NEBRASKA STATE PATROL

INFORMER

Volume 66

2020—First Quarter

NSP Informer Staff Editors: Kimberly Skala,

- Editors: Kimberly Skala, Cody Thomas
- Contributors: Capt. Scott, Capt. Hicks, Capt. Lewis, Capt. Schmidt, Capt. Von Minden, Capt. Caradori, Brenda Coufal, Trina Cherovsky, Col. Bolduc, Chris Peters, Rev. Jim Splitt

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COVID-19 Affects Operations For several weeks now, the nel continue work-

novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) has been altering daily life around the globe. Nebraska is no different. Nebraskans continue adapting to a new normal and take precautions against contracting COVID-19.

Just like Nebraskans everywhere, the Nebraska State Patrol (NSP) has had to adjust to the ongoing pandemic. Conferences and large trainings have been cancelled or postponed, out of state travel has been banned, and meetings have been moved to Skype or done via phone. The Patrol has issued everyone an N95 mask and has encouraged social distancing and increased sanitation of work stations.

Despite a global pandemic, crime continues on. Thus, NSP personnel do too. Troopers, Investigators, Records Technicians, and various other personing Pro Bono Publico (for the good of the public). Schedules and normal workflow may have needed adjustments, but still we continue forward as a team.

In efforts to follow guidelines and restrictions set forth by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention

(CDC) and Governor Ricketts, Nebraska State Patrol employees have been working from home as they can, while others have adjusted schedules to reduce the amount of people in a given area.

For instance, our Criminal Identification Division (CID) has created a shift-like schedule for their personnel. Each team with-



in CID have reduced the amount of people are in the office at a given time, and fingerprint appointments are being spread out in efforts to reduce traffic in public areas. Similarly, Human Resources (HR), Accounting, Information Technology (IT), Legal, and the Nebraska Information Analysis Center (NIAC) are following suit.

Ongoing Positivity and Hope

The Nebraska State Patrol continues to stay positive during

these tough times. Elbow bumps and friendly smiles are taking place of handshakes, and Troopers continue engaging in their communities. Examples include participating in "bear hunting" (this is where families are encouraged to drive or walk around hunting for hidden Teddy Bears throughout their community), highlighting sidewalk chalk drawings on social media, and swinging through the local coffee shop drive through. Some Nebraska communities have put Christmas lights back up in efforts to lift spirits.

Times are tough for everyone, but the NSP continues fighting crime and being a beacon of hope in these unprecedented times. The 2019 floods couldn't stop Nebraskans, and neither will a global pandemic. We are Nebraska Strong.

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Around the State

Troop A

First quarter was very busy and productive for Troop A. As of March 26th, Troop A has had 15 pursuits and 13 use of force incidents in the first quarter. Twenty-two arrests were made from these cases.

Additionally, Troop A personnel proudly provided numerous escorts for COVID-19 patients as they made their way to the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) or Camp Ashland for care.

Not only have they been serving medical professionals, but they have continued working on various projects with partnering agencies. Troop A has been assisting Omaha Police Department (OPD) in high crime areas and with on-going Data Driven Approach to Crime and Traffic Safety (DDACTS) selectives. Together they have been conducting special saturation patrols of Northeast Omaha.

February and March have shown an increase in the number of shooting in the Omaha area. There has been 12 shot spotter activations in one weekend from 8 separate shootings.

Troop A's first quarter was full of teamwork, professionalism, diligence, and compassion.





Troop B

Troop B has been rather busy during the first quarter also.

On February 27th, Investigators arrested a 59 year old Norfolk man on changes of first degree sexual assault of a minor, and for possession of child pornography. This arrest follows an investigation beginning in January 2020.

As the month of March rolled around, Troop B personnel were instrumental in working with the United States Marshals Service (USMS) to locate a Thurston County Jail escapee. An NSP/USMS warrant task force out of Sioux City conducted several knock and talks, and utilized electronic surveillance on the escapee's social media accounts. The escapee was located in Council Bluffs, lowa, and was taken into custody.

