2015
ANNUAL REPORT

OUR MISSION

To provide innovative, professional quality service to the public, protecting life and property

By valuing well trained and dedicated staff

By valuing and strengthening relationships with other professional organizations

By valuing and promoting positive relationships with the public

Natalie Morem & Gretchen Sitzes





TABLE OF CONTENTS

4

Sheriff's Message

6

About Us

9

Making Headlines

14

Patrol

22

Investigations

32

Pennington County Jail

36

Warrants, Civil, Transport, Court House Security

39

24/7 Program

40

City/County Alcohol & Drug Programs

42

Western SD Juvenile Services Center

48

Training

50

Volunteer Programs

SHERIFF'S MESSAGE

Sheriff
Kevin Thom



Pennington County Citizens,

With each passing year, I become increasingly honored to lead the great women and men of the Pennington County Sheriff's Office. It is my pleasure to present our 2015 Annual Report, displaying the many accomplishments of our office while highlighting the upstanding work of our dedicated staff and volunteers.

2015 was an exciting and eventful year for Pennington County. On top of our usually busy tourism season, we patrolled in the midst of the Rainbow Family Gathering in June and the 75th Sturgis Rally in August. We also gained recognition after being awarded a \$150,000 grant from the MacArthur Foundation's Safety and Justice Challenge to find alternatives to incarceration in our local jail.

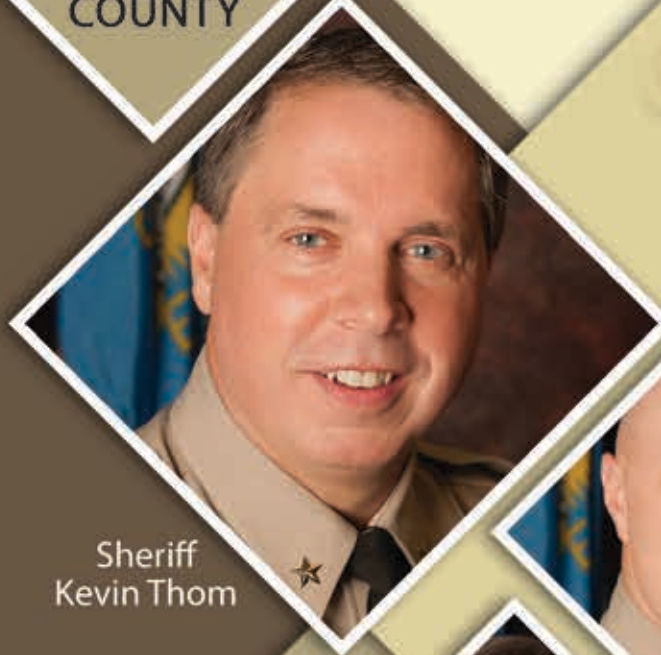
Our successes would not be possible without the support and collaborative efforts of our community partners. We remain committed to serving the citizens of Pennington County to the absolute best of our ability, and are steadfastly beholden to the trust given to us by our community.

As we look ahead to the trials and opportunities of 2016, it is with a renewed spirit of teamwork. We are well aware of Pennington County's reputation as a safe place to live, work and visit, and look forward to upholding that quality of life for all.

Best,
Sheriff Kevin Thom

CITIZENS OF
PENNINGTON
COUNTY

CHAIN OF COMMAND



Sheriff
Kevin Thom



Chief Deputy
Brian Mueller



Chief Deputy
Willie Whelchel



Captain
Brooke Haga
Pennington
County Jail



Captain
Rob Yantis
Pennington
County Jail



Captain
Jay Evenson
Patrol



Captain
Corey Brubakken
Investigations



Commander
Joe Gutierrez
Western SD Juvenile
Services Center



Captain
Marty Graves
Warrants,
Civil Transports,
Courthouse Security



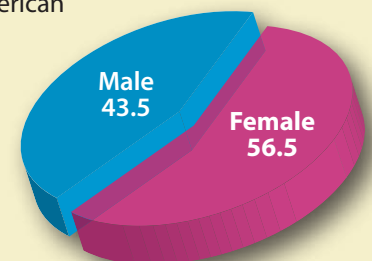
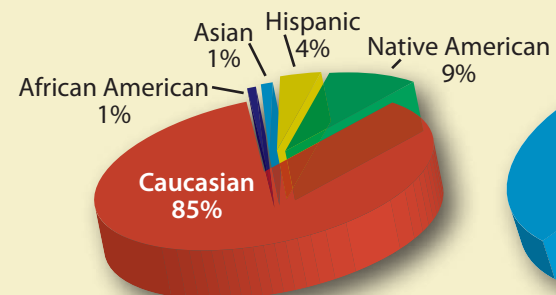
Program Director
Brenda Wood
City/County
Alcohol & Drug Programs

ABOUT US

Pennington County, South Dakota



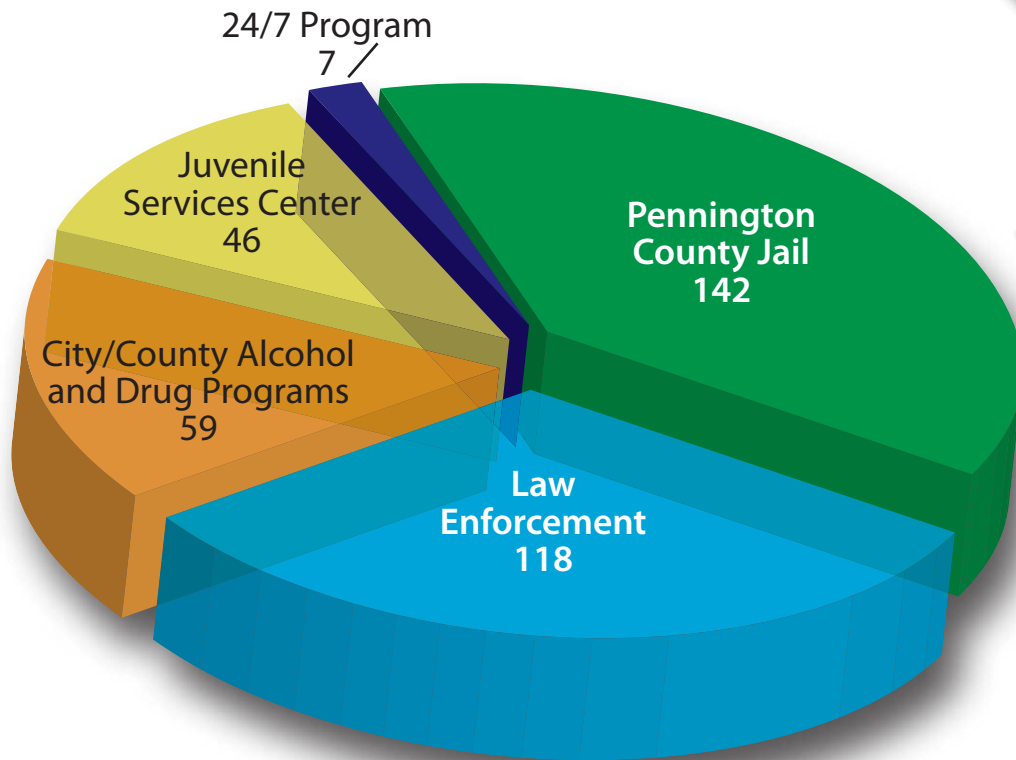
Area2,776 sq. miles
Population.....104,347
Median Age.....36.8 years old
Average Household Income.....\$46,849
Median Home Price.....\$149,700



SHERIFF'S OFFICE OVERVIEW

The Pennington County Sheriff's Office has 372 full time employees and another 225 volunteers.

EMPLOYEES BY DIVISION



Total 2015
County Budget
\$86,268,469

33%
Of Total 2015
County
Budget

Sheriff's Office
Budget
\$28,282,864

To best serve its citizens and oversee its \$28.2 million dollar budget, the Sheriff's Office is split into four divisions. The Sheriff also serves as county coroner.

RECRUITING EFFORTS

The Sheriff's Office embarked on a new recruiting campaign for 2105...

"You Can Be Public Safety."



We conduct group testing for correctional officers and deputy sheriffs three times per year. April, August and November.

YEAR IN REVIEW

Spring Flooding

The Rapid City/Pennington County Water Rescue Team was on high alert during the spring flooding that threatened area waterways and washed out many roads. They participated in a daring rescue of a family whose car had been swept away on the Pine Ridge Reservation. Deputies Shawn Stalder and Jeff Andrews received meritorious service awards for their life saving efforts.



YEAR IN REVIEW

April 23 Feathering Ceremony

The Western South Dakota Juvenile Services Center celebrated a very special rite of passage in 2015 with a feathering ceremony to honor three of their detainees who had recently earned their high school diplomas and one for successfully completing his GED.

Eagle feathers are revered as one of the most significant honors in Native American culture. After the blessing of the feathers, relatives and friends tied the feathers to each of the graduates, signaling the start of a new chapter in their lives.

The Western South Dakota Juvenile Services Center is currently accepting applications for volunteers to assist with the emotional, mental and spiritual health of juveniles while in custody. Please contact **(605) 394-2639** for more information.

