# The Gold Star

**Second Quarter 2013** 

Volume 31, No. 2

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



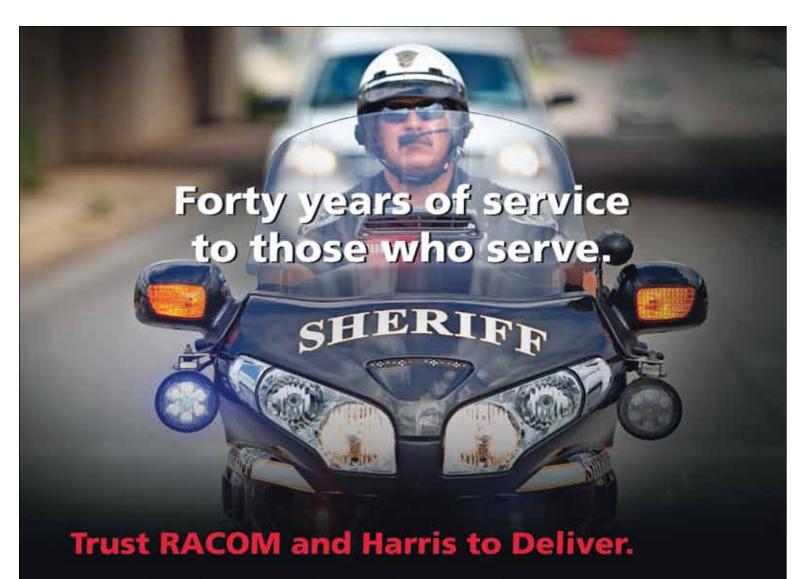
Every year, Iowa sheriffs sponsor children to go to Y-CAMP, and then drive them to the Boone, Iowa, camp site. And every year, the kids make friends, have fun and learn life lessons at camp. See Page 19 for more Y-Camp photos,

and see Y-Camper "Thank You" notes throughout.

www.ISSDA.org







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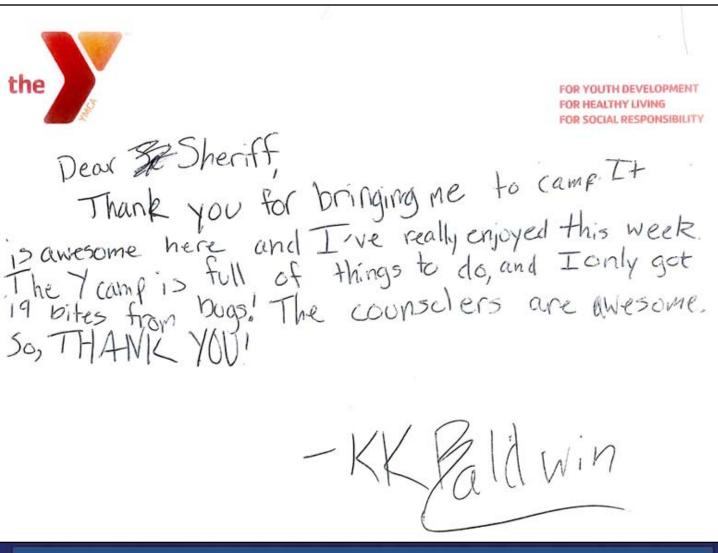






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Electronic Engineering Radio Communications RACOM

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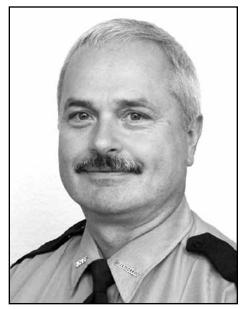
Shive-Hattery Uniform Den, Inc Keefe Supply Aramark CHC Correctional Healthcare Co. **CEC** 

Carpenter Uniform

### Old Timer's Mixed Emotions at Retirements; Legislative Committee Getting in Full Swing

Well, this is my final article as ISSDA President for *The Gold Star*. The time has gone by fast. I've really enjoyed the opportunity to serve in this capacity. I encourage all deputies and sheriffs to get involved by serving on the ISSDA Board. Serving as a board member or president made someone like me, who is not an outgoing or social person, go outside his comfort zone. This, along with the time commitment, has been a rewarding investment for me, individually, as well as for my county and the Sheriff's Office.