Troop B, additionally, mobilized Alpha SWAT after a request came in from Columbus PD. Together, Columbus PD and Alpha SWAT conducted a residential warrant. No one was located in the house.

Professionalism, officer safety, and a sense of urgency were displayed in various ways throughout Troop B's first quarter.

Troop C

Troop C remained active with several drug interdictions and search warrants. Additionally,



Troop C experienced the highs of welcoming two babies into the world, and the sorrows of unexpectedly losing Trp. Dale Fahnholz.

Trp. Avery repeatedly found drugs during traffic stops in January. On the 9th, he located 11 pounds of meth in the dash of a vehicle; on the 19th, he discovered 46 pounds of marijuana in duffle bags and luggage; and on the 27th, he found 8 pounds of cocaine and 5 pounds of fentanyl in floor compartments of a van.

Investigative Services conducted a Search Warrant in Upland. Their search revealed 32 guns, ammunition, and illegal guns in the possession of a convicted

felon.

The close of the quarter brought Troop C the birth of two future Troopers. Trp. Richardson and his wife welcomed Evan Eugene, while Trp. Cassidy and his wife welcomed Brextyn Cole.

The diligence and teamwork displayed in Troop C's first quarter will help make Nebraska safer for these little ones.

Troop D

Similar to other Troop Areas, Troop D stayed busy throughout the first guarter. They not only participated in their regular law enforcement duties, but they also engaged in their community in a variety of ways.

Regular patrolling duties in Troop D aided in furthering a homicide investigation North Platte Police Department (NPPD) has been conducting. Trp. Golden diligently checked license plates near the Cozad rest stop. His efforts identified a vehicle that was possibly tied to the crime, which also helped investigators fill in a timeline of events. The suspect, William Stanback, has since been arrested and is currently awaiting prosecution in Lincoln County.

In another homicide investiga-

Colonel's Corner

tion, Troop D teammates demonstrated a sense of urgency as they assisted in the search for Jeremy Bailey and Chris Corbit who are suspects in a homicide in Tulare County, California. The suspects were believed to be staying with family before fleeing the area, where they were later apprehended in Utah. Troop D Investigative Services working on filing aiding and abetting charges, and Bravo SWAT was mobilized to clear the residence where Bailey and Corbit were holed up.

Additionally, Trp. Naughtin teamed up with Sutherland FFA for the 2nd annual "We Have You Covered" campaign. Sutherland FFA members provided Troopers with blankets to use for those involved in a traumat-

pated in the Special Olympics Polar Plunge in Kearney. On the day of the event, ice was so thick that chainsaws were required to break it up.

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Efforts by everyone in Troop D not only kept the community safe, but also strengthened relationships among teammates and with the public.

"Despite the great confidence in the men and Patrol." Col. John A. Bolduc



As usual, our dedicated Troopers, Civilians, and Volunteers are stepping up to serve Nebraska in extraordinary ways during the global pandemic that has upended our way of life as Americans and Nebraskans. The Nebraska State Patrol is no stranger to overcoming adversity. Tornados, fires, floods, extreme winter storms, armed bandits, complex criminal cases, and just about any other obstacle you can think of, has been overcome by teamwork and ingenuity in our proud 80+ year history.

Like many other challenges, this one hasn't exactly come with a script. I find myself wondering if the information we are providing, and the decisions we are making, are giving us the best chance of success. This goes back to the part about not having a script. We will likely face shortages of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and other essentials. We will probably have a good percentage of our workforce quarantined or ill at some point. If we are like other parts of the world, this may be one of the biggest public safety challenges we've faced yet. Despite the somewhat dire outlook, I have great confidence in the men and women of the Nebraska State Patrol. Why? Because we have taken on every other challenge with professionalism, courage, and innovation.

By the time this edition of the Informer is publish, we may be past the worst of it, or the worst of it may be yet to come. We may face losses personally and corporately. Regardless, we will no doubt look back at

the first few months of this global crisis and proudly exclaim that we met the challenge head on, like we always do.

somewhat dire outlook, I have women of the Nebraska State



Troop E



Whether it be a winter storm or a global pandemic, Troop E proudly continues serving Nebraska and engage in their communities.