June 4 Kidney Donation

Booking Technician gives the gift of life to his mom.

Members of the Pennington County Jail were filled with admiration for booking tech Taylor Erickson, who despite having kidney issues himself, donated one of his kidneys to his ailing mother. Erickson returned to work a month later and has become an advocate for organ donation.



YEAR IN REVIEW

July 2

Rainbow Family Gathering

A smaller than usual gathering set up their camp site about three miles southwest of Deerfield, South Dakota. Concerns about the group defiling sacred Native American land caused some early controversy, but the event went on as planned. Fifteen arrests were made by the Sheriff's Office along with two destruction to private property calls, one theft call and one aggravated assault call. The US Forest Service also issued 122 warnings and 56 citations.

370

hours of additional patrol time was provided in the area by the Sheriff's Office.



YEAR IN REVIEW

August 3rd-9th 75th Anniversary of the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally

It was predicted that a million rally goers would descend on this area for the 75th anniversary of the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally. And while numbers fell short of that monumental mark, (estimated attendance, 739,000, the largest ever) the event still proved to be a challenge for local law enforcement. The rally also happened to be one of the deadliest on record, with sixteen fatalities in 2015.



YEAR IN REVIEW

August 14th

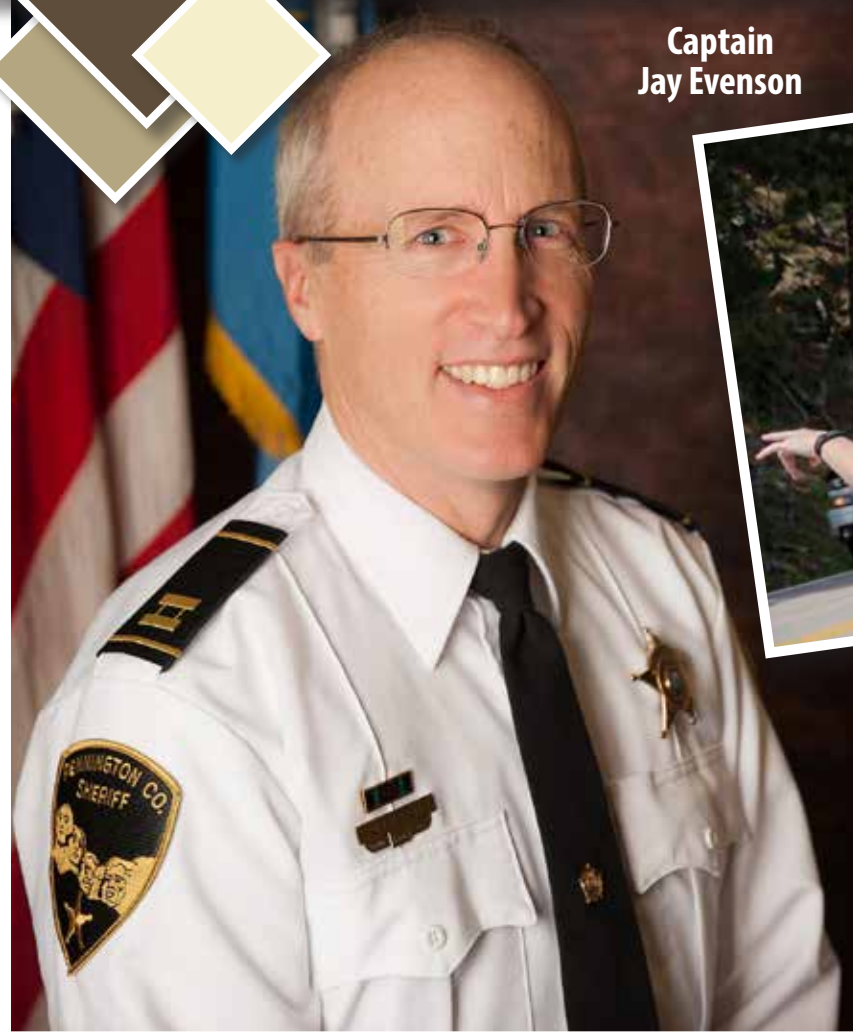
Incident at Pactola Reservoir

What started out as a late afternoon boat ride turned to tragedy for a Rapid City woman. Gabrielle Fisher, 33, was thrown overboard when a jet ski ridden by Jody Kreycik collided with the boat Gabrielle was riding in. Her body was recovered three days later after an arduous search hampered by extreme conditions. Kreycik pled guilty to second degree manslaughter and boating under the influence.



PATROL

Captain
Jay Evenson



Patrol deputies are called upon to safeguard the lives and property of those in our community, 24/7, 365 days of the year, making them a very visible face of the Sheriff's Office. The division consists of one captain, two lieutenants, five sergeants, two corporals and forty deputies.

And while no two days are ever the same, they handle many of the same duties on a

daily basis. They include:

Enforcing all state vehicle laws and county ordinances.

Responding to civil disputes and providing aid to citizens.

Doing proactive work within the community - safety presentations, volunteer

opportunities, community outreach programs, etc.

Traffic crash investigations.

Preliminary investigation of people and property crimes - gathering evidence, making arrests and testifying in court.

Management and transfer of suspects to jail.

Calls For Service **PATROL**

Patrolling an area as large as Pennington County is a major challenge. There are lots of miles to cover in an attempt to respond to the needs of the community while also being a visible deterrent to criminal activity.

Our calls for service are normally generated two ways.

Citizen initiated - Emergency 911 or non-emergency calls citizens place to the Sheriff's Office that are relayed by dispatch to our deputies.

Up nearly 9 percent in 2015

Deputy Initiated - Calls that are usually the result of observation while a deputy is on patrol. They may include a traffic infraction, a crime committed in their presence, checks of buildings or places where criminal activity has been recently occurring, assisting a motorist, etc.

Up 3.2 percent

Over 34% of our calls for service were the result of deputy initiated calls, a strong measure of our dedication to protect and serve the citizens and visitors of Pennington County.

Calls For Service Numbers:

CITIZEN INITIATED
2014
18,603
2015
20,231

DEPUTY INITIATED
2014
14,017
2015
14,462

Our deputies also made
284 DUI ARRESTS
last year, a **25%** increase from 2014.



School
Resource Deputy
Rusty Schmidt takes
time out for lunch
at Corral Drive
Elementary
School.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH



Safety Checkpoint

It paid to use seat belts and child safety seats correctly in September as our deputies, along with the Oglala Sioux Tribe Department of Public Safety, set up an educational safety checkpoint in Scenic. \$10 gift cards from Target were handed out to those who complied with the rules of the road.

Drivers were given safety information on distracted driving, child safety seats and other educational materials. Of the sixty-three cars that came through in about an hour, thirteen received verbal warnings. Fifty gift cards were handed out. The gift cards were made possible by an anonymous donor.

Shoot, Don't Shoot



Training Coordinator CJ Messiah adjusts equipment

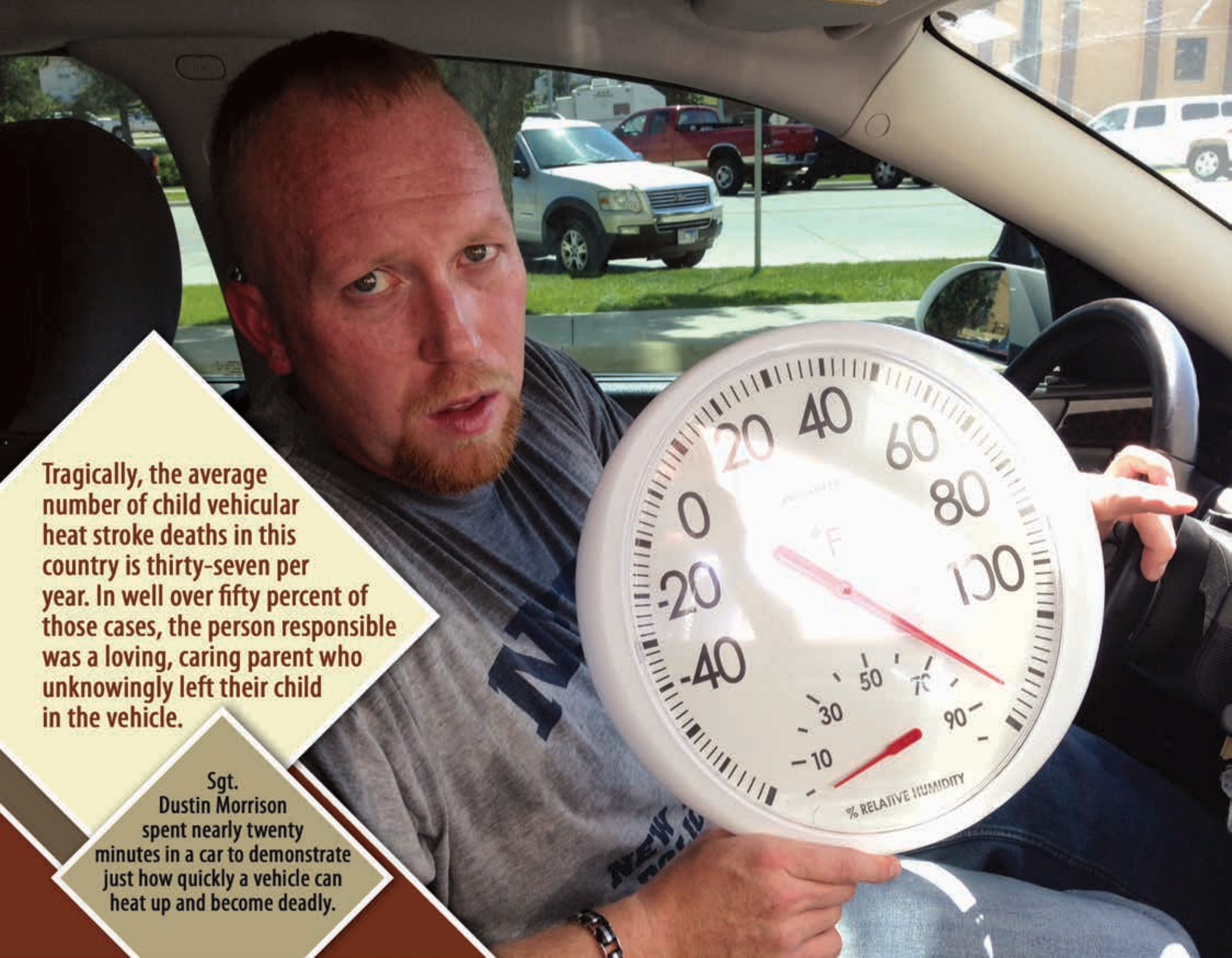
Law Enforcement agencies across the country are facing intense scrutiny by the media these days. We invited our local media to take part in a "Shoot, Don't Shoot" training session designed to help them understand the difficult split second decisions that our deputies must make every day.



