

PENNINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF

ANNUAL REPORT



2021



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SHERIFF'S MESSAGE

Community-wide public safety is our first priority. Every employee recognizes our responsibility to the citizens and visitors of Pennington County. Daily we strive to keep people safe, make this a great place to live, and work to creatively solve problems—all while keeping the taxpayer in mind.

In 2021, we responded to increased drug-related violence without wavering in our commitment to excellence. The growing drug problem is of significant concern as it is a driver to much of our violent crime. We must be vigilant in addressing this growing threat.

Martin Luther King Jr. is quoted as saying, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'" At the Pennington County Sheriff's Office we embrace the challenge with our intentional focus on community. When tackling homelessness and substance abuse issues, our approach is always to have many stakeholders at the table and join forces to identify solutions.

We are at the forefront of finding innovative practices to address behavioral health needs in our community. We are now leading the state with a new regional treatment model, Crisis Stabilization Unit, for the delivery of behavioral health services.

To better address the needs of our community, we recognize the importance of catering to the needs of our staff. In the last year we doubled down on the emotional, mental and physical needs of PCSO employees. Our Human Resources team continued to creatively evaluate staff retention and recruitment strategies. Our Wellness team introduced a therapy dog, massage chair and an invigorated peer support team. Moving forward, we are excited to implement more wellness-related ideas, such as developing an app for employees and their families. We must take care of those who take care of so many others.

As always, it is my privilege to serve you. In my eleventh year as Pennington County Sheriff, I am humbled to work with many of the best and brightest in corrections, law enforcement and addiction treatment.

Best,
Sheriff Kevin Thom

CHAIN OF COMMAND

CITIZENS OF PENNINGTON COUNTY



Commander
Joe Guttierrez
Western SD Juvenile
Services Center



Chief Deputy
Brian Mueller



Sheriff
Kevin Thom



Commander
Rob Yantis
Pennington County Jail



Captain
Tony Harrison
Investigations



Chief Deputy
Willie Whelchel



Captain
Mark Hughes
Patrol



Captain
Casey Munsch
Pennington County Jail



Captain
Wade Anderson
Pennington County Jail



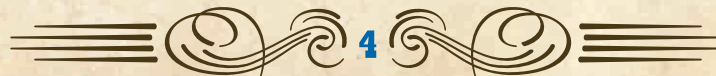
Director
Deanna Nolan
Care Campus Clinical



Captain
Kraig Wood
Warrants, Civil,
Transport,
Courthouse Security



Director
David Oster
Care Campus Housing

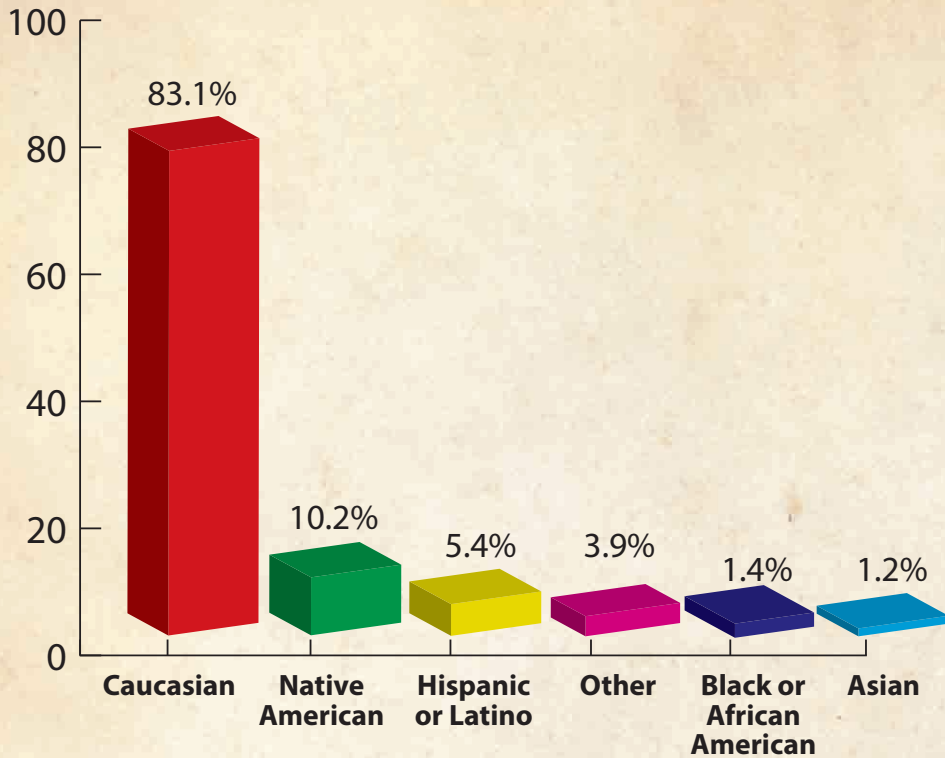


PENNINGTON COUNTY ABOUT US

Pennington County 2021

Population: 109,222
 Area: 2,784 square miles
 Median Income: \$57,039
 Median Home Price: \$323,285
 Persons in Poverty: 13,216 or 12%
 Education: 93.5% high school diploma
 31.5% bachelors degree or higher

* Sources: 2020 Census Quick Facts, Benchmark Data Labs

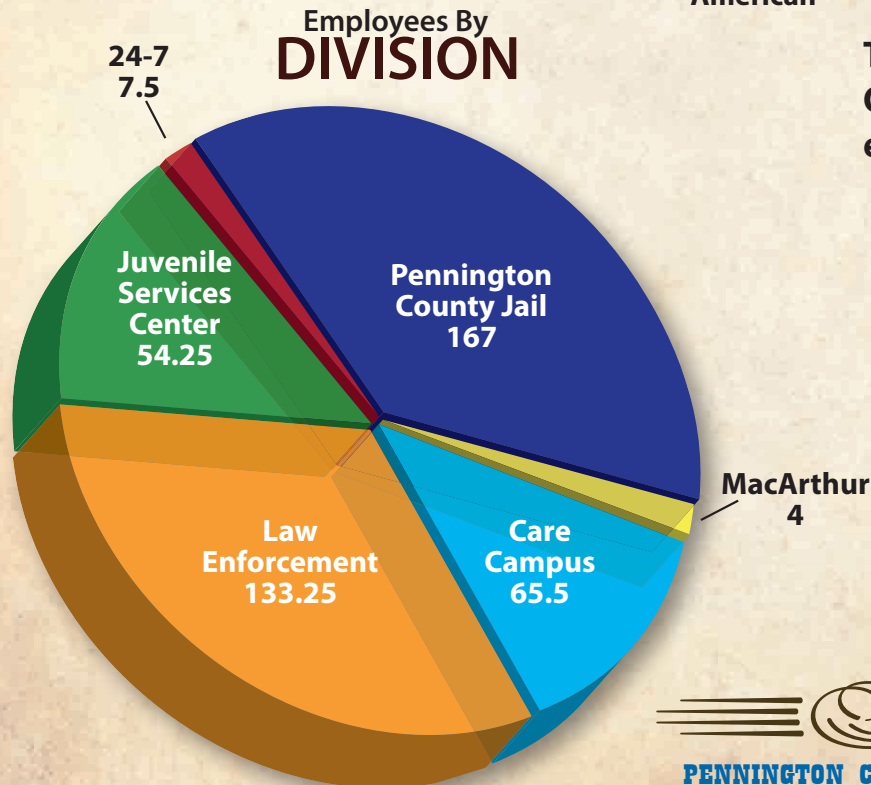


Total 2021 County Budget
\$103,924,821

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

36% of total 2021 County Budget

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



The Pennington County Sheriff's Office has 431 full- and part-time employees and 125 volunteers

- Chaplains
- Explorers
- Search & Rescue
- Senior Volunteers
- Reserve Deputies
- Community Outreach
 - JSC, Jail, Care Campus

2021 YEAR IN REVIEW

Fires kept us busy during this dry year. Most notably, the Schroeder Road Fire forced approximately 400-500 people to evacuate just west of Rapid City. A slash pile reignited on a windy March 29, endangering hundreds of homes in heavily wooded neighborhoods.



Amazingly only one home was destroyed on Blue Sky Trail, along with two pole barns and a porch



Lieutenant Taylor Sperle mans and updates the road closure and evacuation map



Deputy Josh Lavene stopped traffic to fire area, along with personnel from RCPD and SDHP



Rapid Valley Fire Chief Tim Kobes updates Chief Deputy Brian Mueller in Cleghorn Canyon

COVID-19/VACCINES

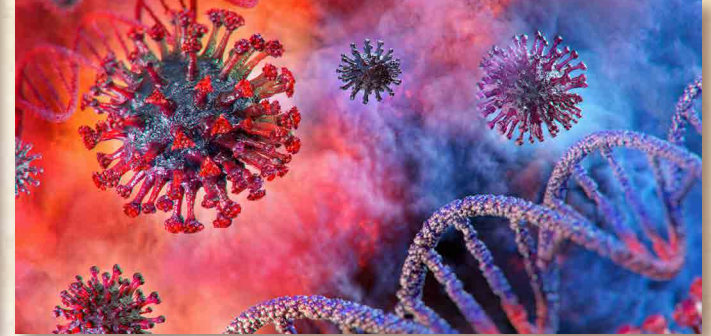
2021 YEAR IN REVIEW



Nurses Jordan Nelson and Jessica Mutschelkaus provide vaccines to staff and inmates



Covid-19 testing continued throughout the year as needed, with the Jail Medical team offering vaccines on-site to staff, inmates and clients



PROTESTS



July 4th march through downtown Rapid City, closing roads and trespassing on private property

2021 YEAR IN REVIEW

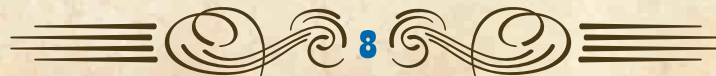
After a year of working to secure \$4.6 million in state funding, and the need to raise an additional \$1.6 million to meet building cost increases, ground was finally broken for the Crisis Stabilization Unit. This will be a 14,000 square foot regional facility with 16 beds for up to 5-day stays and eight recliners for up to 24-hour stays. It is a model program with city, county, state and private collaboration for the improved delivery of behavioral health services.