Near the end of March, Trp. Grabill initiated the pursuit of a suspect who swerved in an attempt at hitting him

on Interstate 80 near Lodgepole. The suspect was taken into custody using minimal force. Charges include DUI, assault on an officer using a motor vehicle, and other changes. Fortunately, Trp. Grabill was unharmed.

Troop E Investigative Services personnel found themselves working an accidental shooting in Sheridan County during the first quarter. One female died in this incident. Although the investigation is still on going, there doesn't appear to be any felonious activity.

Not only do Troopers sport NSP attire, but they also "fight crime" and engage in their communities dressed as Scooby Doo characters. Sgt. Baer, Trp. Flick, Trp. Jaramillo, Trp. Dusatko, and Trp. Horak all participated in the Panhandle Polar Plunge in efforts to raise money for the Special Olympics. Their Scooby Doo costumes (and their meddling dog) won them the Best Team Theme Award.

Troop E also welcomed Trp. Jackson, Trp. Lassen, Intern Miller, and Staff Assist. Tamera Leeling to the area.

Troop H The Troop H Uniform Patrol

Division remains active and committed to criminal interdiction on Nebraska roadways. During the first quarter, some noteworthy criminal interdiction arrests include multiple traffic stops netting 236 pounds of marijuana and 13.5 pounds of methamphetamine.

Additionally, on February 22nd, Troop H Investigative Services Division investigated an assault at the Nebraska State Penitentiary in Lincoln. An inmate brutally assaulted a Nebraska Department of Corrections Officer to the point of unconsciousness. The officer was taken to the hospital in critical condition and placed in a medically induced coma. He has since recovered consciousness, and the investigation continues.

Two days following the aforementioned assault, a large scale contraband search of housing unites was conducted at the Nebraska State Penitentiary. Personnel from Troop H Uniform Patrol Division, Troop H Investigators, Police Service Dog teams, and Alpha SWAT assisted the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services during this operation.

The turn of a new year brought two new Troopers to Troop H—Trp. Knudson (#367) and Trp. Schoenefeld (#389). Both Troopers are stationed in Lincoln.



Carrier Enforcement

Prior to COVID-19 travel restrictions, three Carrier Sergeants got the opportunity to attend the 2020 Cooperative Hazardous Materials Enforcement Development (COHMED) Conference in



Louisville, Kentucky. Sgt. Stahl, Sgt. Ramsey, and Sgt. Wagner gained valuable knowledge and built relationships with industry, enforcement, and regulatory partners. Everyone involved strives to continue safe trans-

portation of hazardous material.

On Wednesday, March 25th, Trp. John Lewis led the "We Miss You Caravan" organized by Waverly school teachers. Due to the ongoing pandemic, teachers creatively found a way to see their students while still complying with implemented guidelines and restrictions. They drove single file around town smiling and waving to their students who were standing outside their homes. Teachers greatly appreciated the Nebraska State Patrol and the Lancaster County Sheriff's Department for assisting in making this possible.

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Camp 62

Beginning January 6th, 2020, eighteen individuals began their journey of becoming a Trooper. Sixteen recruits are still going strong with training at the NSPTA. Each day they are gaining knowledge and skills for being a Nebraska State Patrol Trooper.

Recruits begin their day with a morning workout, breakfast, and the raising of the flag. Training continues throughout the day as recruits learn the ins and outs of being a Trooper. Emotional Intelligence, Juvenile Justice, Evidence Procedures, and Ethics are just a few topics that are covered in training. Though all subjects taught throughout basic training are important, some of the more "exciting" curriculum includes Driving Under the Influence, Defensive Tactics, and Fire-

arms. Basic recruit camp isn't just about learning the ins and out of being a law enforcement officer, it is also about building relationships with those around you. Over the course of the 22 weeks, recruits are also becoming family. There is a genuine camaraderie developed among campmates.







The Training Academy has also needed to make adjustments to the way they run Camp 62 Basic Recruit Training due to the on-going COVID-19 pandemic.

Instead of having all sixteen recruits in one room during class, Commanders have split recruits into two groups—eight recruits will be in one room, and eight recruits will be in another. Additionally, recruits are no longer marching as one group, but rather as two groups. Housing in the barracks have also been reduced to one person per room.