CJ Messiah with Adam Hurlburt



Seth Tupper (Rapid City Journal) confronts the suspect

A man with a beard and short hair, wearing a grey t-shirt, is sitting in the driver's seat of a car. He is holding a large, white, round thermometer in front of him. The thermometer has a red needle pointing to approximately 85 degrees Fahrenheit. The background shows a parking lot with several cars, including a white SUV and a red pickup truck, and a building in the distance.

Tragically, the average number of child vehicular heat stroke deaths in this country is thirty-seven per year. In well over fifty percent of those cases, the person responsible was a loving, caring parent who unknowingly left their child in the vehicle.

Sgt.
Dustin Morrison
spent nearly twenty
minutes in a car to demonstrate
just how quickly a vehicle can
heat up and become deadly.

CONTRACT COMMUNITIES



DEPUTY
CHRIS PLAWMAN
KEYSTONE



DEPUTY
RICK MCPHERSON
NEW UNDERWOOD



DEPUTY
DAVE SWITZER
HILL CITY



DEPUTY
WILLIAM KIMBALL
HILL CITY



DEPUTY
BRUCE JOHNSTONE
HILL CITY

It often makes sense for communities to contract out their law enforcement services. The Sheriff's Office partnered with four Pennington County cities in 2015.



DEPUTY
DANNI OWENS
WALL



DEPUTY
CAM BEYER
WALL



DEPUTY
JAKE TWEETEN
WALL

**HILL CITY
KEYSTONE
NEW UNDERWOOD
WALL**

WE SALUTE OUR MILITARY

There's no doubting the influence of the military within our ranks (27% of our employees are currently serving or are veterans) and doubly so with the presence of Ellsworth Air Force Base nearby. With that in mind, the Sheriff's Office dedicated our latest vehicle with a splash of stars and stripes in support of our military.

We rolled out the "Salute our Military" vehicle just in time for Veteran's Day and our local parade, to a chorus of cheers from the crowd. Special thanks to Bob Scull of RCS Construction for donating the cost of the vehicle wrap.



DEPUTIES ARE PEOPLE TOO...



Deputy
Vic Gust

Deputy
Thad Schmit

We occasionally show off our softer side to let the community know that we too have families that depend on us to get home safely.

Our Patrol division experienced a baby boom this year so we decided to pay tribute to them on Father's Day.



Deputy
Kristina Weckman

We may also include our deputies in safety messages to the community.
Deputy Kristina Weckman with her daughter Nora.

INVESTIGATIONS

Captain
Corey Brubakken



Single cases including Box Elder, Rapid City and Pennington County.

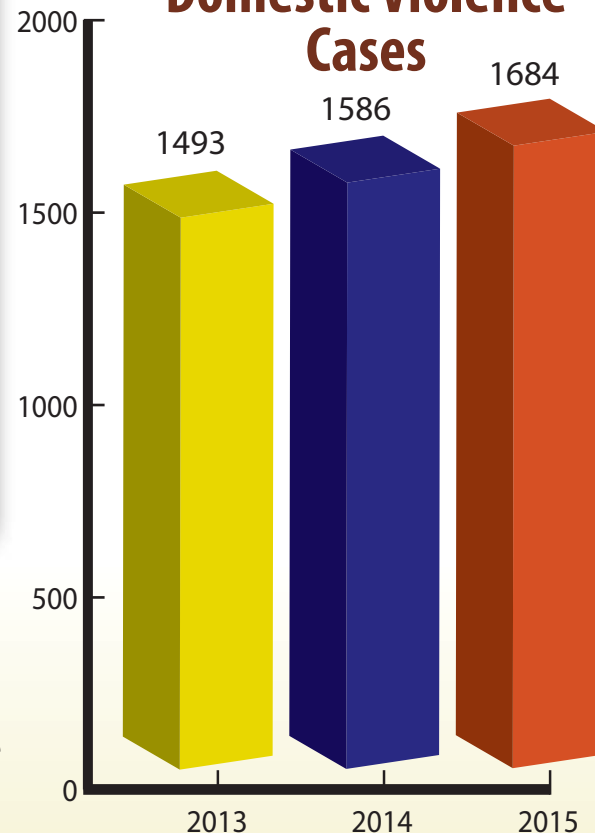
*Sexual assault cases do not include sealed records

The Criminal Investigations Division is a specialized group of deputies who are responsible for the investigation of crimes against people and property. The team currently has twenty-one investigators, a crime analyst and two Rapid City Police Department detectives assigned to help with our two teams designed to specifically address domestic violence and sexual assault cases.

The Sheriff's Office also partners with the Rapid City Police Department and the South Dakota Division of Criminal Investigation to share duties with the Internet Crimes Against Children and Unified Narcotics Enforcement Team.

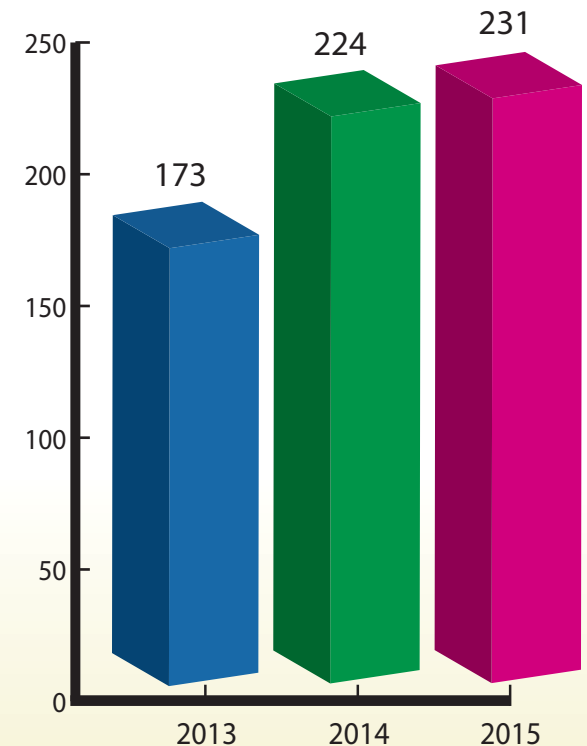
Investigations also handles coroner duties and oversees the School Resource Deputy Program.