CRISIS STABILIZATION UNIT At the Care Campus



CARE CAMPUS

Restoring Mind, Body & Spirit



TRIBAL PARTNERSHIP



Sheriff Kevin Thom, Legislative Liaison Darrell Hernandez, Oglala Sioux Tribal President Kevin Killer and Rapid City Police Chief Don Hedrick meet to discuss opportunities for collaboration between the Oglala Sioux Tribe and local law enforcement, February 19



Mniluzahan Okolakiciyapi Ambassadors forum, June 17



Oglala Sioux tribal leaders and judges during a Care Campus tour, April 29

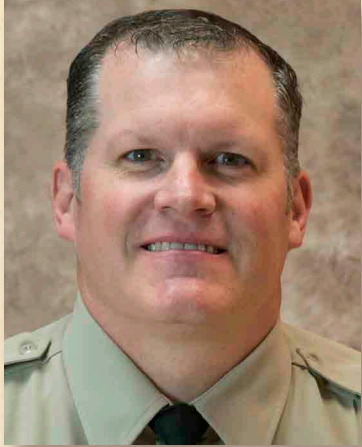


Oglala Sioux Tribe listening session in Rapid City, July 14

PCSO PATROL

CAPTAIN MARK HUGHES - In 2021 the patrol division continued our proactive approach to community involvement despite the challenges brought about by the continuing Covid-19 pandemic. 24 deputies joined the Pennington County Sheriff's Office, bringing new talent from near and far while keeping our Deputy Training Program busy.

The patrol division has one captain, two lieutenants, seven sergeants and 41 deputies. These men and women are out serving the citizens of Pennington County, day and night, every day of the year.



Report writing by Deputies Adam Mooney and Christian Raby

Deputies assigned to the Central States Fair: Shawn Stalder, Ryan Trupe, Dustin Meyer, Jennifer Dingmann, Jonathan McCary, Jake Fredericksen, Hope Bearden, Kevin Sosa, Pat Rose, Mark Hughes, Mark Bartik, Thomas Mossman, Matt Veal, Amanda Swanson



Deputies work to rescue and subdue a suicidal man at Pactola Reservoir, June 22



Deputy Matt Bowman is recognized for his Meritorious Service Award at the Central States Fair's First Responder Night



Traffic is diverted after semi blocks traffic across Highway 16



Deputies respond to report of armed suicidal subject

Calls for Service

Citizen Initiated	32,293
Deputy Initiated	14,086
Arrests	4,439
Case Reports	6,267
Vehicle Stops	7,545
Coroner Calls	501

Citations	1,232
Warnings	5,934
DUI	309
Drone Deployed	33
Fatal Traffic Accidents	27
Motor Vehicle	14
Motorcycle	10
ATV/UTV	1
Car/Pedestrian	2



BOAT/UTV PATROL

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 boats have a personal flotation device, fire extinguisher and enough life jackets for each person on board.

Boat Patrol

15	Shifts
55.25	Hours spent in boat
281	Contacts made
52	Verbal warnings
10	Written warnings
0	Arrests

UTV Patrol

13	Shifts
45	Hours spent on UTV
298	Contacts made
10	Verbal warnings
0	Written warnings
0	Arrests



Deputy Ryan Trupe with the PCRSO UTV patrols trails in Pennington County



Deputy Cody Rhoden enjoys his shift on boat patrol at Pactola Reservoir

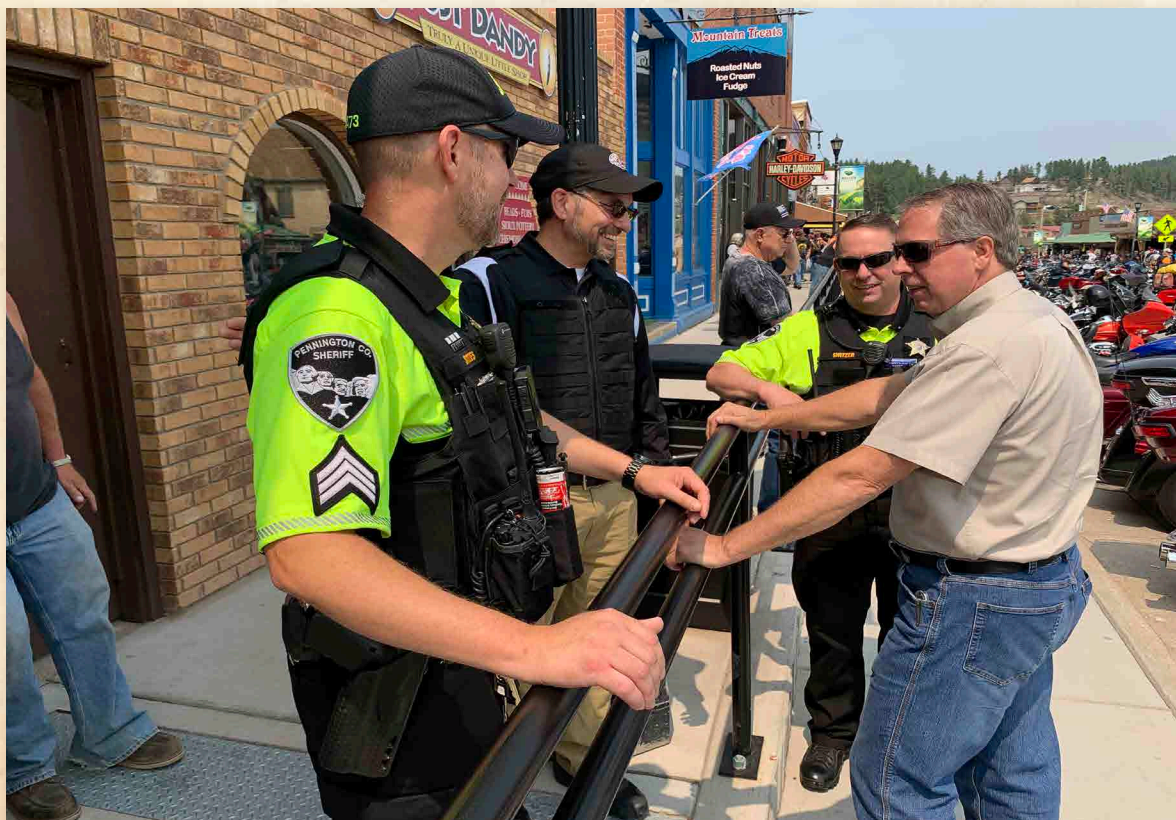


Deputies Matt Bowman and Alix Whittle rescue a donut from Pactola Reservoir

Sturgis Rally Recap • August 6-15, 2021

Pennington County Rally Tally	2019	2020	2021
Calls for Service	1,939	1,751	1,506
Motorcycle Accidents	23	21	27
Injury	10	9	21
Non-injury	13	12	6
DUI Arrests	9	16	11
Fatalities	1	1	2

STURGIS MOTORCYCLE RALLY



Sergeant Scott Sitzes, Clinical Psychologist Dr. Roger Belisle and Lieutenant Dave Switzer brief the Sheriff on traffic and crime in our contract towns



Seven rally deputies supplemented our force during this year's event



Traffic and accidents in the Black Hills pick up significantly in the first two weeks of August due to the influx of Sturgis Rally visitors

CONTRACT COMMUNITIES

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: Jeff Jones (New Underwood), Doug Kimball (Hill City), Will Christopherson (Wall), Jim Waldrop (Hill City), Sergeant Randy Harkins, Chris Plawman (Keystone), Matt Bowman (Wall), Kaitlin Leising (Hill City), Kari Smith (Wall)

FIFTEEN 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-19. Even with operations suspended for approximately eight months, reserve deputies still provided 1,345 hours in 2021, including patrolling our lakes and trails, Central States Fair and Sturgis Motorcycle Rally.

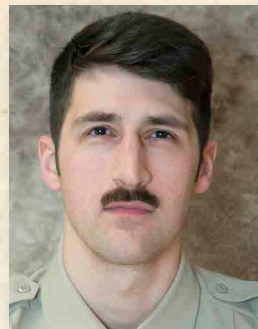
RESERVE DEPUTIES



Sam DeCory



Keith Fenner



Jonathon McCary



Kyle McSherry



Thad Fitch



Jason Lind



Scott Jungck



Donald Lampert



Doug Noyes



Corey Nelson



Mark Bartik



Chad Strobel



Kevin Sosa



Andrew Rasmussen

PCSO INVESTIGATIONS



CAPTAIN TONY HARRISON - The Criminal Investigations Division handled a record number of coroner cases in 2021. On top of the death cases, the team worked with the Rapid City Police Department's Criminal Investigations Division to help investigate 16 total homicides.

New in 2021 was the addition of a lieutenant and another RCPD detective to assist in the numerous sexual assault and child abuse crimes. An

investigative assistant now also helps sift through the massive amounts of video, audio, and other documents that are part of major violent crime investigations.

Our division includes 13 investigators, two victim specialists, one crime intelligence analyst, one computer forensic examiner, two records specialists and three Rapid City Police Department detectives.