Though there has not been suspected presence of COVID-19 at the TA, all precautionary measures are being taken to reduce the risk of contracting and spreading the disease. Commanding personnel, instructors, and recruits are adjusting accordingly.



"Adaptability is one of the core values for the Nebraska State Patrol. Camp 62 has embraced this value and continues to progress rapidly through their training cycle with all the challenges the pandemic has created." Capt. Jeff Roby





In Loving Memory

March 2020 was full of sorrow as the Nebraska State Patrol lost three valued teammates— Trp. Dale Fahnholz, Lt. Craig Loveless, and Comm. Spec. Barb Klinetobe. Although they were not line of duty deaths, each one brought grief, humility, and several memories agency-wide.

Trooper Dale Fahnholz, 47, suffered a medical emergency at his home on Sunday, March I, 2020. He was transported to Kearney Regional Hospital



where he later passed away. Trp. Fahnholz honorably served

Nebraska for 26 years and was well known throughout central Nebraska. He began his career as a Carrier Enforcement Officer in North Platte in 1994 before transitioning to Trooper in 1995. Dale was stationed in Lexington for two years prior to transferring to Kearney in 1997, where he served for the rest of his career. During his time in Kearney, Trp. Fahnholz worked in both the Patrol Division and Investigative Services.

Trp. Fahnholz is survived by his wife and two sons.

"Craig was put to the test many times and always prevailed. Unfortunately, cancer was one battle we couldn't help him win." Capt. Matt Sutter On Friday, March 27, 2020, Lt. Craig Loveless passed away after a lengthy battle with can-



cer. Lt. Loveless was an honorable warrior until the end.

Craig joined the NSP in 1987 and started his career in the Patrol Division, stationed in Omaha. In 1994, he transferred to Investigative Services and spent several years representing the NSP on the Metro Area Fugitive Task Force. Loveless was promoted to Sergeant at the Training Academy in Grand Island, where he served for nine years.

While instructing at the TA, roughly 25% of all current NSP

Troopers went through basic camp. He also served in SWAT for 20 years and was the Special Operations Coordinator for several years. In 2014, Loveless returned to Omaha upon being promoted to Lieutenant in the Patrol Division. Omaha is where he served out the rest of his career.

Lt. Loveless was universally admired throughout the NSP. His skills and leadership left a

lasting impact. He is survived by his children and fiancé.



Unfortunately, March 29, 2020 brought another painful loss to the Nebraska State Patrol family. Communication Specialist, Barb Klinetobe, passed away after her courageous battle with cancer. Barb had been serving the NSP as a dispatcher for just shy of 40 years—since July 1980. Her calming voice and loving nature were touched the lives of many over her four decade career.

Shortly before passing away, Barb was asked if she had a message she wanted delivered



to "her Troopers." She answered, "I will watch over them."

The Nebraska State Patrol will forever remember Trp. Fahnholz, Lt. Loveless, and Barb Klinetobe. Each of their lengthy careers were filled with loyalty, dedication, compassion, and bravery. The world is a better place because of them. May each of them rest in peace; we have the watch.

Troopers Receive National Attention

Troopers made national news twice during the first few months of 2020! In both cases it was a Trooper combining his "Trooper skills" with his "Dad skills," which landed them in the spotlight.

During a January winter storm, Trp. Cool, Trp. Flohr, and Trp. Sosnowski performed a motorist assist when a woman and her two kids lost control and ended up in a runoff ditch. All three Troopers assisted in getting the family safely into the Dad's vehicle, but it was a quick conversation about Disney's "Frozen" between Trp. Sosnowski and one of the kids that made the scary situation a little easier.

With the Mom's consent, the NSP posted body-worn camera video of the encounter on social media and it quickly went viral. Trp. Sosnowski appeared on ABC's Good Morning America a few days later to talk about the event.

In March, as the quarantines and social distancing measures were starting, Lt. Tyler Kroenke stepped in as a dance partner for his daughter Miela after her dance season was cancelled. The pair rehearsed many times before recording and posting the routine on social media.