One thing I haven't enjoyed with this position is seeing new and old friends retiring. Don't get me wrong, I'm planning on being a retiree myself and will be ready when the time comes. Serving on the Board and different committees you become very close with each other; it truly is a family. Knowing you are probably not going to be working, sharing some laughs and some tears with that person again is disappointing. You start thinking everyone is getting old because they are retiring, and then it sinks in that you are the old timer. Something's just plain wrong with that, but what are you gonna do about it?



**Sheriff Jerry Dunbar** Washington County Sheriff's Office

The Legislative Committee is getting back into full swing. This is also a pension year, so IPER's will be closely monitored.

Another nasty letter directed at ISSDA from IGO's President Aaron Dorr came out August 13, 2013. I have received several

emails, again, from concerned citizens and I think I have responded to every one. After responding and showing the public articles that support the facts on ISSDA, all but one person has shown positive support for the ISSDA.

The Uniform Committee is still hard at it. The committee is trying to contact all the venders and have them attend committee meetings to see what products are available. I look forward to seeing their work and hearing from them at Winter School this year.

Jail School was held September 22-25, and the Jail and Schools Committee worked hard setting it up. Thank you to all who made it happen, and those who attended.

Please contact the ISSDA Board if you are interested in serving on the Board. This coming year there will be several deputy position openings due to board members' circumstances.

Sincerely, Sheriff Jerry A. Dunbar President, ISSDA

### Get Involved in ISSDA Board Elections at Winter School

We have had little interest in the upcoming board elections... These elections are held during the Winter School in December. Members will be getting a ballot in the mail in early November. HOW-EVER, we need deputies to get involved.

This year, deputies will be elected for a two-year, at-large board position and a board position, which could elevate you to the President's position. We also have a civilian position available, and this is a two-year commitment as well.,

Next year, it will be the Sheriff's turn for election. PLEASE, take the opportunity to get involved in YOUR association. As for cost to serve on the Board... there is none. For your overnight stays, ISSDA pays for the room. If you don't drive a county vehicle to the meetings, ISSDA will reimburse you. We have 10 meetings a year. May and June are our off months....

Take pride in YOUR ASSOCIATION and get involved.

Email your association at: thegoldstar@mchsi.com

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Thank you Bill Sage, Financial Administrator

## National Sheriffs' Assn. Convention Networking; ISSDA Booth at Iowa State Fair Gets Upgraded

Where has the summer gone? It seems like only last week I was attending several graduation parties. I only attended 32 parties this year, which is not as many as some years. Obviously I had a very busy summer.

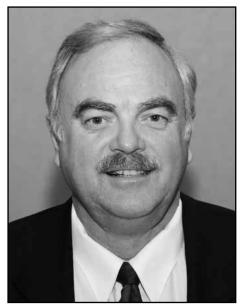
During June I had the opportunity to attend the National Sheriff's Association (NSA) Conference in Charlotte, North Carolina. This was the first time I attended the NSA Conference, and I was very impressed. Attendees heard many great presentations, had the opportunity to attend different receptions, visited a huge exhibit hall and enjoyed a very impressive banquet.

Each and every speaker I heard did a great job. If you did not learn something from the presenters, you were either sleeping or did not attend at all.

During the banquet on Wednesday evening, I almost felt underdressed in my suit and tie because so many of the individuals wore tuxedos.

Probably the most important part of attending this conference was meeting and talking with sheriffs and deputies from across the United States.

I encourage every sheriff and deputy to consider attending this conference. The training is great, the exhibit hall is fantastic, and you cannot put a price on the networking you do. And just so you know, the 2014 NSA Conference will be located in Fort Worth, Texas – which is just a day's drive from Iowa.



**Deputy Don DeKock** Mahaska County Sheriff's Office

I was only home for a couple of weeks when I attended the Iowa Sex Offender Registry Symposium at Prairie Meadows. I would have liked to have talked with one presenter – the mother of a young child who was kidnapped, sexually abused and murdered – after her presentation. But due to airline flights she was unable to stay longer at the symposium.