Pennington County Sheriff's Office Data*

	2019	2020	2021
Murder	0	2	0
Sexual Assault	139	57	55
Aggravated Assault	65	102	83
Robbery	2	7	2
Burglary	79	101	78
Theft	340	366	160
Stolen Vehicles	46	48	40

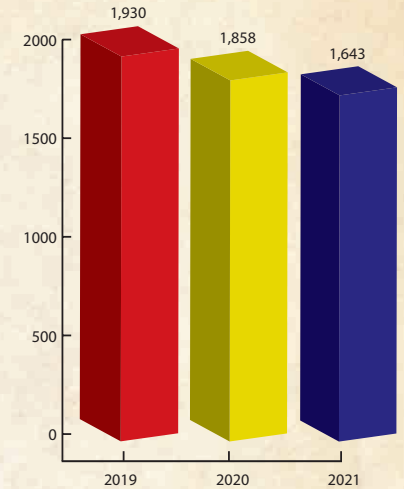
*Statistics represent crime data in Pennington County only. Some crimes may have occurred in other jurisdictions.

Overall Crime Data in Pennington County**

	2019	2020	2021
Murder	6	14	16
Sexual Assault	325	198	213
Aggravated Assault	431	659	584
Robbery	77	120	85
Burglary	612	803	612
Theft	2,608	2,833	2,874
Stolen Vehicles	416	581	524

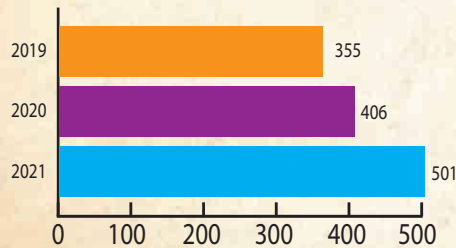
**Includes Box Elder, Rapid City and Pennington County combined

Domestic Violence



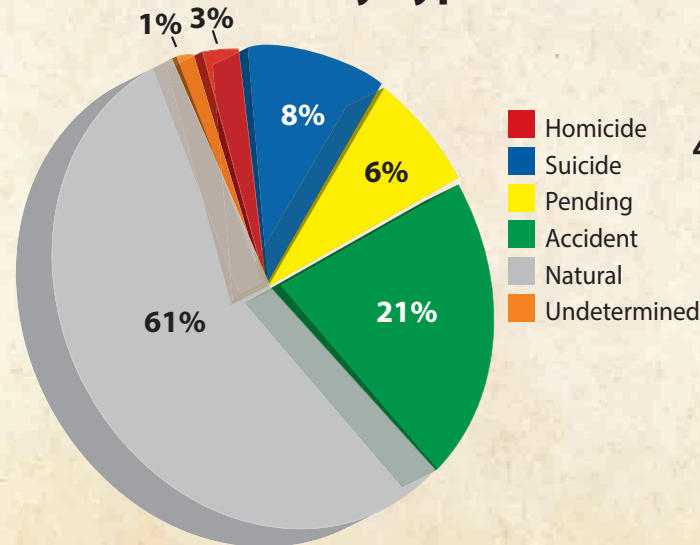
Single cases including Box Elder, Rapid City and Pennington County

Coroner Calls

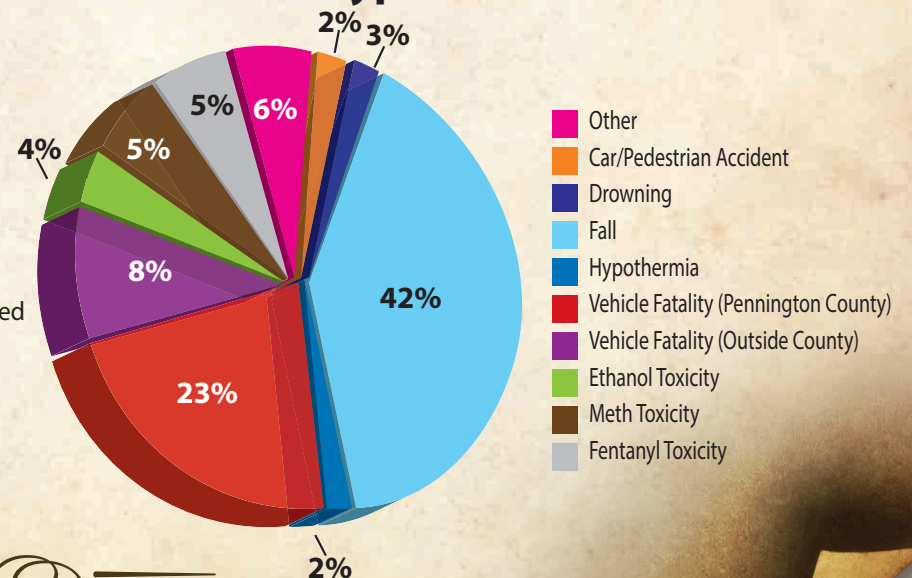


The Sheriff's Office serves as county coroner and currently has deputies certified as Deputy Coroner in the event of a death. The coroner investigates deaths that are a result of an accident, homicide, suicide or natural death that occurs outside the care of a medical provider.

Coroner Cases By Type



Accident Type



INTERNET CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN ICAC

In 2021, the team performed 564 digital examinations of both cell phones and hard drives, scouring more than 72 terabytes of data. Hundreds of subpoenas were issued and dozens of search warrants were served.

Possession/Distribution/
Manufacture of Child
Pornography Cases

2019 - 84

2020 - 79

2021 - 108

Solicitation of a
Minor Cases

2019 - 15

2020 - 34

2021 - 36

**DIVISION OF CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION
SUPERVISORY SPECIAL AGENT BRENT
GROMER** - As every man, woman, and child's digital footprints continue to grow, so does the casework for our Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force. In one year ICAC saw a jump from 500 cybertip reports from the National Center of Missing and Exploited Children to over 700.

With the ever-changing websites and social media platforms kids are frequenting, our team is on the cutting edge of what is new on the world wide web and digital forensics. Still, we are always playing a

game of catchup. The ICAC Task Force created a series of downloadable learning videos that focus on internet safety, with content for 4th graders through high school students.

ICAC is in the business of saving kids. In 2021 we intervened in multiple situations where hands-on abuse was occurring in the home. Those kids do not have to worry about being sexually abused anymore. In addition, hundreds or thousands will never be abused due to the efforts of the members of the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force.



Forensic Analyst Hollie Strand disassembles a computer

Investigator Jesse Fagerland scours the internet working a case

SERGEANT CASEY KENRICK supervises the Unified Narcotics Enforcement Team. The South Dakota Division of Criminal Investigation leads the multi-agency drug taskforce that includes the Pennington County Sheriff's Office, Rapid City Police Department and South Dakota Highway Patrol. The UNET also has several local and federal partners.

The goal of the UNET is to identify, disrupt or dismantle drug trafficking groups in our community using cutting-edge and innovative

investigation techniques to hold drug traffickers accountable. The cases from UNET are generally prosecuted through the South Dakota Attorney General's Office or the United States Attorney's Office.

The UNET has seen a sharp rise in the trafficking and use of counterfeit Fentanyl pills in the region. Methamphetamine trafficking and use are also still on the rise. The UNET had several large drug seizures in 2021.

UNIFIED NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT TEAM UNET



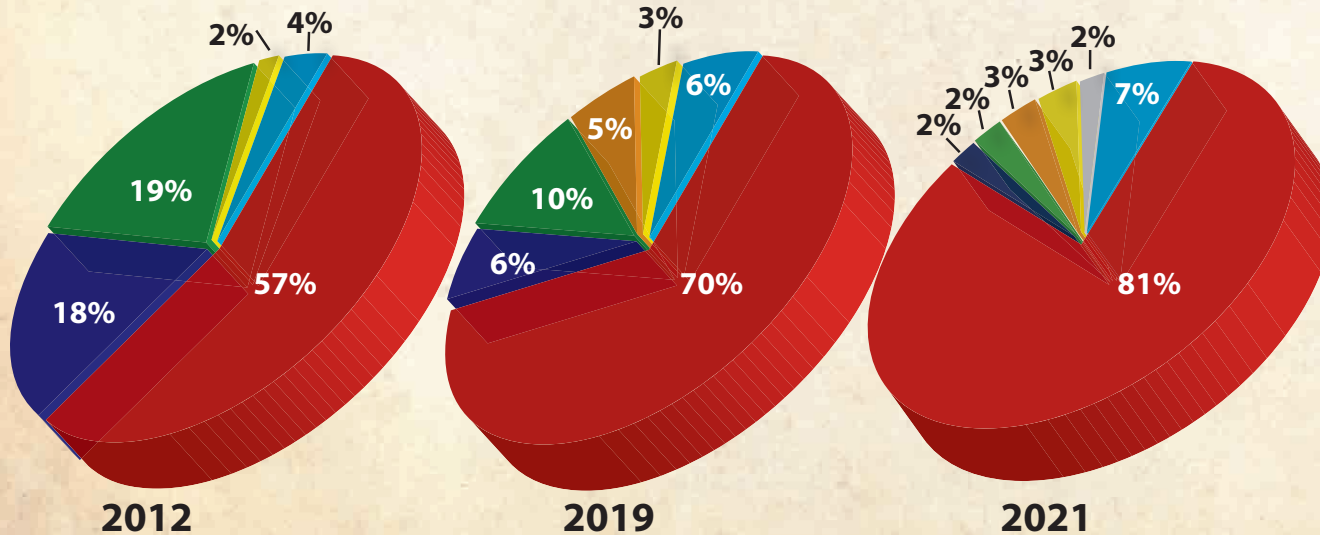
Largest UNET bust in 2021: 72 lbs. of meth, 10 lbs. cocaine, 6 lbs. heroin, 6,000 counterfeit fentanyl pills

Drug possession arrests

Methamphetamine.....	1,126
Pharmaceuticals.....	33
Marijuana	24
Heroin	48
Cocaine/Crack.....	41
Fentanyl	21
Other	97*

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

Number of search warrants executed	Currency and property seized	Firearms seized
178	\$409,139	47



VICTIM SPECIALISTS PROGRAM

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 73% of the PCSO Victim Specialist Program to provide two full-time positions and resource funds for crime victims in need. Victim Specialists respond immediately when called to assist victims alongside Patrol and Criminal Investigators.