This social media post also went viral, reaching millions of people and earning plenty of attention from local and national media. Lt. Kroenke and his daughter were featured on NBC's Today Show and did a live interview on Fox and Friends.

Great work Trp. Sosnowski and Lt. Kroenke!

Intern Spotlight

The Nebraska State Patrol (NSP) welcomed three interns to the team first quarter! These interns will get an upclose behind the scenes look at how Troopers and support staff serve the public.

Clayton Wittmayer, a current student at Midland University, is interning with Troop A in Omaha. He is pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice and aspires to be a Trooper with the NSP—specifically in the Police Service Dog Division. When asked what his favorite part of the internship has been, he replied, "My favorite part of my internship so far has to be either working with the Criminal Investigations or the Police Service Dog Division. It's a rush and rewarding to see when the officers are able to locate the drugs and individuals. Everything about the internship makes me want to become part of the NSP even that much more."



Troop H welcomed Colten Kirkendall from the University of Nebraska Lincoln as an intern this term. Colten is work-

"NSP continues to work hard at recruiting the next generation of Troopers. Efforts by personnel all over the state are making a real difference." Cody Thomas

ing to attain a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice with a minor in Fisheries and Wildlife. He has always taken pride in helping others, and hopes to find a career that allows him to help other for the greater good. Kirkendall could not be reached for comment on his internship experience.

In the panhandle, Troop E welcomed intern Jackson Miller. Jackson currently attends Western Nebraska Community College in Scottsbluff. He is seeking an Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice, and wishes to become an NSP Trooper. When asked what part of the internship was his favorite, Jackson stated, "It's hard to say, as I enjoyed every second of it. I think the most interesting would be either SWAT training or witnessing two arrests in one night. Although the car wrecks, eviction, and warrants were also very interesting."



Colton Kirkendall

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New Hires

January 2020

- Manuela Benne, Admin. Assist.
- Tarn Davis, Records Tech.
- Brandy Porter, Forensic
 Scientist III
- Elizabeth Shaw, Records Tech.
- Lisa Banks, Research Analyst II
- Deborah Kasparek, Staff Assist.
- Wyatt Binderup, Trp. Cand.
- Brandon Dolezal, Trp. Cand.
- Jordan Dostal, Trp. Cand.
- Brenden Funk, Trp. Cand.
- Daniela Gonzalez Nuno, Trp. Cand.
- Michael Guth, Trp. Cand.
- Ryan Healy, Trp. Cand.
- Thomas Kavan, Trp. Cand.
- Andrew Martinez, Trp. Cand.

- Nathaniel McClung, Trp. Cand.
- Jacob Meyer, Trp. Cand.
- Seth Miller, Trp. Cand.
- Ashdonn Nolte, Trp. Cand.
- Daniel Osuna Salazar, Trp. Cand.
- Madison Reynoldson, Trp. Cand.
- Eric Sabata, Trp. Cand.
- Joshua Schwarz, Trp. Cand.
- Alexander Winters, Trp. Cand.
- Riley Friesen, Security Guard
- Margaret Plugge, Staff Assist. I
- Nathaniel Van Anne, Security Guard
- Donald Winters, Staff Assist. I
- Tamera Leeling, Staff Assist. I
- Miranda Voboril, Records

Tech.

February 2020

- Barbara Schultz, Staff Assist. I
- Jessica Rogers, Comm.
 Spec.
- Lindsey Guyer, Buss. Systems Analyst
- Alex Gardner, Electronic Tech./Sr.
- Zachary Blaylock, Comm. Spec.

March 2020

- Keri Bower, Staff Assist. II
- Andrew Allen, Security
 Guard
- April Kleinschmit, Infra. Support Analyst
- Austin Obermeyer, Comm. Spec.