Domestic Violence Cases



6% increase from 2014-2015

Sexual Assault Cases*



3% increase from 2014-2015

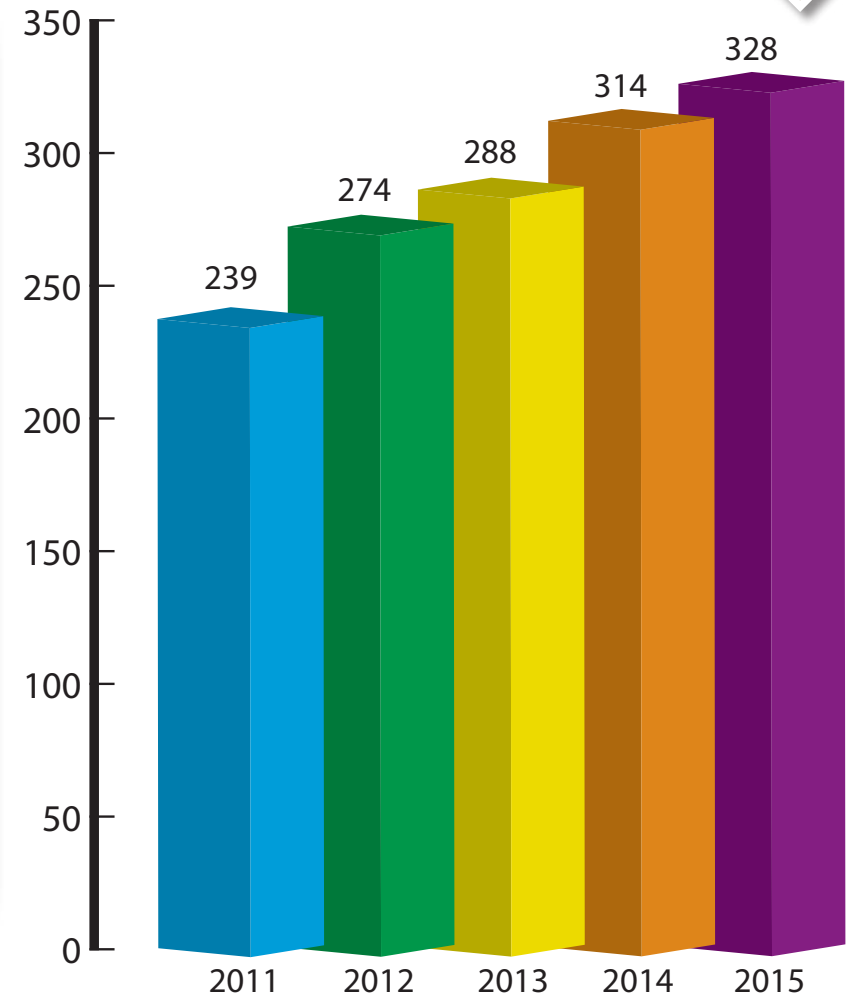
*Reported Crime Data

Does not include Box Elder and Rapid City.

Major Crime	2014	2015	% Change 2014-2015
Murder	1	1	0%
Sexual Assault	63	74	17.5 %
Aggravated Assault	52	69	32.7%
Robbery	7	4	-42.9%
Burglary	86	88	2.3%
Theft	402	389	-3.2%
Stolen Vehicles	22	28	27.3%

**Statistics represent the amount of cases reported in Pennington County. Some of those crimes may have actually occurred in another jurisdiction.*

Coroner Calls



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



CO
Mitch
Jaeger



1st
PLACE
Ellsworth
Security
Force



Deputy
Keith
Carlson



Deputy
Kent
Holland



Sgt.
Dave
Ricke

Battle of the Barrios



CMDR
Joe
Gutierrez



Sgt.
Matt
Sargent

SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT

RAISING AWARENESS

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

Wearing purple to
show our support.



Back Row: Scott Sitzes, Kent Pryzmus, Dustin Morrison
Middle Row: Jeromey Smith, Abby Sharp, Nicole Daniel, Jason Mitzel, Matt Sargent
Front Row: Dan Wardle, Mischelle Boal, Trent Nelson, Corey Brubakken

DENIM DAY

A day set aside to
focus on the victims of
sexual assault.



Members of the Rapid City Police Department, Pennington County
Sheriff's Office and Pennington County State's Attorney Office.

TOGETHER

ON HUMAN TRAFFICKERS



Back row: Jason Mitzel, Jim Hansen - Front row: Brendan McMillan, Randy Harkins, Kristina Weckman, Nick Davis

In the fall of 2013, the South Dakota West River Human Trafficking Task Force was established. It is not an investigative unit, but rather a collaboration of diverse organizations and individuals committed to combat the issue of human trafficking by raising awareness, providing information and education, advocating for prosecution of offenders and supporting the victims and survivors of this crime.

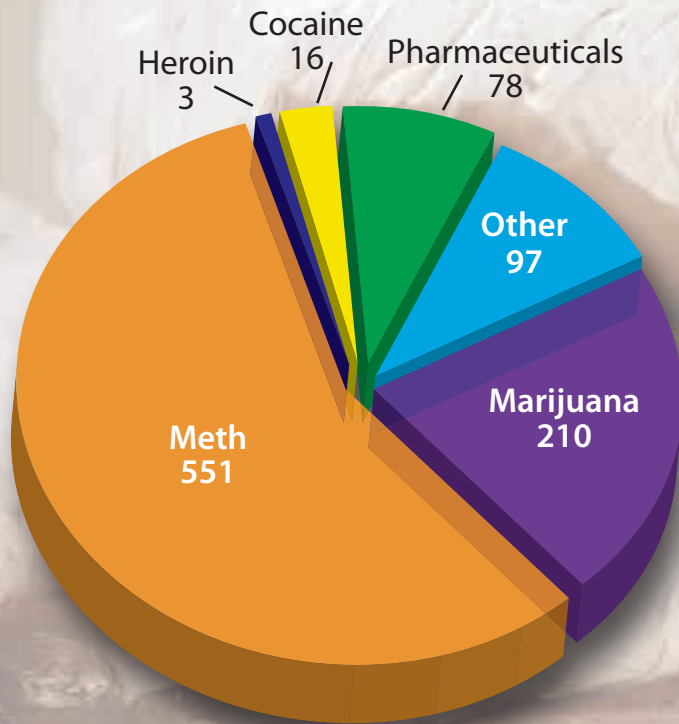
In one such effort, the task force collaborated with the

Pennington County Sheriff's Office and the Rapid City Police Department to distribute fliers to hospitality providers who are in a unique position to identify potential victims.

Through this project, law enforcement wanted to send a firm message that this crime would not be tolerated in Pennington County. They also wished to send a message of hope to victims that we will all be there for them when they are ready to come forward.

U.N.E.T. Unified Narcotics Enforcement Team

2015 Drug Arrests



Of Note - Meth arrests down, but over twice as much meth seized - **7.6 lbs in 2014 15.7 lbs in 2015**

Number of Search Warrants executed - **80**
Currency and Property Seized - **\$243,943**
Firearms seized - **87**

Street value of meth seized - **\$1.04 million**
Street value of marijuana seized - **\$1.6 million**

The U.N.E.T is a vital tool in the ongoing enforcement of state and federal drug laws in our area.

The unit includes investigators from city, county and state law enforcement agencies and is overseen by the South Dakota Division of Criminal Investigation. Their members are also committed to educating the public about the dangers of drugs and what to look for, making twenty-six presentations to various groups in the community in 2015.

Three investigators from the Sheriff's Office are part of this team, tasked with reducing the flow of drugs into our community.

INTERNET CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN

Possession/Distribution
Manufacture of Child Pornography

71 Cases

Solicitation of a Minor

24 Cases

Child Prostitution

5 Cases



We all know how great the internet can be as a source of information. But safeguards obviously need to be in place when it comes to children.

The Internet Crimes Against Children unit was formed in 2011, and is primarily focused on the investigation of children who are exploited via the internet or other electronic means.

The unit has taken part in successful sting operations during the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally,

resulting in five arrests during this year's event. They also conduct all of the computer forensic examinations in western South Dakota as well as providing technical assistance in preparing subpoenas and search warrants for computer related items such as email, cell phones and numerous social networking sites.

Partnered with the Rapid City Police

Department and the South Dakota Division of Criminal Investigation, the unit includes an investigator and a forensic analyst from the Sheriff's Office.

***50 internet safety trainings were presented
by ICAC to over 5,000 people in 2015***

SCHOOL RESOURCE DEPUTIES

Our School Resource Deputy program is a collaborative effort by deputies, educators, students, parents and the community.

Our deputies serve a variety of functions in our schools. Promoting a safe environment for learning is crucial. They are positive role models, youth advocates, classroom instructors, counselors....diligently working to build better relationships to help children come forward with their concerns and to help them make better choices in life, all contributing to a safe school environment we've come to expect.



Deputy Jamin Hartland
Douglas School System
(2015-2016)



Deputy Vic Gust
Douglas School System
(2015-2016)



Deputy Misti Walker
Douglas School System
(2014-2015)



Deputy Rusty Schmidt
Southwest Middle School
(2014-2015)



Deputy Jesse Fagerland
East Middle School
(2015-2016)



Deputy Kevin Climis
Stevens High School
(2015-2016)



Deputy Mike Ghents
Stevens High School
(2015-2016)

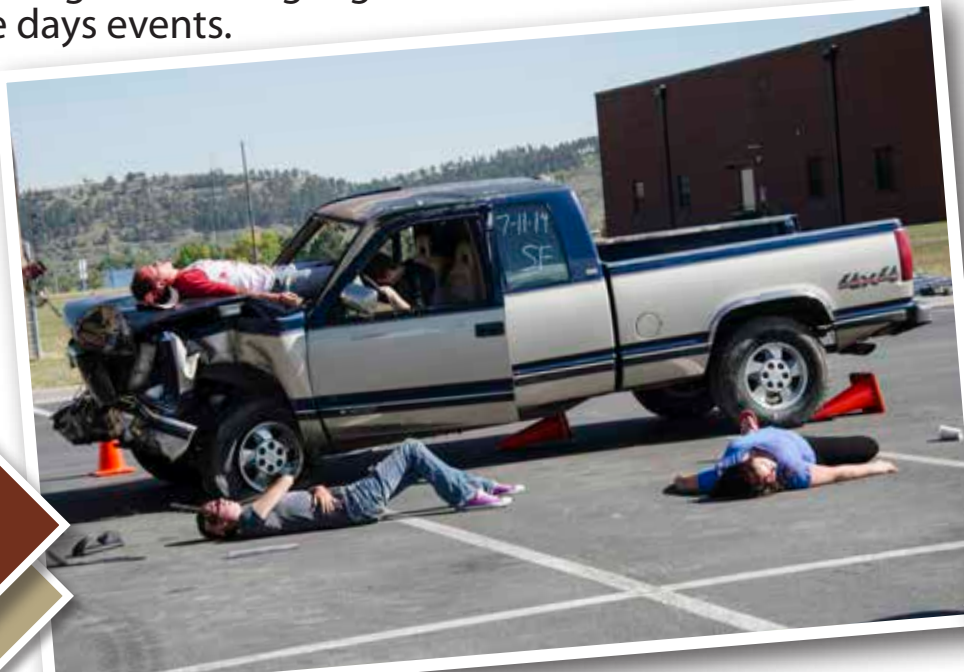


FRESHMAN IMPACT



Freshman Impact is a program designed to provide area high school students with the knowledge and skills to make safe choices when it comes to drugs and alcohol.