Victim Specialists Teresa Kenrick and Scott Hultgren review Marsy's Law and the available services and resources

Victim Services Provided to Individuals

- Assisted with victim compensation - **24**
- Emotional support or safety services - **24**
- Emergency financial assistance - **6**
- Sexual assault services - **131**
- Information & referral - **243**
- Crisis intervention/counseling line - **17**
- Personal advocacy & accompaniment - **44**
- Transportation assistance - **5**
- Notification of criminal justice events - **133**
- Criminal/civil justice system assistance - **304**

Percentage of Victims Served by Race

- Native American - **50.5%**
- Caucasian - **46.2%**
- Black/Asian/Hispanic - **3.2%**
- Unknown Race - **.1%**



Blue, Teal, Purple Day for victims organized by Pennington County's Victim Specialists

Violent Crime Victims Served
333

Males
78

Females
255

Included in total:
Under Age 18 = **66**
Over Age 60 = **23**

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS

SERGEANT SCOTT SITZES oversees the Sheriff's Office School Resource Officer program. SROs are present in Rapid City, Douglas, and Hill City schools. An SRO does much more than respond to situations that could be disruptive to the school. One of the most important aspects of the

SRO is fostering a positive school climate by being a good role model, mentor, and guest speaker to our students and staff. Our SROs are proactive and engage with school administration, teachers, and students to ensure a safe learning environment.



Deputies Thad Schmit and Cody Rhoden at Stevens High School



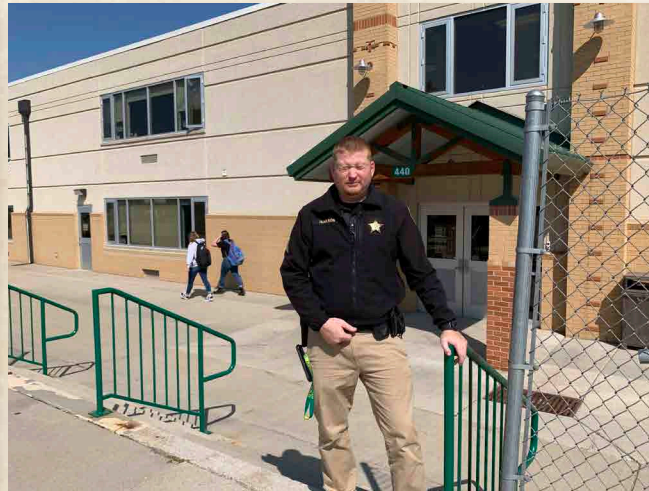
Deputy Kristina VanLoan at Southwest Middle School



Deputy David Riley at Douglas High School



Douglas School Resource Officers include Deputies Jayson Herra and Vic Gust, and Box Elder Police Officer Chris Swan



Deputy J. Marcus Isakson at Hill City School



Deputy Alix Whittle with East Middle School principals

SPECIAL RESPONSE TEAM

Now in its 31st year, 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. They work closely with the South Dakota Highway Patrol SWAT Team during training and call-outs.

The Special Response Team was activated eight times in 2021, down from 14 call-outs in 2020. The team was put on standby numerous other

times. This year the Star Academy in Custer offered unique training opportunities in the soon-to-be demolished facility. The team's mission is to safely resolve dangerous situations with as little force as necessary.



SRT exercise at Lamplighter Inn



SRT Commander Tony Harrison briefs team on simulation, November 22



SRT works a hostage simulation with negotiators and snipers

Papers Served

2019 - 10,616

2020 - 9,002

2021 - 9,816

Protection Orders

2019 - 986

2020 - 819

2021 - 864

No Contact Orders

2019 - 1526

2020 - 1467

2021 - 1484

Money Collected: Executions

2019 - \$155,852

2020 - \$725,486

2021 - \$296,797

Tax Warrants

2019 - \$122,484

2020 - \$108,686

2021 - \$80,530

Civil Fees

2019 - \$219,769

2020 - \$192,085

2021 - \$176,573

Sheriff's Sales on Executions

2019 - 8

2020 - 3

2021 - 4

CAPTAIN KRAIG WOOD - 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 budget.



From left: Dave Vandenhemel, Sergeant Ed Schulz, Dave Douma, Liz Doyle, Lisa Bellew, Tammy Ellison, Tana Gajeski, Bob Sanders and Kent Przymus

CIVIL DIVISION



2021 Pistol Permit Applications

Received **1,691** Denied **34** Regular Permit **1,399** Enhanced **254** Gold **4**



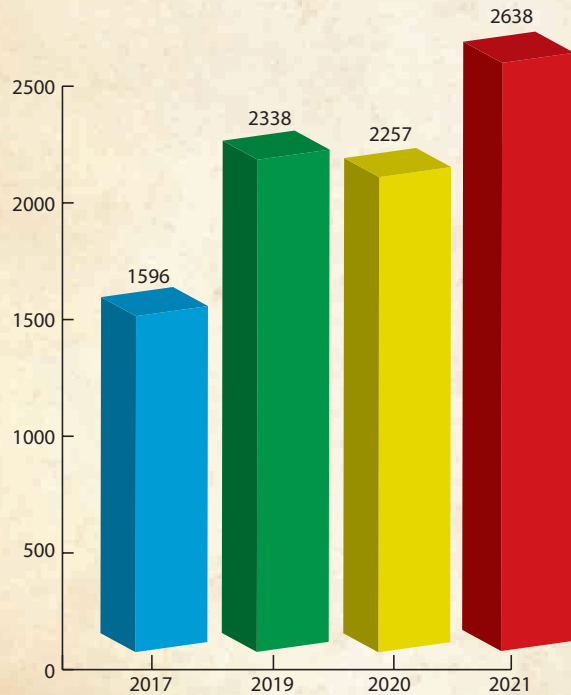
PCSO WARRANTS

The Warrants Division primarily focuses on arresting suspects wanted for violent felonies. One sergeant, three deputies and four clerical staff also offer daily self-turn-in services and manage the Northwest Shuttle. In 2021, Warrant Deputies traveled 42,770 miles to extradite fugitives from Colorado, Wyoming, Minnesota, North Dakota, Montana, Utah, Nevada, California, Texas, New Mexico, Florida, South Carolina, Missouri, Indiana, Wisconsin and New York.

2021 Warrants Processed

- Felony 3,934
- Misdemeanor 7,029
- City 128
- Other 270

Felony Drug Warrants



From left: Brandon Akley, Sergeant Jeromey Smith, Nichole Dubbs, Samantha Nelson, Jon Edwards, Robin McCool-Deneke, Abbee Griese

Total Warrants

Received 11,361
Served/Cleared 10,753
Fees Collected\$149,245

2021 Self Turn Ins
656 People
885 Warrants Cleared

Extraditions
87 Fugitives
 were brought back from other states

Transport

Deputies and Transport Officers transport adult and juvenile inmates to court appearances and medical appointments and to and from 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	11,008
Juvenile Inmate Transports	384
Inmates Transported by Bus	6,005
Round-trips to Sioux Falls	100
Trips to Health & Human Services Center	30

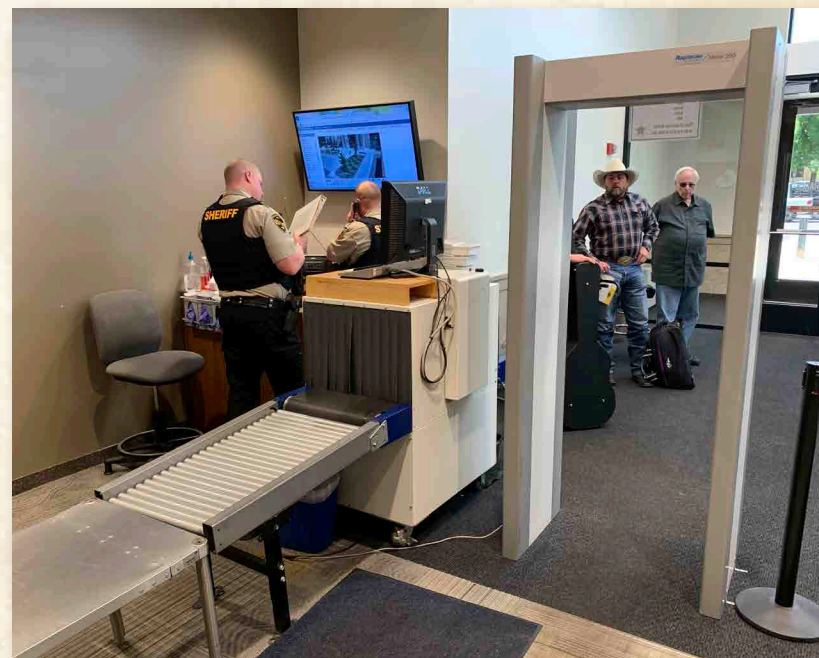


Front row: Shawn Stalder, Jane Cheesman, Thad Mason, Jason O’Cilka, Christine Heying, Taylor Erickson
Middle row: Eric Mendez, Brett Casey, Mischelle Boal, Glenn Miller, Caleb Dirksen, Matthew Chalk
Back row: Josh Kunde, Branden Spence, Eric Petersen, Bruce Seumanutafa, Neal Hofer, Kent Holland, Aaron Cox

TRANSPORT/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 responded to 120 incidents and 389 court remands into jail custody

PENNINGTON COUNTY JAIL



COMMANDER ROB YANTIS - Correctional staff in the Pennington County Jail are often characterized by integrity, interpersonal skills, strength and determination, and their insight into the safety and justice system. We are a unique facet of the Sheriff's Office and have a kindred team like none other. For some, Corrections is a proving ground. For others, Corrections becomes a lifestyle and a calling.