Then, I was off to Hamilton County to be the medical person at Riverside Bible Camp, just north of Story City, for 240 high-school-age campers. Sheriff Dennis Hagenson, of Hamilton County, did stop in to visit, and soon we had the camp director checking on why a sheriff's patrol vehicle was at the camp. I think Sheriff Hagenson made the office staff nervous when he drove by in a marked vehicle.

I was only home for a few days when it was time to set up the ISSDA Booth at the Iowa State Fair. If you either worked the Fair Booth or walked through the Hall of Law, you saw some noticeable changes in the booth this year.

The booth took a step up this year with two monitors playing continuously. The monitors came from the Hardin County Sheriff's Office, and the expertise on the videos played came from the Hardin County IT Department. A big "thank you" needs to be said to the Hardin County Sheriff's Office and their IT Department.

I want to thank Polk County Sheriff McCarthy for allowing the Polk County Kawasaki Mule to be put on display in the booth.

I want to thank each sheriff and deputy who worked a shift in the booth at the Fair. Without your assistance, the Fair Booth would not have been a success.

By the time you read this article, Jail School will have taken place. I am sure the Jail Committee put together a great school.

Always remember to keep the salt spray in your face, the wind at your back, and always remember whose hand is on the tiller.

Be safe out there

Don

### Plan now to attend the ISSDA Winter School: December 8 – 11, 2013

at the Embassy Suites Hotel, Des Moines

[Register online now at www.issda.org by clicking on "events" and then clicking on "December 8: Winter School 2013"]

### ISSDA at the 2013 Iowa State Fair

Thank you to everyone who participated by providing displays and/ or time!





Looking down the line of displays at the ISSDA Iowa State Fair booth. Right: Polk County provided a Kawasaki Mule for display.



Linn County Sheriff's Office Major John Godar applying kids' tattoos.



A Harley-Davidson motorcycle from the Black Hawk County Sheriff's Office tells its story.



The Hardin County Sheriff's Office provided two large monitors, and expertise on the videos played came from the Hardin County IT Department.



Linn County Sheriff Brian Gardner helps a young lady choose a design.

### 2013 ISSDA WINTER SCHOOL REGISTRATION

SAVE YOUR COUNTY \$25.00 PER PERSON BY REGISTERING BEFORE November 25, 2013

The Winter School will be held December 8th – 11th, 2013 at the Embassy Suites, 101 E. Locust St., Des Moines. The registration fee for attending the Winter School is \$150.00 per member, (\$175 after 11-25-13) or \$175.00 per non-member (\$200.00 after 11-25-13). MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

> Iowa State Sheriffs' & Deputies' Association Sheriff Bill Sage, Ret PO Box 526 Atlantic, IA 50022 thegoldstar@mchsi.com

Make your room reservations by calling 1-800-embassy before NOVEMBER 6th, 2013. After this date, the price increases and the rooms will be released. Remember, you can always cancel your reservation, if you change your mind, but if you wait you may not get a room and the price will GO UP.

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### **Register online at www.issda.org (events)**

I'm currently an ISSDA member	YES	NC			
County	Years of Ser	vice			
Members Name					
Email Address	@	)			
Guests Name					
Members paymentenclosed Will you be attending the Sunday Nig Will you be attending the Tuesday N	ght Banquet? _	yes	_ no	\$_	
Guests \$25.00 per nightly banquet					
Guests paymentenclosed				\$	
Will you be attending the Sunday Nig	ght Banquet? $\_$	yes _	no		
Will you be attending the Tuesday N	ight Banquet? _	yes	no		
Non-member pre-registration				\$	
Will you be attending the Sunday Nig	ght Banquet? _	yes _	no		
Will you be attending the Tuesday N	ight Banquet? _	yes_	no	Total \$	

The banquets are included in the school registration. PLEASE save your Association money by checking whether you will be attending the banquet or not. If you don't check the box, we will have to assume you will be attending. PLEASE CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX. THANKS!

### Jail School Held Sept. 22 – 25

### **By Sheriff Rick Penning**Grundy County

The Iowa State Sheriffs' & Deputies' Association (ISSDA) 2013 Jail School convened at the Airport Holiday Inn, Des Moines, from Sunday, September 22, through Wednesday, September 25, 2013.