Deputy Rick McPherson has been at the forefront of this program which continues to educate more students each year. The program includes a mock crash scene, courtroom and funeral simulations as well as a special debriefing session to gauge student reactions to the days events.



JAIL GARDEN - PUMPKIN GIVEAWAY

Now in its third year of operation, the Pennington County Jail garden continues to thrive in Box Elder. Tended by inmates, nearly 30,000 pounds of fruits and vegetables were harvested in 2015, more than doubling its output from the year before.

Nearly half was sold at cost to a vendor to offset food expenses at the jail. The rest was distributed to local organizations like the Cornerstone Rescue Mission, Working Against Violence, Inc. (WAVI), and the Kiwanis Food Bank.

Local residents were also treated to the vast array of produce at our Pumpkin Giveaway in October, along with some hot chocolate and cookies. Those attending were able to choose from nearly 1,000 free pumpkins grown for this event.



PENNINGTON COUNTY JAIL

**Captain
Brooke
Haga**



The Pennington County Jail continues to be a model facility accredited by the American Correctional Association for over twenty years.

Captains Brooke Haga and Rob Yantis oversee the services necessary for the secure booking, housing and supervision of the inmate population.

Captain Haga oversees the security of inmates and the facility.

Captain Yantis is in charge of maintenance, medical, food service and work release for inmates.

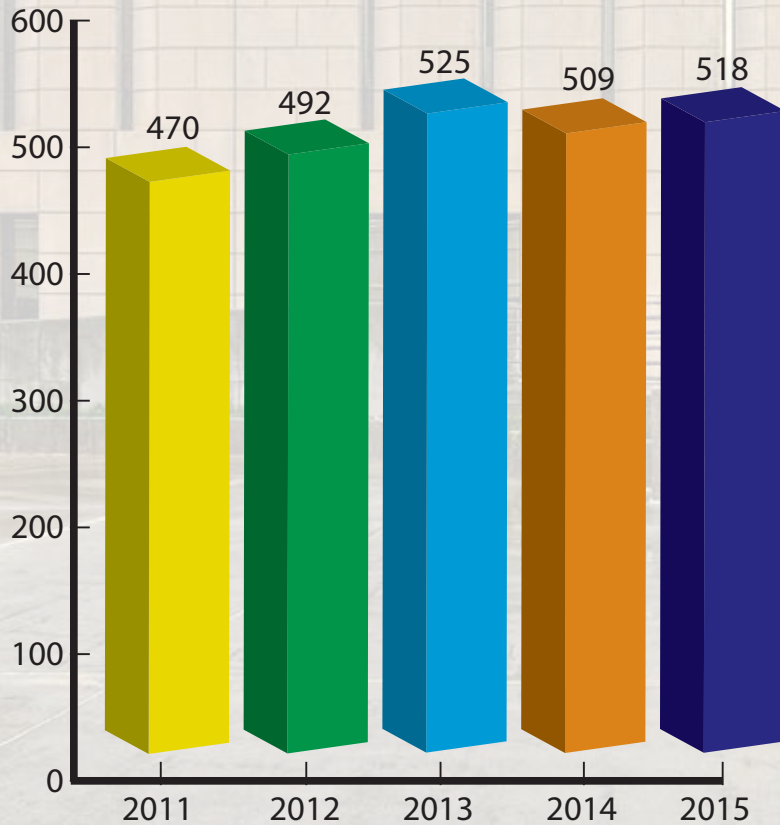
**Captain
Rob
Yantis**



**Corporal
Ken Wilson**

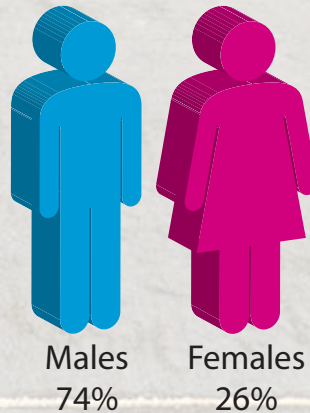


Average Daily Inmate Population

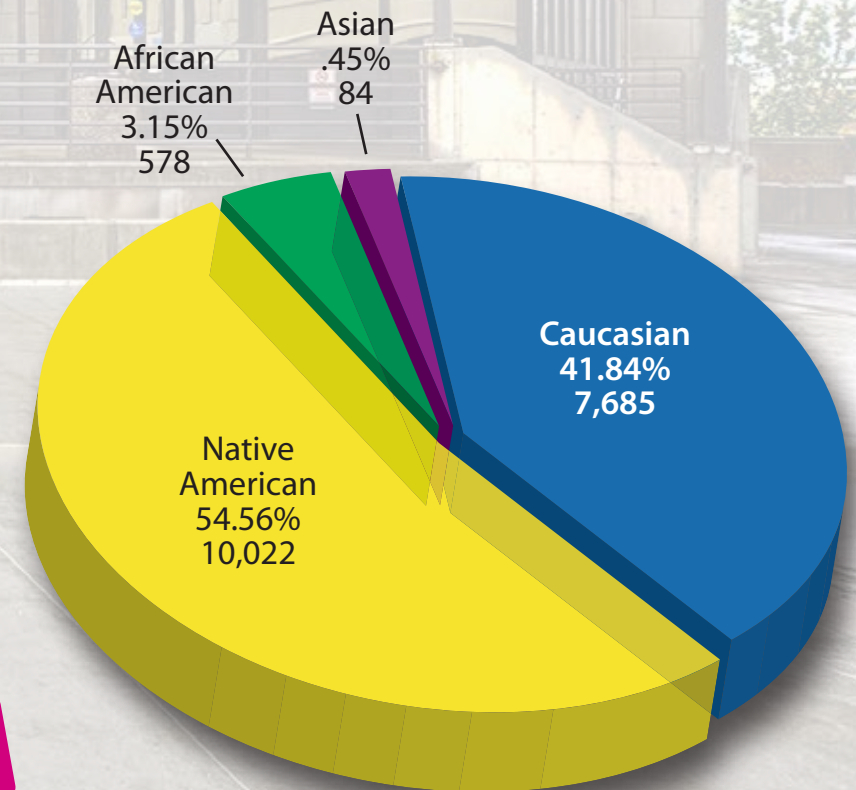


Average length of stay - 10 days

By Gender



Racial Statistics



Total 18,369

INMATE BOOKING - VIDEO COURT

Inmate Booking

Individuals who are arrested and brought to the jail are searched, fingerprinted and photographed during what is called the booking process.

If they are not immediately released on bond, they will be classified to determine where they will be placed in the jail housing units.

12,245 people were booked into the Pennington County Jail.

Video Court

Thousands of people are arrested in Pennington County every year. Under the law, they must all be given their day in court.

But with video court, inmates never have to leave the building.

The program has been in existence for over 15 years at the jail, and helps to free up our deputies who would otherwise be busy with daily transports and can now be utilized in the community where they can do the most good.

Video court continues to be a valuable way to help conserve law enforcement, court and corrections systems resources, while also ensuring public safety.

6,912 appearances by inmates in 2015.