There are many reasons why good citizens dedicate their lives as stewards of community confinement. The most prominent is that they want to make THE difference every day. We provide warmth, food, health care, and protect the constitutional rights of the criminally charged while endeavoring to keep them from harming each other and themselves. We guide calmly, with strength and resolve.

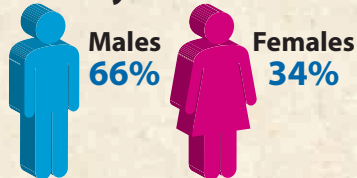
We are relentless because the human condition of selfishness and cruelty is relentless. We are the guardians of the unsafe, always hoping to show those broken by choices and circumstances that every life has value. We believe that tomorrow can become the most important part of a person's life regardless of what brought them to us. We are determined to do our job honorably, because that is who we are.

If you have courage and character, Corrections could be for you.

Average Daily Jail Population **593**

Total Inmates: **10,606**
Total Days: **221,870**

By Gender



Jail booking is always a busy activity center



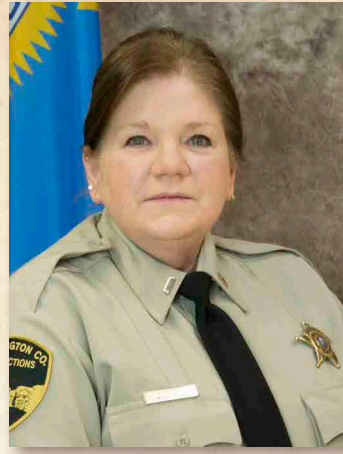
Jail Racial Demographics:

Asian: .28% (28 Inmates)	Native American: 56.72% (5,746 Inmates)
African American : 3.34% (338 Inmates)	Caucasian: 39.37% (3,968 Inmates)



New secure entrance at the Pennington County Jail

**PENNINGTON COUNTY
JAIL**



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.



Correctional Officer Christopher Daniel and Sergeant Tami Rosser work a cell block



Weekly jail classification meeting to review inmate status and housing

PENNINGTON COUNTY JAIL FOCUS ON STAFF



Captain Wade Anderson spreads the word about great careers in Corrections



Samantha DeCory says Corrections helped her deal with her shyness, and strengthens her leadership skills



Yovana Estrella-Johnson tells her personal story of why Corrections is a good fit



Kody YellowBoy encourages other Native Americans to serve in the Corrections field



Community Outreach in response to drug violence/murders

- Knollwood neighborhood block party, July 6
- Strengthening our Kinships healing event, November 19-22



The Jail Review Team launched in March 2019 to identify individuals who may be eligible for jail release or reduction with case delays. Between March 2019 and December 2021, the group looked at 1,975 individual cases. Over half were released from jail and/or actions were taken to reduce case delays.

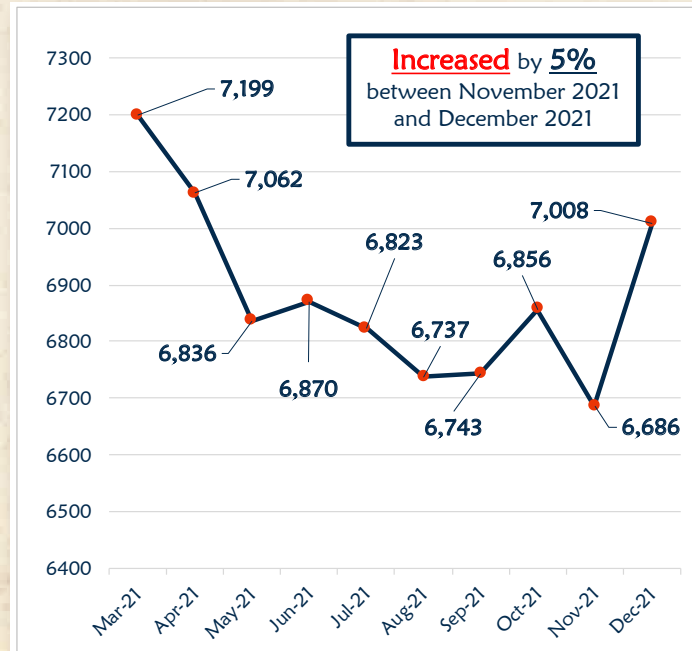
MACARTHUR FOUNDATION SAFETY & JUSTICE CHALLENGE



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



I.Am.Legacy began programming at the Pennington County Jail in June 2021 to encourage healing through a connection to the Native American culture.



ACTIVE WARRANTS IN PENNINGTON COUNTY

Due to a high number of active warrants in Pennington County, warrant resolution remains a top priority for the MacArthur Foundation Safety & Justice Challenge. The State's Attorney Office launched a hotline for individuals to check for active warrants and also held community events to explain the self turn in process. 1,589 warrants have been resolved since 2019. 331 of which were resolved in 2021.

PENNINGTON COUNTY JAIL GARDEN

The mission of the Jail Garden is to give incarcerated individuals or those in residential addiction treatment programs the chance to develop life skills and get them outdoors. In 2021, clients at the Care Campus worked in the garden through a challenging growing season. More than 17,500 pounds of vegetables were harvested for the Jail Kitchen and other charitable organizations. 600 pumpkins were grown for the annual community festival.



Master Gardener Bill Atyeo and Sheriff Thom



Care Campus clients work weekly in the garden as part of their rehabilitation



Bill Atyeo with his weekly shipment from the garden to the Jail



People lined up down the block for the annual pumpkin giveaway



Plenty of produce was available for the community to harvest



Jail Commander Rob Yantis and jail staff manning the event, offering cider and cookies to the crowd

PROGRAM DIRECTOR LUCAS OYLER - Some of the changes and practices that began during the Covid-19 pandemic continued into 2021. Total clients in the 24-7 Sobriety Program continued to be lower than pre-pandemic numbers. One of these practices was the introduction/increase of random urine testing, which allows for effective

monitoring at a reduced cost to participants.

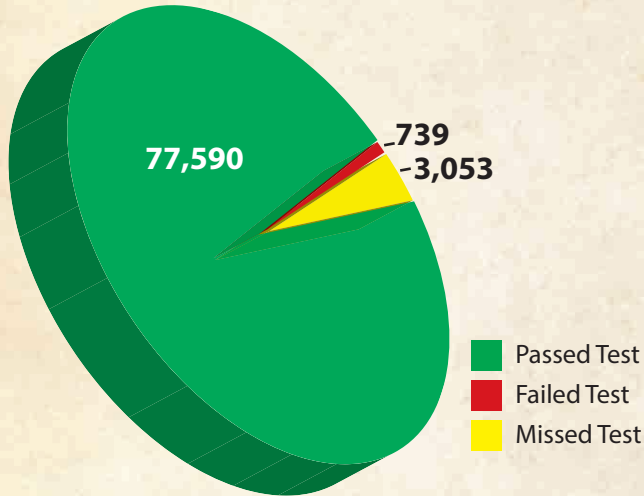
In addition, we have migrated all work release testing and documentation activities into the 24-7 program. This unification allows us to better monitor and record the results from individuals who are serving time on work release.

24-7 SOBRIETY PROGRAM

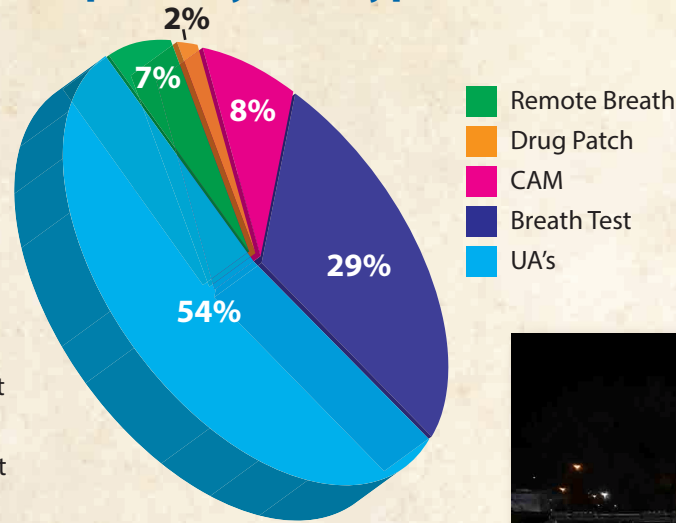


24/7 Test Results

(Includes UA & PBT Tests)