On Sunday afternoon, registration opened for early arrivals and the evening included a meal and networking among attendees.

On Monday morning, Sept. 23, registration continued with numerous members taking advantage of ISSDA jewelry and clothing sales.

The Presentation of Colors was made by the Polk County Sheriff's Office Honor Guard. The invocation was given by ISSDA Secretary/ Treasurer Don DeKock, Mahaska County, and opening remarks followed by President Jerry Dunbar, of Washington County. Chief Deputy Kevin Schneider, of host Polk County, welcomed the attendees.

The morning training session opened with Linn County's Sheriff Brian Gardner and Major John Godar relating the events of the evacuation of the Linn County Jail in the flood of 2008. Their presentation started with planning prior to the flood, followed by the actual event and problems encountered, and ended with recovery efforts afterwards.

The morning continued with Iowa Dept. of Corrections Lt. Bernard Schnieder and Officer Christian Boyer talking about safety/ contraband/ cell Searches.

Following a delicious and filling roast beef noon lunch with apple pie, the first afternoon session was presented by Polk County District Court Judge Scott Rosenberg speaking on ethics.

ICAP attorney John Baum taught a session called "Law Enforcement Liability: The Claims and Litigation Process."

ILEA Jail Instructor Craig Matzke then informed us on searches.

The afternoon concluded with Iowa DCI Criminalist Supervisor Paul Bush bringing attendees up to date on the DNA database, and the fact that obtaining specimens will shift from the Department of Corrections to County Jails.

On Tuesday morning, Gail Sullivan



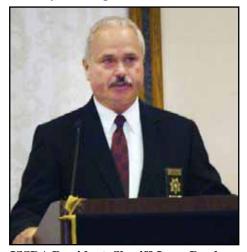
The Polk County Honor Guard presented the Colors at opening ceremonies on Monday morning.



Jails Committee Co-Chair Major John Godar.



Polk County District Judge Scott Rosenberg discussed ethics.



ISSDA President, Sheriff Jerry Dunbar.



Polk County Chief Deputy Kevin Schneider presented the host's welcome.



Gail Sullivan addressed post traumatic stress disorder and related topics.

### Jail School Held Sept. 22-25, continued

with the Justice Training Group of Chicago devoted the entire day to "Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, Veterans/ Officers, Suicides in Jails/ Suicide Prevention and new things we are seeing in jail settings."

On Wednesday morning, Chief Jail Inspector Delbert Longley talked on the history of jail inspections and other updates.

The 20-hour in-service concluded with Woodbury County Sgt. Mary Feiler updating everyone on the new PREA Standards. Sgt. Feiler distributed two very informational handouts on PREA, and she is willing to share with others by contacting her at Woodbury County Sheriff's Office.

Attendance at this year's Jail Conference was 190 people.



Iowa Department of Corrections **Chief Jail Inspector Delbert Longley** talked about jail inspections and updates.



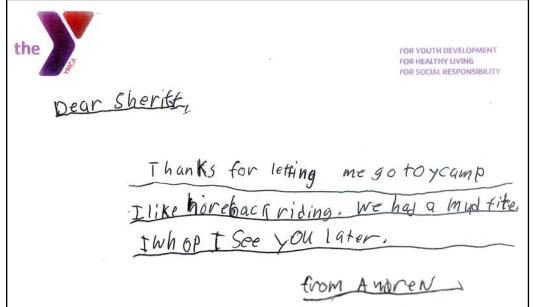
Iowa Law Enforcement Academy Jail Instructor Craig Matzke talked on searches.



Iowa Department of Corrections Officer Christian Boyer (left) and Lt. Bernard Schneider discuss safety and contraband cell searches.



ICAP attorney John Baum spoke on liability.



A "thank you" letter from a Y-Camper sponsored by an **Iowa sheriff:** 

## Linn Co. Deputies Extricate Child from Car Windshield, Start CPR

On May 18 at approximately 0046 hours, emergency workers responded to a two-vehicle collision with injuries on Highway #13 near Valley Farm Road north of Central City.

Linn County Deputy Sheriffs Jeff Norton and Chad Watkinson were the first emergency responders to arrive on scene. They found a pickup and van had collided head-on

The pickup was on the roadway and the van was in the east ditch. Although injured, the male driver of the pickup was found outside his vehicle walking around. The female driver of the van was found trapped in her vehicle, and was obviously deceased from her massive injuries.