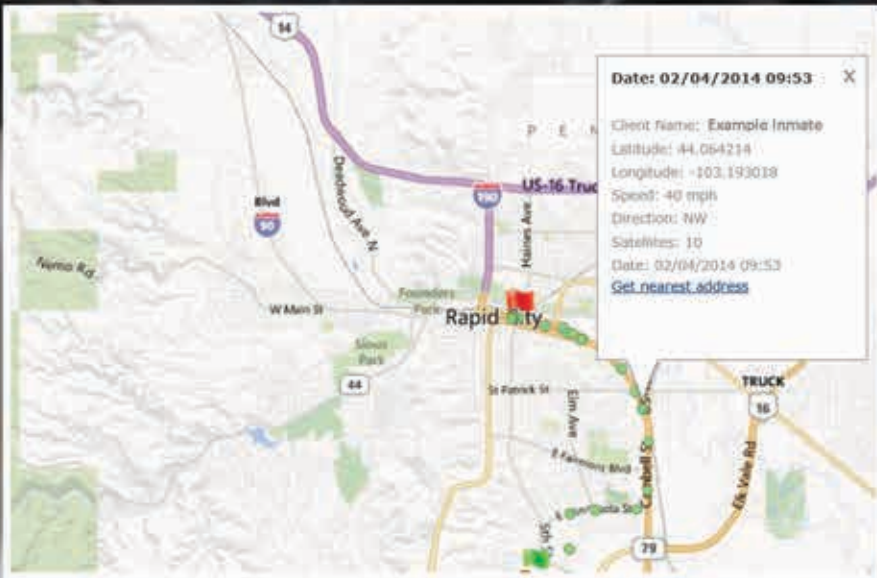
ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS

Electronic Monitoring

Electronic monitoring programs exist to help us reduce the skyrocketing costs of incarceration. 1,156 inmates participated in our electronic monitoring program last year. Of those, 865 were successful in completing the program.

In order to participate, inmates must be sentenced to the work release program. They pay \$15 daily. The electronic device allows real time tracking which can ensure that the individual is complying with the terms of their release. Previously, we relied on random job checks to supervise inmates who were on traditional work release.

Each day that an inmate is housed at home offsets annual inmate population growth and extends the life of our facility. Inmates can continue to work, pay taxes, have access to community services and maintain their family connection.



WARRANTS/CIVIL

**Captain
Marty Graves**



On any given day, this division may be asked to serve legal documents, track down fugitives, transport inmates to their destinations and to keep the Pennington County Courthouse secure.

Warrants

Total Warrants served - **8401**

Felony Warrants served\cleared - **1865**

Misdemeanor Warrants served\cleared - **6208**

Money collected on warrant fees - **\$153,674.80**

Civil

According to legal procedure in the United States, all parties must be notified when facing legal action against them in a court of law or an administrative court. This is accomplished by our civil deputies through the delivery of documents describing the legal action. Examples may include summonses, complaints, subpoenas, writs or other legal documents from the courts, attorneys or citizens.

Papers served - **10,001** *(a 33% increase from 2014)*

Money collected on Executions - **\$248,413.83**

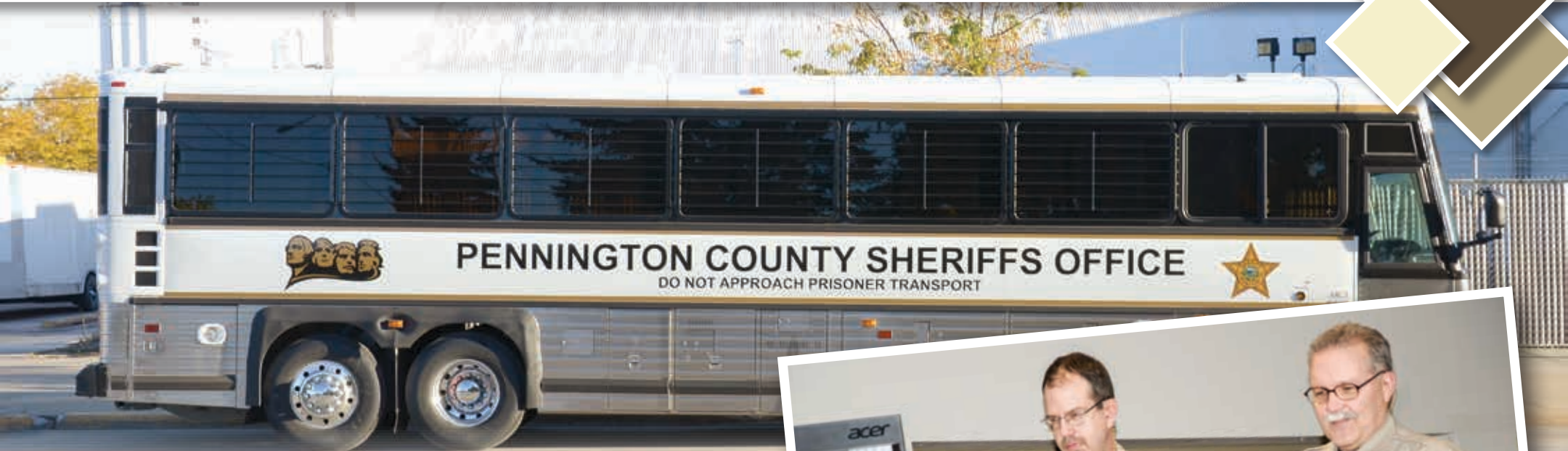
Money collected on Tax Warrants - **\$93,470.30**

Money collected on Civil Fees - **\$133,777.11**

Sheriff's Sales on Executions - **4**

Foreclosures - **80**

TRANSPORT/COURTHOUSE SECURITY



Transport

Our deputies handle two types of transports - local and across the state.

Local - Inmates may need to be moved for medical appointments, evaluations, or court appearances on a daily basis.

9,043 local transports

Across the State - Inmates may also need to be transported to the South Dakota State Penitentiary. The transport bus makes two round trips per week to that facility in Sioux Falls. Expenses are offset by offering these services to other counties and the state.

6,605 transports across the state

Total transports in 2015 - **15, 648**

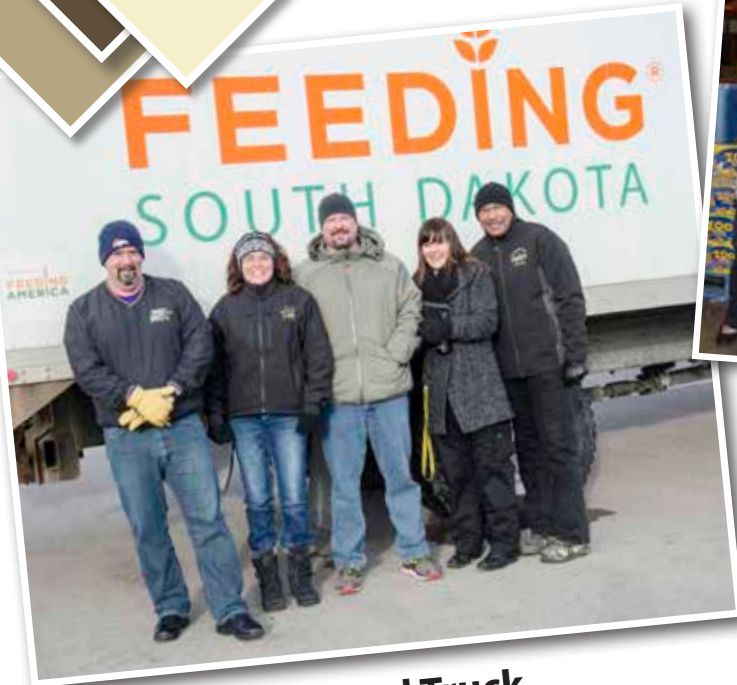


Transport Officers Eric Petersen and Paul Carroll

Courthouse Security

Our deputies are responsible for protecting twelve judges who preside over ten courtrooms, courthouse personnel and the general public. An estimated 600-800 people per day are screened entering the courthouse. That number could exceed 1,000 with multiple trials and jury selection.

GIVING BACK - COMMUNITY OUTREACH



Feeding SD by Food Truck
Dave Ricke, Jolonda Ricke,
Tom Brack, Hollie Strand, CJ Messiah



**Feeding South Dakota
in Warehouse**
Left to right: Carrie Ackerman,
Barb Erickson, Christa Smith,
Anna Luthy, Sarah Vogel and Kris Frisk



**Big Brothers, Big Sisters
Bowl for Kids Sake**
Dustin Morrison, Kent Pryzmus,
Tana Gajeski, Mischelle Boal

**Polar Plunge
Freezin' For a Reason**
Light snow and a wind chill
of 3 degrees didn't deter
members of the Sheriff's
Office who came to take the
Polar Plunge last February.
The event is an annual Law
Enforcement fundraiser for
the South Dakota Special
Olympics.



Jumpers: Dustin Morrison and Kent Pryzmus



CCADP Blood Bank
Back row: Linda Pratt, Anna Luthy, Mallory Andres
Front row: Bobbi Van Lent, Savannah Starkey,
Kate Wellensiek

24/7 PROGRAM

Program Director
Tessia
Johnston



The 24/7 Sobriety Program began in Pennington County in 2005. This program is an alternative to jail and serves as an alternative sentencing option for the court. The program is used as a condition of bond/and or sentence and as part of probation or parole, as well as a tool for the Department of Social Services for child custody issues.

Our program is completely funded by offender paid fees with zero tax dollars spent.

The 99% success rate of this sobriety program clearly shows that it has been a very effective way to reduce our jail population while maintaining public safety.