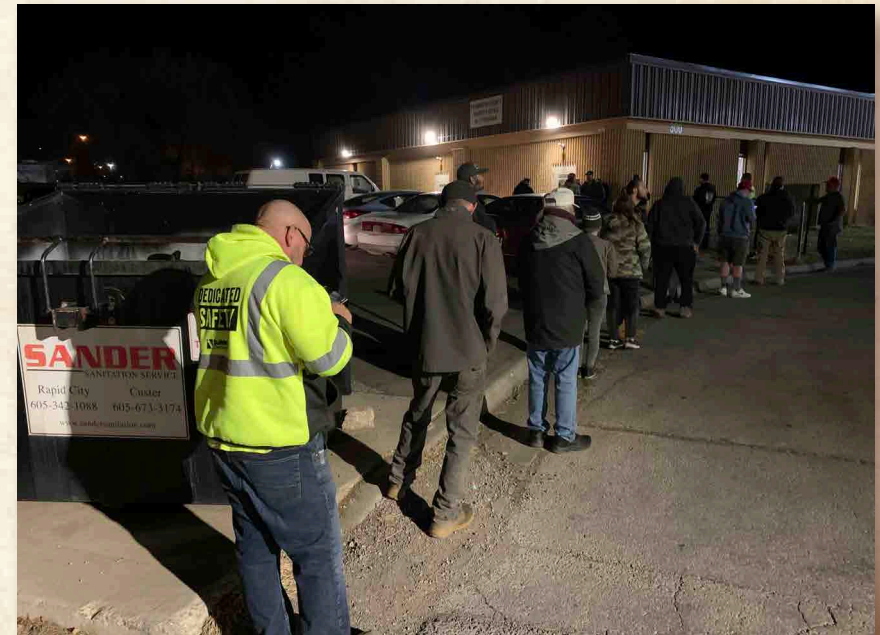
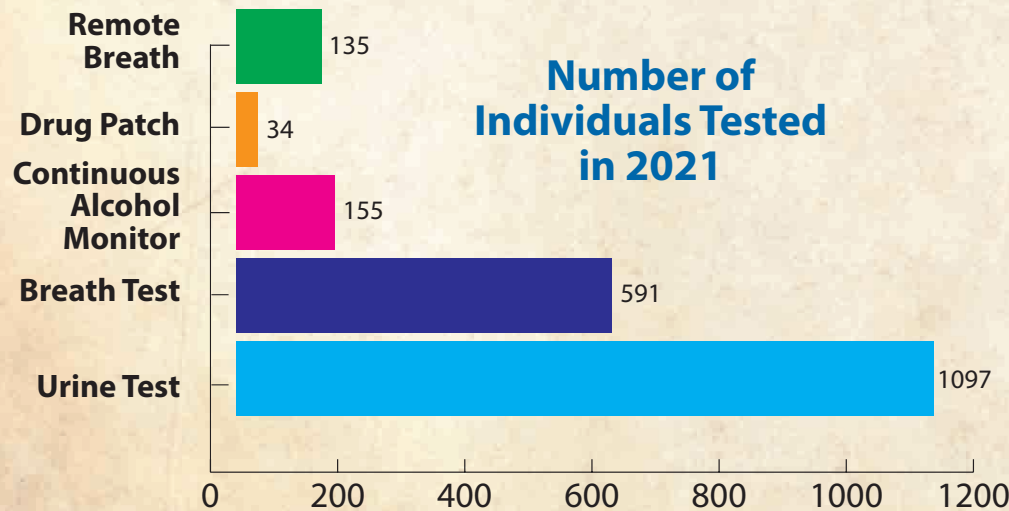


Participants by Test Type



- Remote Breath
- Drug Patch
- CAM
- Breath Test
- UA's

Number of Individuals Tested in 2021



Participants line up for daily evening testing

PENNINGTON COUNTY CARE CAMPUS



CHIEF DEPUTY WILLIE WHELCHER - The Care Campus continues to be a highly used and effective facility, providing addiction and mental health services with almost 80,000 intakes in three years of operation. In 2021, we moved to a new software system for electronic health records.

- 67% of visits are “self-referrals” which shows that the Care Campus is a preferred site for intoxicated individuals, offering safety and security to our community members.

- Law enforcement refers just over 1,000 individuals to the Care Campus each year as an alternative to incarceration. This solution increases public safety, is a more efficient use of Law Enforcement and more affordable option for taxpayers.

- The 8-12 hour length of stay indicates the facility is being used by clients in a manner that the individual feels welcomed and safe.



CARE CAMPUS

23,442 Total admissions

DETOX

6,018 Detox admissions

SAFE SOLUTIONS BEDS

16,273 Safe bed admissions (beds turn over multiple times each day)

ADDICTION TREATMENT SERVICES

46 Individuals in 12-hour DUI class

403 Treatment assessments

279 Admissions for residential treatment services

BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS CRISIS CARE

1,059 Total intakes

* Some clients use more than one service

PENNINGTON COUNTY CARE CAMPUS



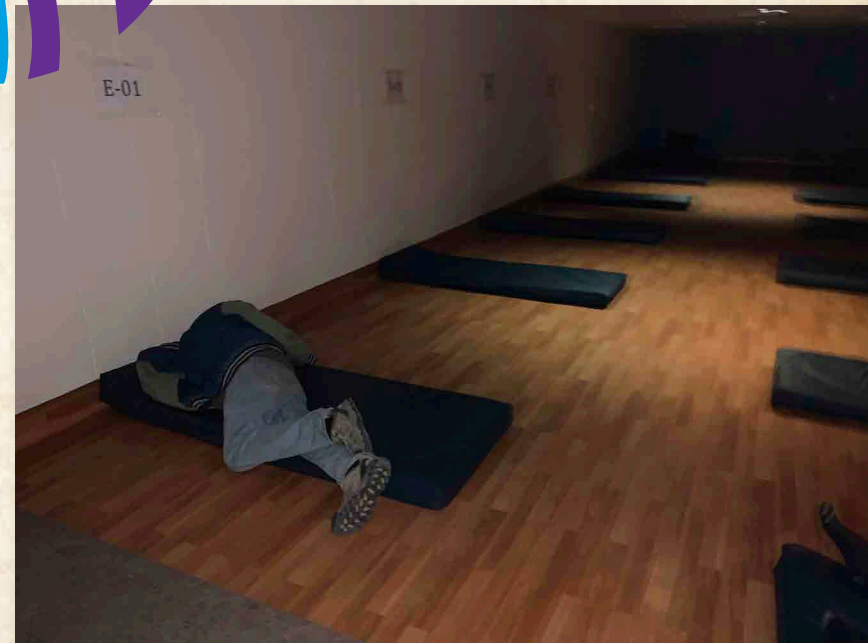
Deanna Nolan
Clinical Director



David Oster
Housing Director



Client Driver Richard Cameron and Detox Tech John Brown



Safe Solutions offers a safe place to get sober out of the weather

WESTERN SOUTH DAKOTA JUVENILE SERVICES CENTER



COMMANDER JOE GUTTIEREZ - The Western South Dakota Juvenile Services Center (WSDJSC) is nationally accredited by the American Corrections Association and has a joint powers agreement to serve as a regional youth detention facility for Pennington, Fall River, Custer, Meade, Lawrence, Butte and Harding Counties. It is one of three detention facilities in the country to house federal juveniles for the Bureau of Prisons and contracts with the US Marshals and the Department of Corrections.

WSDJSC offers alternatives to detention through electronic monitoring, including home detention and community monitoring. Weekly programming is available to the detainees including life skills, education, vocational and career

development. Detainees also take advantage of mental health, anger management, chemical dependency and sex offender programming. Community volunteers present classes on drug and alcohol prevention, power of choice and Lakota culture.

Located on the WSDJSC campus, a partnership continues with Lutheran Social Services (LSS) to run the Arise Youth Center. LSS also offers alternatives to incarceration with a reception center, shelter care and evening reporting center. LSS was awarded a grant to begin a street outreach program working with homeless, runaway and street youth to help find stable housing and services. The goal is to prevent the sexual exploitation and abuse of youth on the streets. In 2021, the street unit served more than 60 youth and their families.



JSC Administration: Heather Wood, Joe Guttierrez, Tim Lindblom



Correctional Officers Anesha Morton and Nick Wright with Chaplain Evan Fowler



Correctional Officer Llewellyn LongWolf with a detainee

Total Intakes: **350**
 Average Age: **16 years**
 Males: **65%**
 Females: **35%**
 Native American: **72%**
 Caucasian: **25%**

Average Daily Population: **31**
 Average Length of Stay: **33 days**
 Local: **17 days**
 Federal: **132 days**
 US Marshals: **70 days**
 Bureau of Prisons: **154 days**

Community Monitoring **90 juveniles**
 Average Length of Stay **26 days**
 Arise Youth Center Intakes **616**
312 stayed average of 10 days

EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH 2021

WESTERN SOUTH DAKOTA JUVENILE SERVICES CENTER



Anesha
Morton



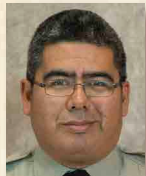
Trey
Jones



Adam
Byrd



Tim
Bray



Nick
Wright



Sandy
Carter



Darren
Patterson



Peter
Mitchell



Kelly
Braun



Becky
Elger



Ethan
Waldrop



Loren
Gerry



PCSO HUMAN RESOURCES



Director Steph McCoy and HR Generalist Kim Bloomenrader

DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES STEPH McCOY - Amidst the challenges of a workforce shortage, we were fortunate to have an influx of out-of-state applicants. These 30% of new hires brought many years of public safety experience to our agency. We also continued to benefit from a strong employee referral program.



Fewer applications forced us to think creatively, add new incentives and adjust processes to combat the delay in filling positions. Our division leaders reviewed personnel data on those who stay and those who exit, ensuring our selection processes identify the right fit and maintain high quality and character standards.