While further examining the van, deputies Norton and Watkinson discovered the one-year-old daughter of the van's driver still buckled in her child safety seat, which was now lodged in the front windshield and dashboard of the van.

The deputies were able to extricate the safety seat containing the child from the windshield and the dashboard of the van. The child was found not to be breathing and a pulse could not be located.

Deputies Norton and Watkinson imme-



Linn County Deputy Sheriff Jeff Norton Life Saving Award recipient

diately began CPR in an effort to save the child's life. Paramedics arrived on-scene a short time later and began administering more advanced life-saving measures. The child was eventually transported by air ambulance to the hospital for treatment, where she was ultimately revived and is still recovering from her critical injuries.

It is the belief of the medical responders



Linn County Deputy Chad Watkinson Life Saving Award Recipient

that had Deputies Norton and Watkinson not arrived on the scene of the accident and begun CPR on the child as soon as they did, she would not have survived the collision.

Because of their actions, Sheriff Brian Gardner awarded Deputies Jeff Norton and Chad Watkinson the Life Saving Medal for the act of saving a life on May 18, 2013.

## **Linn County Nurse Ehrisman and Deputy Schmid Receive Life Saving Medals for Saving Inmate**

On Monday, March 4, at approximately 0720 hours, Linn County Correctional Center staff attempted to wake a male inmate to finish his booking/ ID process.

The inmate had previously been placed in the holding cell after being charged with Public Intoxication. Upon entering the holding cell, deputies observed that the inmate, who was found lying on his stomach, was unresponsive. When staff turned the inmate over, they observed that he was pulseless and breathless.

Deputy Sheriff Austin Schmid

began CPR on the inmate, and was assisted by Nurse Kelly Ehrisman who was just reporting for work. The inmate was transported to a local hospital by ambulance for treatment. The inmate was eventually discharged from the hospital and is alive today due to the actions of Deputy Schmid and Nurse Ehrisman.

Because of their actions, Linn County Sheriff Brian Gardner awarded Deputy Austin Schmid and Nurse Kelly Ehrisman the Life Saving Medal for the act of saving a life.



Nurse Kelly Ehrisman and Deputy Austin Schmid.

### Submerged Driver Saved by Jasper Dep. Burdess, Newton Ofc. Herman and Baxter Ofc. Bartello

By Sheriff John R. Halferty Jasper County Sheriff's Office

On May 30 at approximately 0204, Jasper County Sheriff's Office Dispatch received a 911 call on a large amount of debris on Interstate 80, just east of the 159 interchange. When Jasper County Deputy Jeremy Burdess arrived, he located a semi tractor trailer with the tractor end submerged in Prairie Creek, which runs under Interstate 80.

Deputy Burdess called for assistance immediately, requesting Colfax Fire Department and Barney's Wrecker Service. Newton Officer Adam Herman and Baxter Police Officer Joe Bartello also responded. Deputy Burdess, Officer Herman and Officer Bartello all entered the water, which was estimated to be over 12 feet deep, due to heavy rains and flooding.

The officers determined that the driver was trapped inside the cabin in a small air pocket. The officers were able to communicate with the driver and eventually, Officer Bartello swam underwater through the front windshield to lead the driver out. The other officers, along with the Colfax Fire personnel who had arrived, assisted with rescuing the driver.

The driver was identified as Dwayne Michael, age 70, of Granger, Iowa. He was transported to a Des Moines area hospital by Colfax EMS. Investigation into the cause of the accident continues. In addition to the responders listed above, Colfax and Prairie City Police Departments also assisted in the accident.







Above, in the center of the photo is rescued truck driver Dwayne Michael, surrounded by the law enforcement officers, Jasper County Dispatcher Carmen Keith, who handled the call, and members of the Colfax Fire Department who assisted in his rescue.



At left, Baxter Police Officer and Jasper County Reserve Deputy Joe Bartello, Newton Police Officer Adam Herman, and Jasper County Deputy Jeremy Burdess were presented Life Saving Awards for Valor by Jasper County Chief Deputy Duane Rozendaal.