By The Numbers

PARTICIPANTS IN THE PROGRAM FOR:

DUI
OFFENSES **58%**
NON DUI
OFFENSES **42%**

Average Daily
Participants
575

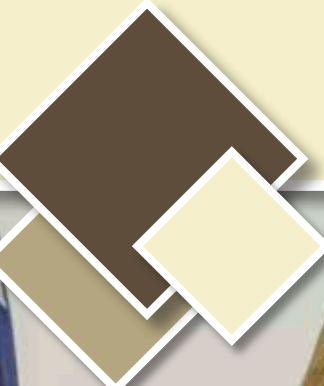
Total PBT's
Administered
162,089

PASS
RATE
99.25%

Total
Urinalysis Tests
Administered
17,038

PASS
RATE
92.02%

CITY/COUNTY ALCOHOL & DRUG PROGRAMS



**Program Director
Brenda Wood**

CCADP operates two facilities at separate locations in Rapid City - one at 725 North Lacrosse St. and the Life Enrichment Center at 3505 Cambell St. Both facilities are accredited by the State of South Dakota Division of Behavioral Health through the Department of Social Services.

Our highly trained staff is dedicated to helping individuals with the goal of improving their quality of life, along the way to sobriety and recovery. They are often called upon to assist through the following programs:

Assessments: Evaluation for placement into an appropriate level of treatment.

Social Setting Detox: 24-hour supervision and support for patients who are intoxicated or experiencing withdrawal.

Treatment: Using evidence based practices by trained clinical staff through individual, group and /or family counseling.

Safe Beds: Beds that are available to those who need a short term place to stay in a safe, sober environment but do not wish to utilize services provided by detox.

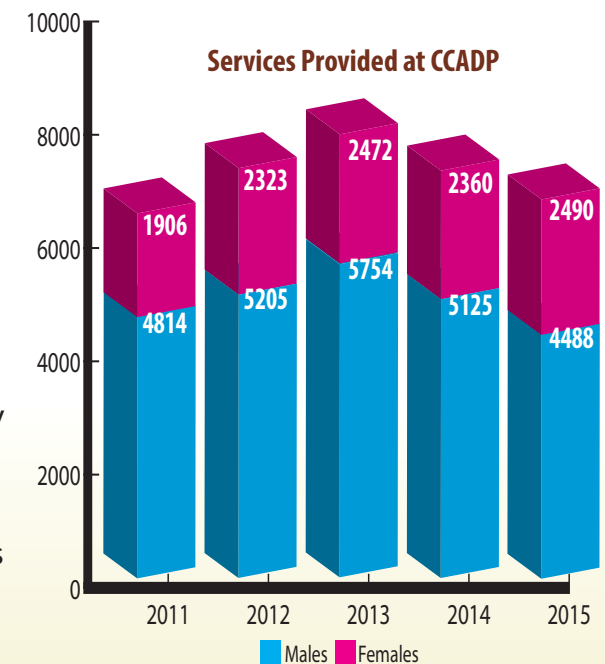
Criminal Justice Programming: Provides strategies to help manage risk factors and coping skills for individuals with high risk substance abuse and criminal behaviors.

Phone (605) 394-6128
Hours of Operation:
Monday - Thursday 8am - 5pm
Friday - 8am-4pm

Detox facility is open 24/7
for admissions

Staff members can be reached 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to provide assistance regarding an admission or crisis situation.

If there is a client need that our facility cannot address, a referral will be made to the appropriate resource within the community.



A SUCCESS STORY

This is the story of Sally (not her real name) who was admitted to the detox unit at City/County Alcohol and Drug Programs in the spring of 2013. She had been using meth daily for the last couple of years. Sally had lost her children to the Department of Social Services and was denied visitation rights. She had legal issues and lots of fines to pay.

It took a couple of weeks in detox before Sally was even allowed to enter the Meth/Opiate treatment program. She completed the program and went on to continued care. She was then released from the facility and got a job.

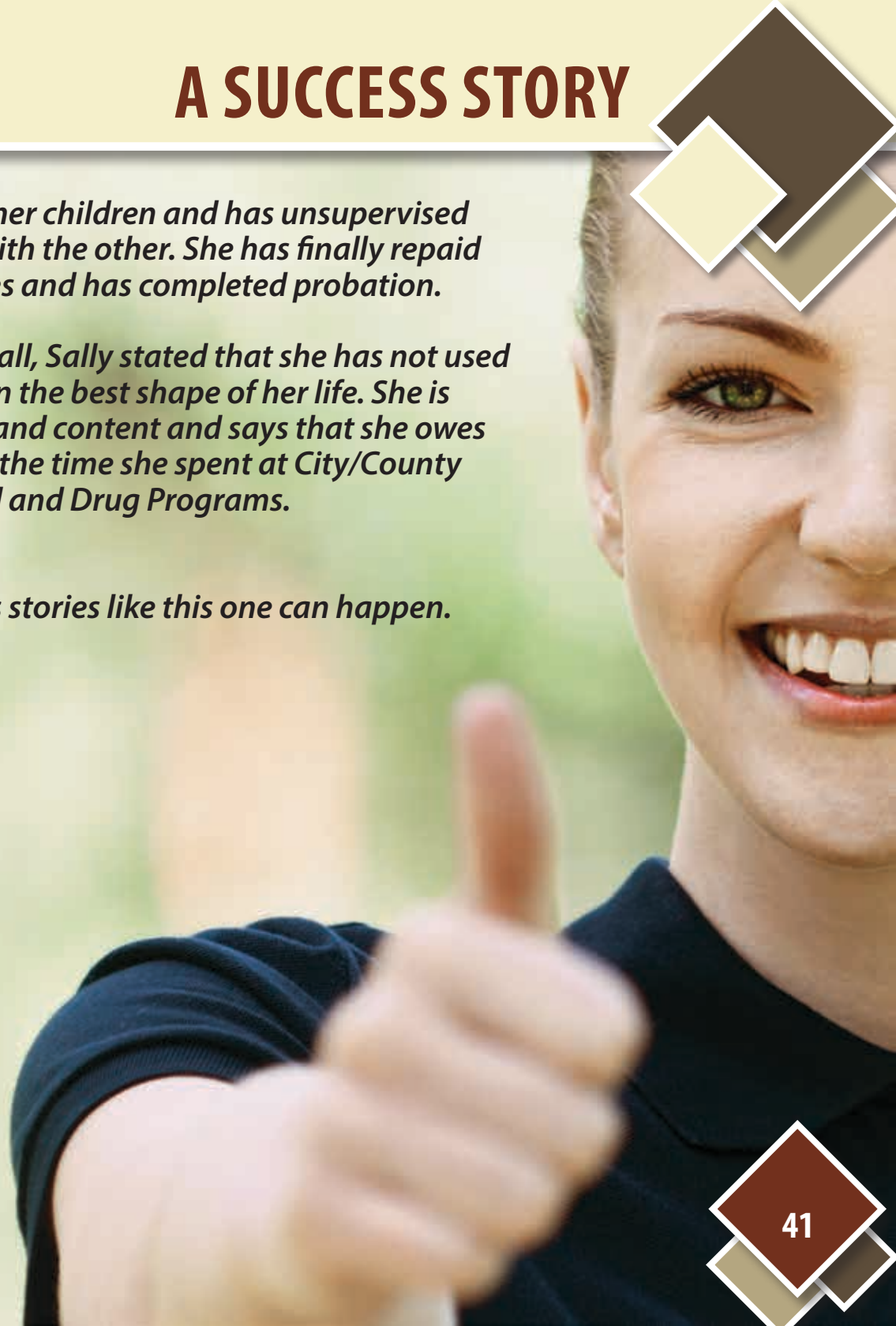
Sally ended up leaving the state but continues to do well. She got married in 2015 and went back to college to complete her degree. She has limited visitation with

one of her children and has unsupervised visits with the other. She has finally repaid her fines and has completed probation.

Best of all, Sally stated that she has not used and is in the best shape of her life. She is happy and content and says that she owes it all to the time she spent at City/County Alcohol and Drug Programs.

Success stories like this one can happen.

If you or someone you know is struggling with alcohol or substance abuse issues, please call (605) 394-6128 to find out how we can help you on the way to recovery.



WESTERN SOUTH DAKOTA JUVENILE SERVICES CENTER

**Commander
Joe Gutierrez**



The Western South Dakota Juvenile Services Center (JSC) is a regional youth detention facility serving Western South Dakota. Fall River, Custer, Pennington, Lawrence, Butte and Harding County are all part of a six county compact that oversees the operation of this juvenile center.

The Juvenile Services Center is a 106 bed facility currently staffed to hold up to 41 juveniles, ages 10-20, who have committed felony or misdemeanor offenses that are either going through the court system, awaiting placement or serving sentences.



JSC also provides education and structured programming geared towards giving juveniles the tools to cope or improve their situations in life.

Twenty-four students earned high school credits in 2015.

Two students earned their high school diplomas, five earned GED's.

By the Numbers JUVENILE SERVICES CENTER

Average daily population numbers continue to decline at JSC, reflecting the trend towards using alternative programs in lieu of placing juvenile offenders in costlier secure detention facilities. The Juvenile Services Center offers electronic monitoring to include Home Detention and Community Monitoring. In both cases, the juvenile may remain in the community while they are awaiting court or serving a sentence. They may be returned to detention if additional contact with law enforcement occurs and a new arrest report has been completed.