Circuit Judge Heidi Linngren swears in new deputies

2021 recruiting and retention efforts:

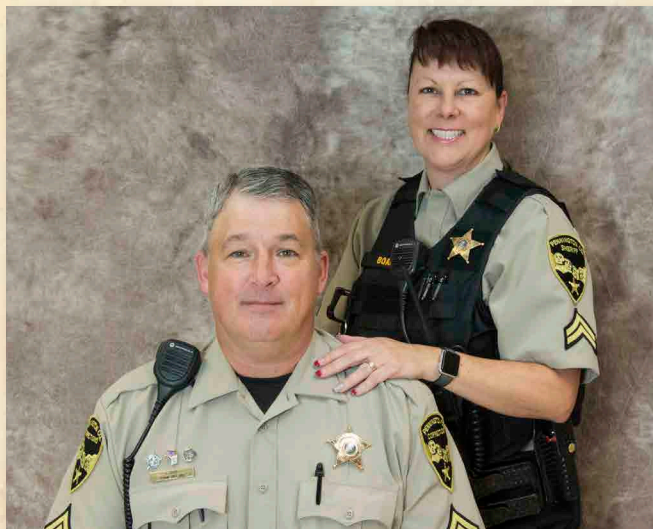
- EMT in-house certification program
- Correctional officer sign-on bonuses
- Air Force Skillbridge Program partner
- Uniform reimbursement agreement
- Double time overtime pay for correctional officer positions
- Correctional officer marketing campaign
- Build Dakota Scholarship Program sponsor
- Interview adjustments to focus on retention
- 12-hour shift pilot
- Employee annual feedback meeting
- Employee career advancement and retention fair
- Joint public safety career open house



Control Room Operator Payton Yellow Boy receives a star quilt from family

Over the years, the Sheriff's Office has benefited from a strong employee referral program that encourages current employees (our best recruiters) to identify friends and family who would make great coworkers. This year we wish to extend our appreciation to those who have recommended excellent additions to our team and assisted in the retention of quality, professional individuals.

PCSO HUMAN RESOURCES



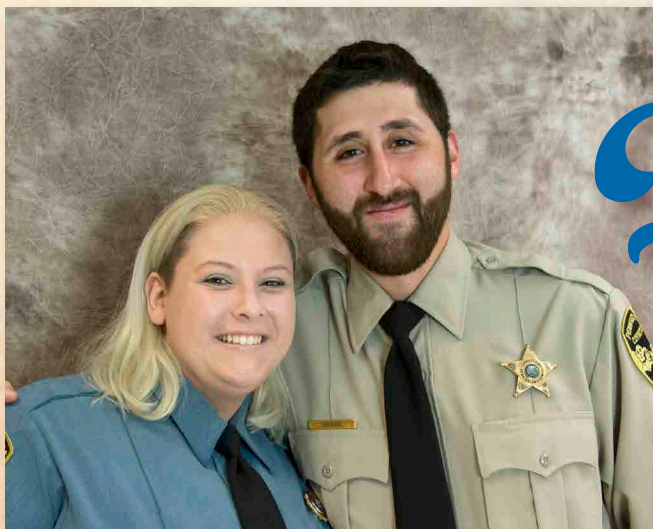
Jail Sgt. Jeff Boal and wife,
Deputy Mischelle Boal



Jail Sgt. Krystal Gentile and husband,
Correctional Officer Jim Gentile

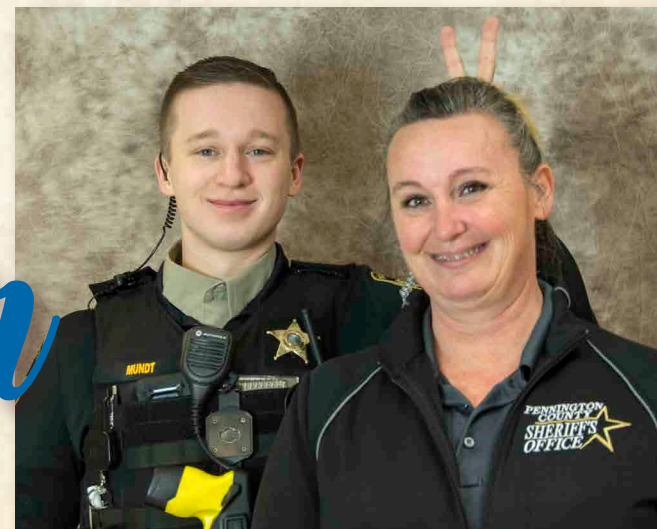


Patrol Lt. Chris Hislip and daughter,
Jail EMT Specialist Cayley Hislip



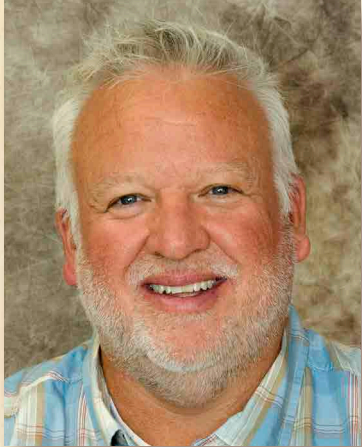
Booking Tech Maggie Espinosa-Cariveaux and husband,
Correctional Officer Daniel Espinosa

Family Affair



Deputy Jacob Mundt and mother,
Detox Tech Robyn Mundt

PCSO WELLNESS



WELLNESS COORDINATOR COREY BRUBAKKEN manages, promotes and delivers the five pillars of wellness (physical, emotional, spiritual, environmental and financial) to staff and their families. In 2021 our stand-up desk project was completed. A total of 47 desks were purchased for employees in every division. All new employees and their families receive wellness-focused training and informational resources. Our Peer Support Team had 160 confidential contacts with employees or family members.

- Wellness on Demand available at all four campuses
- Harley, our certified therapy dog, is available every Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning or as needed
- Wellness grants were secured from WorkWell and COPS
- Regeneration room with massage chair at the Care Campus for staff to relax, recover and renew



Harley, our certified therapy dog, makes rounds to check on employees



Dr. Roger Belisle, Ph.D.



CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST ROGER BELISLE offers unique psychological services, counseling and training that enhances wellness for all employees. He leads debriefings for first responders and law enforcement officers following critical incidents and performs psychological assessments for every new hire at the Pennington County Sheriff's Office, to help make sure those entrusted to serve and protect have their hearts and minds in the right place.

CHAPLAINS

Chaplains work proactively to form strong relationships and develop a level of comfort with our personnel and their families. They are available for counseling, spiritual guidance or liaising between staff in crisis and their own spiritual advisors. Our chaplains are here to support employees no matter what situations they face.



Chaplains hosting the annual Christmas party for PCSO employees



Chaplains hosted a lunch for PCSO retirees

**2021
Chaplains**
Becky Piper
David Piper
Todd Lynch
Chris Swarthout
Evan Fowler



Chaplain Chris Swarthout spends time with staff during chaplain office hours



1st annual Chaplains' Smoked Butt Challenge and lunch

PCSO TRAINING

The Sheriff's Office provides essential and comprehensive training for all four divisions. Our training is constantly updated to adapt to the changing times, laws and regulations. 40 hours of annual training is required of all correctional officers to meet ACA's accreditation requirements. We also provide a minimum of 40 hours of training every two years for all sworn deputies, which must include crisis intervention and response to resistance training.

In 2021, in addition to providing new hire training to over 128 new employees, we conducted our first-ever EMT Basic training for Emergency Medical Technicians assigned to our medical team.



PCSO Training Team: Patty Garland, Tony Verchio (standing) Gordon Larsen, Tim Malone



CPR training for new employees



Annual fitness testing for law enforcement and correctional officers



OC spray for anyone who carries the tool



Firearms training and certification



Training for safe and effective traffic stops

TOTAL TRAINING HOURS - PENNINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE EMPLOYEES 38,200



The Pennington County Sheriff's Office had nine deputies graduate from the Law Enforcement Training Academy in Pierre over two 13-week sessions in 2021.

ACADEMY GRADUATES



Pennington County's winter 2021 class, from left: Deputies Andrew Nyblom, Wes McPherson, Rio Shearer and Caleb Dirksen, February 4



November 19, 2021 graduation ceremony in Pierre. Patrol Captain Mark Hughes, Deputies Tyler O'Connell, Abigail Pi, Skye McKelvey, Andrew Butchart, Abe Wheeler and Lieutenant Dave Switzer



SEARCH AND RESCUE

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

A mild winter with continued Covid-19 disruptions created another unique year for Pennington County Search & Rescue. In 2021 we responded to more vehicle extrications but fewer searches for lost and missing persons.

While fewer people seemed to get lost on the trails, there were actually more people getting hurt or ending up in otherwise precarious positions. Our canine search team was successful

in finding many of the lost people. This success garnered national media attention in People Magazine and other national news outlets.

More than any other year, our team was called in several directions at the same time. One day in June we simultaneously handled a search near Black Hawk, a vertical rescue in the Badlands, and a vehicle extrication near Mount Rushmore.

Dedicated and responsive team members with appropriate, mission-ready equipment allowed us to handle it all. In 2021, we added electric vehicle extrication tools and replaced much of our older vertical rescue gear.

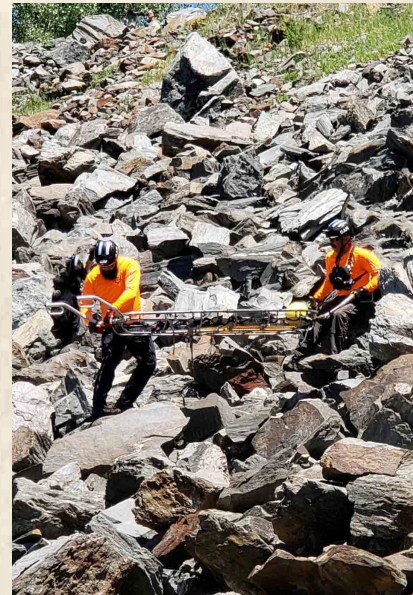
After a full year of training, 13 new team members joined Pennington County Search and Rescue in 2021 and a new class of recruits was selected to kick off 2022.