## Clayton County's Deputy Host, Dispatcher/ Jailer Bahls, and Secretary Heck Recognized for Their Years of Service







On May 20, 2013, three members of the Clayton County Sheriff's Office were recognized for their years of service. They are Dispatcher\ Jailer Kathy Bahls, 25 Years of Service; Deputy Steve Holst, 15 Years of Service, and Secretary Jan Heck, 10 Years of Service. These dedicated employees have served Clayton County with dignity and professionalism throughout their career. The Sheriff's Office is grateful to have such dedicated employees as part of its staff.

### **Hardin County Promotes James Holmes**

At right, Hardin County Deputy James Holmes was promoted to chief deputy on May 4 by Hardin County Sheriff Dave McDaniel.





### **Shelby Co. Hires Pigsley**

At left, Nathan Pigsley was hired as a Shelby County Sheriff's deputy on September 3. Deputy Pigsley is a certified officer who came from Audubon County, where he worked for one year with the Audubon County Sheriff's Office.

## Ribbon cut on new jail, sheriff's office

By Randy M. Cauthron Managing Editor The Daily Reporter

"Wow," Clay County Sheriff Randy Krukow opened up with at the ribbon cutting and dedication ceremony for the new Clay County Sheriff's Office and Jail facility. "Thirty-nine years in law enforcement and I didn't know if this day would ever come."

He continued, "We wouldn't be standing here today if it weren't for the citizens of Clay County exercising their right to vote."

Law enforcement, private citizens, business owners and city, county and state legislators gathered to watch as a "Do Not Cross" tape was cut commemorating the special event. The guests were then invited to tour the facility.

Although the structure won't be pris-

"We wouldn't be standing here today if it weren't for the citizens of Clay County exercising their right to vote." - Clay County Sheriff Randy Krukow





Steve Davis, HMN Architects, and Project Manager John Hansen, with Midwest Construction Consultants, presented a plaque to Clay County Sheriff Randy Krukow (far right) and the Clay County Supervisors to commemorate the new Sheriff's Office and jail facility. Davis and Hansen made the presentation during Friday (June 28) morning's ribbon cutting and dedication ceremony. (Photos by Randy Cauthron)

oner ready until mid-July, with some final work remaining and staff training to be completed, Saturday it will be opened from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. for the public to tour. Krukow is encouraging visitors to bring food donations for the Feed Our Children program when they visit.

"Thank you all for coming to help us celebrate this day we've been waiting quite a few years for," Clay County Supervisor Ken Chalstrom said, "the day Clay County Sheriff's Department and jail move into the 21st century. What we've been living with definitely wasn't even the 20th century."

Steve Davis, with HMN Architects, said, "It's been a long time coming ... This facility can give you civic pride."

"It's a project you can be proud of," John Hansen, project manager with Midwest Construction Consultants, told the gathering. He pointed to the heightened security system and state-of-the-art geothermal, energy efficient building.

Davis pointed to the enhanced security technology capability. "The control officer can sit in that room (control center) and view inmates at all times."

Hansen thanked the staff and architects, the community for its support over the past year, and Clay County Auditor Marge Pitts "for helping us count dollars to keep it in budget."

"One thing we were able to do was use a lot of local contractors," Hansen said.

Davis added, "The citizens committee was amazing to work with."

Krukow suggested he had been visiting with Iowa Lakes Corridor Corporation President and CEO Kathy Evert to change the region slogan to: "Come to the lakes for vacation, leave on probation."

To this point, he hasn't had any luck.



## Linn County Sheriff Provides 24/7 Public Drug Drop Box

The Linn County Sheriff's Office (located at 310 2nd Ave S.W., in Cedar Rapids) now has a "drug drop box" in place that allows members of the public to discard expired, unused, or unwanted prescription drugs and medications for safe disposal.

The mailbox-sized drop box (shown in two views in the photos at right) is permanently mounted in the Sheriff's Office visitor's parking lot off the 2nd Avenue entrance, near the handicap access ramp.

The public may access the drop box 24/7/365, and do so anonymously. Any and all types of unwanted medications and drugs – including illegal drugs – may be placed in the container. Prescriptions turned in for disposal need not have the information label on the container.