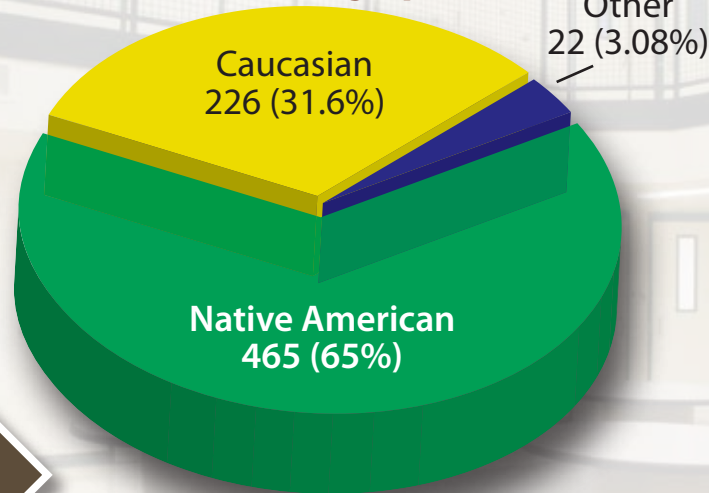
340 juveniles took part in the electronic monitoring program in 2015, up from 292 last year.

Average Daily
Population
27 Detainees

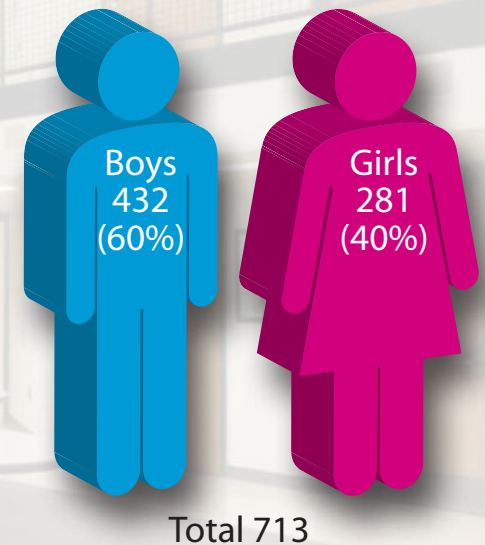
Average
Length
of Stay
22 Days

Average Age
16 Years

Racial Demographics



Gender Breakdown



*Electronic
Monitoring Program*

ARISE YOUTH CENTER

A stay at the ARISE Youth Center may also be a consideration. Run by the Lutheran Social Services in conjunction with the Sheriff's Office, the facility consists of a Reception Center and Shelter Care, licensed by the South Dakota Department of Social Services.

The Reception Center serves as an intake facility for those who have allegedly committed non-violent, low level offenses and cannot be immediately released to a parent, guardian or custodian.

Shelter Care is an out of home setting for youth who cannot be released home, but are not appropriate for a referral to detention. Youth can be referred to Shelter Care for up to 30 days.

At risk youth may also be ordered to attend the Evening Reporting Center, an after school and evening program that provides educational and life skills programs in a structured environment.



FUNDRAISING EFFORTS

Tough Enough to Wear Pink & Run for a Cure



SPECIAL RESPONSE TEAM

In an average year, the Special Response Team is called out about six times. Despite no call outs in 2015, the team stayed busy; they regularly trained to prepare for any eventuality, no detail too small to cover.

Since its inception in 1990, the SRT has learned many valuable lessons and made huge strides in its training, equipment and leadership.

Combined with the Rapid City Police Department, Rapid City Fire Department and the Emergency Communications Center, the SRT has 42 members. Eleven belong to the Sheriff's Office.





HONOR GUARD

The Pennington County Sheriff's Honor Guard distinguished itself once again in 2015.

Now in its third year, our official ceremonial unit brought great credit to our agency by performing in thirteen events. Those events included funerals, five Rapid City Rush hockey games, and the Black Hills Stock Show to name a few.

TRAINING

*Corporal Tana Tallon & Sgt. Chris Hislip
Deputy Training Officer (DTO) Training*



*Brian Freeouf
& Tony White
Defense Tactics*



Deputy Kent Pryzmus - Rifle Training

Training is essential to every law enforcement agency, laying the foundation for success with sound and effective policies.

South Dakota state law mandates forty hours of training every two years for sworn law enforcement deputies. The Sheriff's Office sets a minimum of forty hours each year covering specific areas like firearms (every year) and domestic violence training (every four years). Additional hours of training routinely take place when the need arises.

**New hires
must spend 520
hours training at the
State Academy in Pierre,
followed by another 640
hours in our Deputy
Field Training
program.**



Captain
Jay Evenson

**DISASTER
AWARENESS
DAY**

SENIOR VOLUNTEERS

1,600
volunteer
hours served
in 2015

Our sixteen senior volunteers are very special to us. They have the choice to do just about anything with their free time, yet they choose to spend it with us. They welcome folks into the building, perform office tasks or do whatever it takes to assist our office.

Project Lifesaver Program

Two of our senior volunteers head up our Project Lifesaver Program which places personalized radio transmitters on individuals who have a tendency to wander - elderly Alzheimer patients or those with autism, Down Syndrome or other developmental disorders. There is no cost to the family once they are approved.

For more
information
on the program,
please call the
Sheriff's Office at
(605) 394-6113

Myron and Darlayne Buchli
with Deb Sarver
mother of Project Lifesaver Participant



RESERVES

Reserve Deputies are trained volunteers who support the operations of the Sheriff's Office. Along with regular patrol shifts, they may fill in for guard duty or transport shifts if necessary. They can also be counted on to work special events like the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally and the Central States Fair.



**Reserve Deputy
Bartik**

**Reserve Deputy
Strong**

*Back row - Gordon Decker, James Hogue,
Chris Stickler, Beau Boerman, Barry Sullivan
Front row - Mark Bartik, Gerad Strong,
Rich Rodriguez, Ethan McManigal*

PENNINGTON COUNTY SAR - WRT



SEARCH AND RESCUE

Formed in
1973

Our dedicated volunteer Search and Rescue team was very busy again this year, responding to over one hundred calls for service in 2015. The team (twenty-nine members and twenty trainees) answered emergency calls throughout the county and surrounding areas while constantly training to improve their skills in all of their specialties. (5,500 hours of service). Those specialties include: vehicle extrication, search, high and low angle rescues, mass casualty, fire and weather-related incidents.



WATER RESCUE TEAM

Formed in
1987

The Rapid City/Pennington County Water Rescue Team is a combined effort of the Sheriff's Office, Rapid City Police and Fire Departments. Over the past several years, the WRT has responded to dozens of water-related calls, including drownings, rescue and recovery and swift water rescues and recovery.

Pennington County Search and Rescue Responses

Extrication	8	Fire	25	Rescue	7	Search	7	Vertical	8	Water	3	Other	7
TOTAL 65		CANCELED 49		TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE 114									

REFLECTORS GIVEN OUT AT HALLOWEEN



Deputy Jakob Whittle saw a little bit of everything at the Scare on the Square event on Main Street on Halloween. Unseasonably warm weather made for a perfect day to hand out safety reflectors to our trick-or-treaters in the community.

EXPLORERS - CHAPLAINS

Explorer Program

Now in its third year, our Explorer program is open to young men and women ages 15-20. The goal of the program is to help young adults choose a law enforcement career path and to challenge them to become responsible citizens through leadership opportunities and community service activities.



*Back row left to right: Tony Verchio, Bob Schoeberl, Hallie Osborne, Dominic Christensen, Zach Couture, Austin Claymore, Forrest Legg, Blake Bendt, Ron Nordell.
Front row left to right: Tyler Phelps, Tyler Sitzes, Allison Brinkman, Sheriff Kevin Thom.
Not pictured: Karissa Ellis, Camden Sawvell, Jameson Tebben.*

Chaplains

What would we do without our Chaplains? We call upon our six chaplains to provide emotional support, guidance and crisis intervention for those in need. They're also some of the most creative people we know, hosting and putting together a Christmas skit that would rival a Broadway show. Their fellowship is much appreciated, as are the meals they regularly provide to our employees.



*Scott Hultgren, Ted Huffman, Corey Harouff, Gerad Strong, Bryan Faltynski
Not pictured: Jim Castleberry*

AWARDS

Could there be any greater satisfaction in the law enforcement profession than making a difference or saving a life? ***It's why we do what we do...***



Deputy
Eric Fenton
Meritorious
Service
Award



Sgt.
Dustin Morrison
Partners Protecting
Children
Award



Deputy
Jon Edwards
Meritorious
Service
Award



Deputy
Jake Tween
Mother's Against
Drunk Drivers
Service
Award



Deputy
Jesse Fagerland
Optimist Club
Respect
for Law
Award



Deputy
Chris Opitz
Meritorious
Service
Award



Commander
Joe Gutierrez
25 years
of coaching
youth
sports



Deputy
Jeromey Smith
Child Protection
Council
Award

Kevin Thom - Pennington County Sheriff
300 Kansas City Street • Rapid City, SD 57701 • (605) 394-6113



www.pennco.org/sheriff

Canyon Lake, Rapid City