Promotions

January 2020

- Kyle Diefenbaugh, Patrol Division Sergeant to Patrol Division Lieutenant
- Nathan Malicky, ICAC Investigator to ICAC Investigative Sergeant

February 2020

 Christin VanAndel, Records Analysis Supervisor to Business Systems Analyst

 Darrell Crawford, Patrol Division Trooper to Patrol Division Sergeant

<u>March 2020</u>

- Heather Manns, Forensic Scientist I to Forensic Scientist II
- Jeremy Thorson, Drug

Investigator to Patrol Division Sergeant

- Matthew Workman, PSD Trooper to PSD Sergeant
- Dain Hicks, TA Lieutenant to Troop B Captain
- Shawna Backemeyer, Staff Assistant I to Records Analysis Supervisor
- LaTisha Connelly, Crime Analyst to Digital Forensic Examiner

Transfers

January 2020

- Michael Lassen, Grand Island Patrol Trooper to Sidney Patrol Trooper
- Clint Zost, Auburn Patrol Trooper to Omaha Liquor Investigator
- Barry Hinkle, North Platte Aviation Trooper to Lincoln Aviation Trooper

PSD Trooper to Grand Island Technical Crimes Investigator

- Lucas Bolton, Omaha Patrol Trooper to Omaha Criminal Investigator
- Ida Stueven, Troop C Crime Analyst to Troop C Evidence Technical

March 2020

Nicholas Plate, North Platte CE Trooper to Grand Island TA Trooper

- Drew Ferguson, Troop H Investigative Sergeant to Lincoln CE Sergeant
- Jeffrey Dunton, Lincoln CE Sergeant to Lincoln Patrol Sergeant
- Jason Halouska, Lincoln CE Trooper to Lincoln CE Compliance Review Investigator





February 2020

Justin Davis, Grand Island

Resignations

January 2020

- Shelby Mertins, Infra. Support Analyst Sr.
- Wyatt Binderup, Trp. Cand.
- Brenden Funk, Trp. Cand.
- Terry Olson, Infra. Support Analyst Sr.

February 2020

- Taylor Bredemeier, Comm. Spec.
- Lynne Woody, Admin. Assist. I
- Riley Friesen, Security
 Guard
- Bran Eads, Inves. Services Lt.

<u>March 2020</u>

- Beth Bauer, Inves.
- Donald Winters, Staff Assist. I
- Alexandra Porter, Records Analysis Supv.



Retirements

January 2020

- Joseph Hansen, Liquor Investigator
- Stephen Monfee, CE Trooper

February 2020

 Bryce Triplett, Patrol Sergeant

<u>March 2020</u>

- Paul Hattan, Troop B Captain
- Vicky Cowan, Forensic Scientist III



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All images were taken by various NSP personnel around the State during the first quarter of 2020!

























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My Daily Ride-Along

As I begin my day, behind the wheel or at my desk, I seek the abiding presence of the Master Trooper who is with me always.

I pray to be at my best, to serve with honor, and uphold the highest standards of our Nebraska State Patrol.

You are my Daily Ride-Along.

I seek Your guidance as I protect our citizens, safeguard our State and the communities we serve.

Help us face dangerous moments, disasters, threats and accidents.

And, when injuries occur to be the presence of care, courage and hope.

Be with all who carry the Shield of our profession and keep us mindful of Your abiding presence, we pray.

© 2019 by Rev. Jim Splitt, NSP Chaplain #652

















Pro Bono Publico

NEBRASKA STATE PATROL

I 600 Hwy 2 Lincoln, NE 68502 PO Box 94907 Lincoln, NE 68509

Phone: 402-471-4545

The NSP is currently accepting applications for Camp 64! If you or someone you know would make a great Trooper, go to <u>https://</u><u>www.governmentjobs.com/careers/nebraska</u> to complete an application!

For further information about what it means to be a Trooper, visit <u>https://</u> <u>statepatrol.nebraska.gov/nebraska-state-patrol-0</u>.



In memory of those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice while serving the State of Nebraska

Loyal M. Zink (#43) John T. Meistrell (#67) Vernon C. Rolfs (#129) Marvin L. Hansen (#98) Duane F. Nichols (#133) Raymond M. Koerber (#108) George W. Amos Jr. (#9) Michael D. Farber (#427) Robert J. Chad (#221) Donald Matejka (#192) Mark P. Wagner (#168) Jerry L. Smith (#373)



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