For the safety of all involved, it is asked that no needles or sharp objects be dropped in the box.

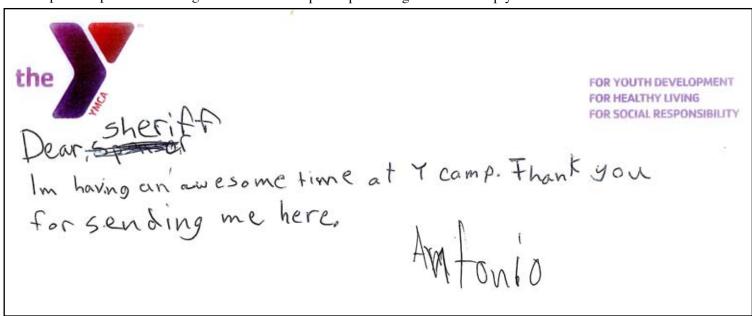
The drop box is emptied on a daily basis. The discarded drugs will be collected and forwarded to the DEA for final disposal as part of their drug take-



back program. Drug drop boxes are provided by law enforcement agencies to allow citizens a safe and convenient way to dispose of expired, unused, or unwanted prescription drugs and medi-



cations. This helps prevent drug abuse and unintentional overdose deaths, and helps keep discarded drugs from contaminating landfills and the water supply.



### **Shopping Safely Online**

#### By Steven Parker

Des Moines Co. Sheriff's Office (Retired)

During the course of the day, you may write a check at a store, charge tickets for a special event, or apply for a credit card. Chances are you don't give these everyday transactions a second thought. However, other people may, and try stealing your identity.

As with millions of people, I enjoy purchasing items at online auctions for personal use, and hobby collections, and making travel reservations.

Has this ever happened? You send your check to the seller but never receive the merchandise ordered.

Many seniors – due to the high cost of medications – have decided to purchase medicine online. Is it safe to do?

The Internet is an exciting shopping tool that places large amounts of information at your disposal. With a click of a mouse, you can purchase any type of items for gifts, make travel arrangements for that special trip, rent a video, or get that personal item you have longed for.

Good deals, the convenience and choices are great pluses the internet has to offer. However, before it is used an individual needs to become cyber smart and make the online experience a safe one.

To help make your online shopping experience a safe one:

Only purchase items from companies that you personally are familiar with. Anyone can set up an online store under almost any name. If you are not familiar with an online store, ask for a catalog to get a better idea of their merchandise and services.



Steven Parker

Also, be sure to determine a company's return/ refund policies before making the purchase.

Keep your password private. Never give your password to anyone, and avoid using a birthday or a portion of your Social Security number for your password. If possible, use a combination of letters or numbers. A safety tip that I learned from a conference several years ago was to refrain from using the same password repeatedly. Individuals have the tendency to use the same password to keep from forgetting. Once the password falls into the wrong individual, it wouldn't be difficult to reuse under other circumstances to open your other accounts.

Consider using a secure browser. A browser is the software you use to navigate the Internet. Your browser should comply with all industry security standards. These standards will scramble or encrypt pur-

chase information a person sends over the internet. Most computers have a browser installed. If not, browsers may be downloaded from internet sites.

Purchase items through the internet by credit card or PayPal Account. If you pay by credit card, your transaction will be protected by the Fair Credit Billing Act. Under the law, you have the right to dispute charges under certain circumstances and temporarily withhold payment while the creditor investigates them. PayPal is a secure site, and the transaction is quite fast. Once again, passwords are utilized and should contain multiple numbers and numerals.

Keep all purchase information private. Do not provide your Social Security Number, email address, telephone number or address unless you know who is collecting the information, why they are collecting it, and how they will use it.

Saving all purchase information and keeping records of all online purchases is highly recommended. This includes emails and records of any telephone conversations. Good record keeping will help eliminate problems in case of billing or shipping errors, or not receiving the product ordered.

Make your shopping ONLINE a safe one. Working Together We Can Help Mc-Gruff "Take A Bite Out Of Crime."

About the author: Steven Parker retired fro

m the Des Moines County Sheriff's Office as a sergeant in 2011 after 36 years. He is still active in crime prevention, portraying McGruff the Crime Dog and doing the National Voice on PSA's.