2021 Calls for Service

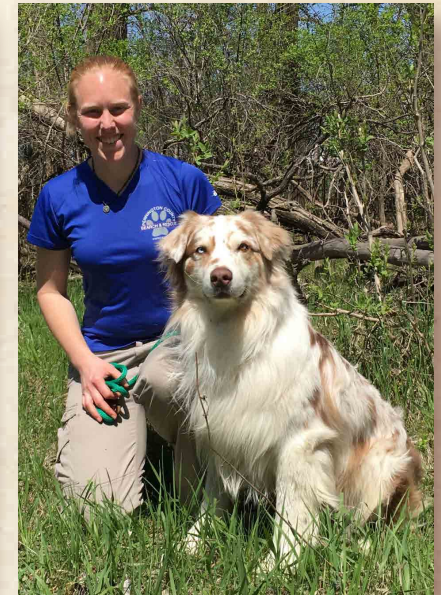
- 139 Calls
- 76 Vehicle Extrication
- 21 Search
- 20 Carry-out
- 12 High angle Rescue
- 10 Water Rescue



Search and Rescue handled more people hurt on trails, requiring carry-outs for medical assistance



Rescue on rocks in the Black Hills



Tiana Schuster and search dog Tango



The Rapid City/Pennington County Water Rescue Team directed more than 18 calls for service in 2021 for high-risk emergency response, including a deployment to Pine Ridge. The team includes personnel from the Pennington County Sheriff's Office, Rapid City Police Department and Rapid City

Fire Department. They provide local water rescue and recovery as well as a regional deployable response. In 2021 they trained multiple new members, put two new rescue boats into service and hosted a 40-hour salvage and recovery training with Dive Rescue International.

WATER RESCUE TEAM



Salvage and rescue training at Cold Brook Reservoir



Ice rescue training at Canyon Lake



The Water Rescue Team played a big role in the deep-water recovery of a drowning victim at Pactola Reservoir, July 28

OUT IN THE COMMUNITY



First Responder Night at the Black Hills Stock Show and Rodeo



Deputy David Riley accepts donations for I.Am.Legacy school supply drive



Deputy Jim Waldrop hosts Hill City crime awareness and prevention workshops



Peace Officer Memorial Ceremony in Pierre, May 12. Deputy Thomas Mossman represented PCSO in Honor Guard



Highway Patrol Captain Ketterling, Police Chief Hedrick, Sheriff Thom and athletes Matt Morin and LilyAnna Tipps promote Special Olympics



Knollwood Community Block Party, take a stand against violence

OUT IN THE COMMUNITY



Tough Enough to Wear Pink efforts to support breast cancer survivors at Care Campus



Deputy Will Christopherson led the old-time Jail Wagon in the Festival of Lights parade



Team Sheriff at 2021 Polar Plunge



Deputy Rio Shearer at the Badges for Hope Christmas shopping event for 60 families at Target



Rockerville Volunteer Fire Department led the gift drive for children at Black Hills Children's Home, including a letter from a deputy for each child



Deputy Vic Gust organized the Shoppin' with a Sheriff event for 20 Douglas School District families

COMMUNITY SUPPORT



Autism Society of Black Hills brings St. Patrick's Day donuts, March 17



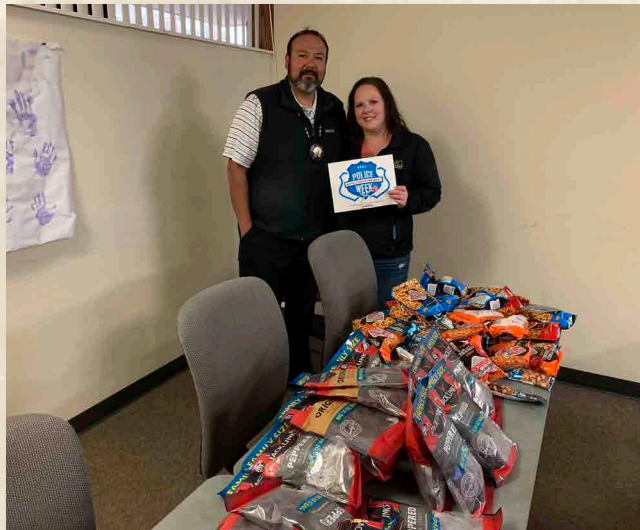
Holbrook family and Pennington County Republicans provide lunch, March 17



Cabela's Law Enforcement BBQ lunch, May 13



Lieutenant Chris Hislip, Teresa Kenrick and Rhonda Bohn set up for Pauly's lunch, May 14



Deputy Cameron Ducheneaux and Tammy Nelson deliver Scheels snacks for law enforcement, May 10



Lieutenant Dustin Morrison accepts donut delivery from Ryan Dolly Agency and family, May 14

COMMUNITY SUPPORT



Pennsylvania man donates pizza and pop during firefighting efforts, March 31



Adam Templeton with Farmers Insurance provides a generous Olive Garden meal, May 12



The Physical Therapy Center donates cookies and water bottles, May 11



ASI donates personal protective equipment for Care Campus, May 6



Jennifer Heckel gathers donations during evacuations and fire fighting, March 30



Front Porch Coalition lunch and gifts, September 8

EXPLORER PROGRAM

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 individuals between the ages of 15 and 21 to apply to be part of the Pennington County Sheriff's Explorer program. Contact Lieutenant Dave Switzer for details: (605) 394-6113.



From left: Sheriff Kevin Thom, David Riley, Brian Burgner, Neveyah Lampert, Brook Kruse, Brandi Sorensen, Jazlyn Millhouse, Nicholas Koehler, Norma Probst, Otto Sitzes, Amanda Swanson, Lieutenant Dave Switzer



2021 Explorer of the Year Nicholas Koehler



Deputy Gordon Larsen stresses firearms safety



Deputy Thomas Mossman helps Jazlyn Millhouse with a patrol rifle



Nicolas Koehler gets lessons from Transport Deputy Brenden Spence

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION



Adam Mooney
Meritorious Service Award



Angela Williamson
Meritorious Service Award



Cody Rhoden
Optimist Respect for Law Award



Josh Kund
Medal of Valor Award



Kelly Braun
Distinguished Service Medal



Matt Bowman
Meritorious Service Award



Paetyn Swigart
Certified Juvenile Correctional Officer



Jennifer McClain
1+1 KNBN Educator's Award



Art Dolor
Meritorious Service Award



Brian Austin, Jacob Mundt
Meritorious Service Award

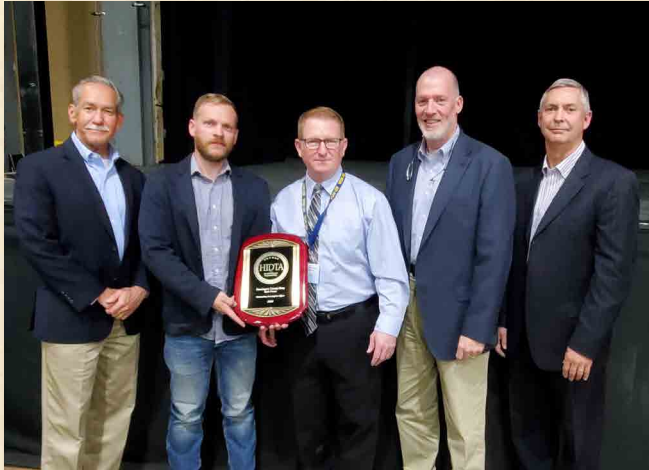


Michael Tilus
Meritorious Service Award



Jenna Kautzman
Meritorious Service Award

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION



Casey Kenrick/UNET
Midwest HIDTA Award



Samantha Decory
SDNG Distinguished Honor Graduate



Wes McPherson
Hero Award Scout Pack #33

PCSO RETIREMENTS



Samantha Brumbaugh, 25 years
Correctional Officer II



Melanie Karp, 22 years
Booking Tech



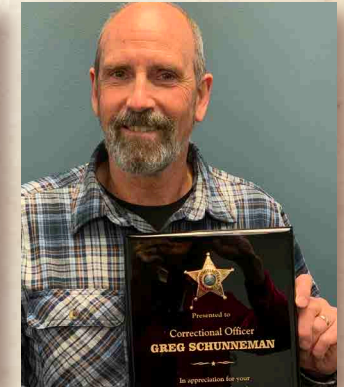
Delilah Ayers, 30 years
Administrative Assistant



Jolonda Ricke, 22 years
JSC Sergeant



Jeremy Danley, 21 years
JSC Sergeant



Greg Schunneman, 13 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 for 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.



EMPLOYEE WELLNESS

We are currently building a customized wellness phone app through Cordico for employees and family members. The app will feature wellness resources, self-assessments, instructional videos and other on-demand tools. A launch date is planned for January 2022. Also coming in the new year will be the addition of a part-time family liaison position.



CRISIS STABILIZATION UNIT

The 24-bed facility extension of the Care Campus should be finished and opened by the end of 2022. Behavior Management Systems' Crisis Stabilization Unit will help meet the mental health needs in our community and potentially serve all of western South Dakota.



FOCUS ON DRUGS

Most of the crime and violence in Pennington County has a connection with drugs, in particular methamphetamine. The PCSO and RCPD and the joint UNET task force will continue to prioritize illegal drugs and distributors in our area.

LOOKING TO THE
FUTURE

"The best way to predict the future is to create it."

– Abraham Lincoln

Our Mission:

Promoting safety and justice to improve
the quality of life in our community.



Kevin Thom - Pennington County Sheriff

300 Kansas City Street • Rapid City, SD 57701 • (605) 394-6113 • www.pennco.org/sheriff