## Sponsor Opportunities at the 2013 Winter School at Des Moines' Embassy Suites on Dec. 8 – 11, 2013:

Any vendor interested in sponsoring a lunch or hospitality at the ISSDA Winter School 2013 should contact Sheriff Gregg Elsberry at 515-433-4781, or by email at gelsberry@boonecounty.iowa.gov. All vendors wanting to register for the Winter School should contact Sheriff Elsberry. Sponsor information will be posted soon on issda.org for Winter School 2013. Thank you for your support!

### Iowa State Sheriffs' & Deputies' Association **Apparel & Product Sales**

To access the page, go to issda.org, then click on "Sales" at the top right of the page

**Woven Shirts** 

**T-Shirts** 

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**Pants & Shorts** 

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**Polos/Knits** 

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Workwear

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Caps

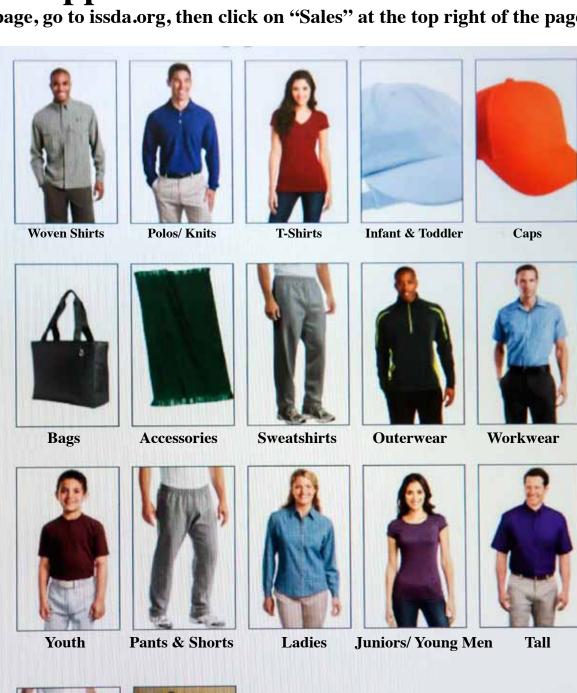
**Flashlight** 

**Fabrics** 

**Brands** 

**Occupations** 

**Price** 





Order one item of 50 items and pay only \$10 shipping

**Check out our ISSDA Online Catalog!** 

### ISSDA's Y-Camp Kids Enjoyed Making Friends, Trying New Activities and Learning Life Skills

The Des Moines Y Camp hosted its annual Sheriffs' and Deputies' camp June 16-22. More than 95 kids came to experience the joys of participating in a classic summer camp.

The Campers lived in cabins with two Y Camp leaders and eight to 10 other youth. Each camper had the opportunity to individually choose three activities to participate in each morning. Options included rock climbing, nature, archery, riflery, arts and crafts, soccer, canoeing, music, and outdoor living skills.

In the afternoons, campers spent time with their cabins, swimming, hiking, horseback riding, playing games and building friendships. One camper, Damien, said, "This is a really fun camp. I wish I can come again to Y Camp. This is too fun. I don't want to leave. I have made a bunch of friends!"

The partnership between ISSDA and Y Camp is a long-standing one spanning decades. Because of this partnership, deserving youth have the opportunity to get away from the "real world" and unplug, interacting with nature, acting goofy, singing songs and building friendships.

Camp is a place that many youth describe as being non-judgmental and a home away from home. Everything from water balloon fights to tye-dye and s'mores around the campfire add to the experience.

While camp is a lot of fun, it also provides youth with a unique and life-changing experience. Campers learn to be part of a community.

Research has shown that kids who go to camp do better in school, college, and communal living situations. Living at camp, youth learned to share space and work and live with each other. During the week, campers made lasting friendships and learned about the four character values of the YMCA: caring, honesty, respect and responsibility.

Evening programs focus on these character values, inspiration, and relationship building.

It was both a fun and meaningful week for the campers.

The Y Camp can't wait to see more youth from ISSDA next summer!



## Y-Camp 2013 Kids Write Letters Thanking Their Sheriff Sponsors

