



The Utah Sheriff

August 2016

A special summer newsletter edition from your Utah Sheriffs' Association



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Not Because It's the Law, Rather Because It Is the Right Thing To Do.

By Sheriff Nathan J. Curtis, Sevier County

We are "Sevier-ly Serious" about Seatbelts. Yeah, it is a bit corny and extremely cheesy. Over the last 12 months the Sevier County Sheriff's Office has been participating in a program in an effort to raise the level of seatbelt usage in the county. The very first day of the project we surveyed the county seatbelt usage. We were at 54%; the national average is almost 90%.

The Sevier County Sheriff's Office and two other agencies were chosen to participate. One of the reasons we were chosen is because of the low seatbelt usage in vehicular accidents, which made us the 2nd worst in the state of Utah for seatbelt usage.

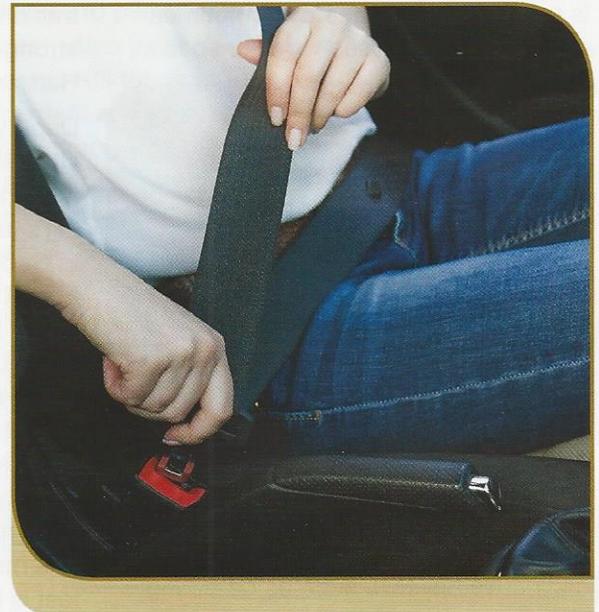
The program was developed into phases. In the first phase we focused on public education and letting people know what kind of impact a seatbelt could have on saving their lives if they were in an accident. The most important thing you can do to prevent a serious or life-ending injury is to wear your seatbelt.

The next phase of the project was to start issuing warnings to drivers who were not wearing their seatbelts. Not receiving a citation allowed people a chance for education on the importance of wearing a seatbelt. We participated in community events, such as a poster design contest, with the winning design being displayed on trash trucks to be large traveling billboards.

The third phase of the program was the act of issuing citations. Citations were given only after proof that a person had a previous warning about the requirement to wear a seatbelt.

During the entire project we conducted monthly surveys in all areas of the county.

By being diligent in checking the same spots at the same time, at the end of the project we had increased seatbelt usage by more than 20%!



Throughout the project I heard many rationalizations as to why people didn't want to wear their seatbelts. The excuses ranged from how they were raised, to not wanting to be in the vehicle when it smashed, even that wearing a seatbelt is unconstitutional. Our response to that is you should wear your seatbelt not just because it is the law, but because it is the right thing to do.

Now that the study is over, we use information gathered from our project to develop a toolkit to send out to other enforcement agencies so they can increase seatbelt usage in their areas.

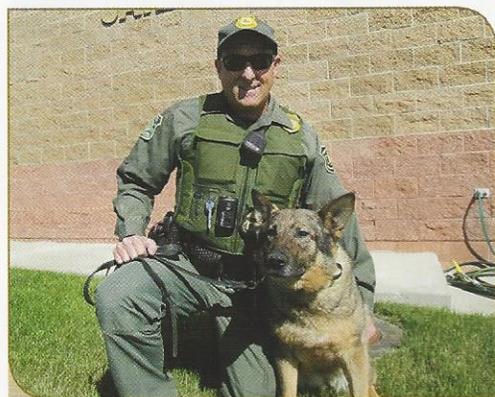
So please, buckle up, make it a habit of "Everyone, Every Trip, Every Time"!

Dogs: Man's Best Friends and Heroes, Too!

By Sheriff James D. Perkins, Jr., Garfield County

Since ancient days, dogs have been used for security, hunting and protection. In modern day, we still use canines for soldier teams and military teams, as well as servicing humans that need dogs to see, detect seizures, and calming effects. Dogs are commonplace in the every day lives of our world.

Dogs have been used in law enforcement for over 100 years, but they didn't become common in American until the 1970s. Now they are considered a part of the police force, and in many departments they have their own badges. The most widely trained dog for regular patrol is the German Shepherd. Sometimes other breeds are used for their special,



Deputy Kevin Hart and Fiji

distinctive abilities, such as detecting illegal drugs or explosives, or finding missing people.

The Garfield County Sheriff's Office is lucky to have K-9 Lance as an active participant within our office. Lance is a Belgian Malinois and he is trained in locating illegal drugs and apprehension. Lance's handler is Deputy Pierson and when Deputy Pierson is on patrol, he is rarely without Lance. Lance has been an extremely valuable asset to our office. He has located many different drugs and is always available to protect the officers when needed. Our office also uses Lance during Red Ribbon Week. Lance also travels with us to different assemblies, where he demonstrates how dogs can be used

to search for drugs and to show his K-9 defensive training (bite work). Deputy Pierson and Lance spend at least four hours with the children, and they usually wind up spending more time bonding with the children.

We are extremely happy to also have access to another canine in our county. Her name is Fiji and her handler is Deputy Kevin Hart. Deputy Hart is employed with the U.S. Forest Service and is also deputized for the Garfield County Sheriff's Office. Fiji is a 7 year old German Shepherd who was born in Czechoslovakia. Fiji has been Deputy Hart's partner for 6 years and is trained in narcotics, criminal apprehension, tracking, and handler protection. Her strongest asset, according to Deputy Hart, is her tracking ability.

Deputy Hart and Fiji have been in Utah since December 2015 and they have helped many agencies using Fiji's talents. Deputy Hart is stationed in Cedar City with the Dixie National Forest but is also involved with the Pine Valley District, and Powell District. He stated, "I never realized how hard being a dog handler to a service dog would be but I wouldn't change a thing." The K-9s in law enforcement would give their lives for their handlers and many K-9s have fallen in the line of duty. The most recent K-9 that Utah has lost is K-9 Aldo from the Unified Police Department of Greater Salt Lake. K-9 Aldo was sent into a home and was shot during this attempt to locate the suspect he was apprehending.



Deputy Pierson and Lance at Red Ribbon Week at Antimony Elementary

According to the Officer Down Memorial Page, Utah has lost four K-9s in the line of Duty. Losing these dogs within a department is a sad event for all the officers, but for the handler, it is like losing one of their family members. There is a special bond that happens between the officer and his dog. As with anyone who owns a canine, whether it be a working dog or a domestic pet, you know that, from them, you will always receive unconditional love.

"The Working Dog"

My eyes are your eyes,
To watch and protect you.

My ears are your ears,
To hear and detect evil
minds in the dark.

My nose is your nose,
To scent the invader
of your domain.

And so you may live,
my life is also yours.

Author Unknown



BLM Law Enforcement Editorial

By Sheriff Cameron Noel, Beaver County

Over the past several months, several important things have happened that could change the current negative trajectory of the public lands law enforcement debate between BLM and USFS law enforcement and Utah Rural County Sheriffs. I have previously reported on the deteriorating relations with public lands law enforcement employees in



Utah. It reached an all time high in the Blanding Artifacts case that resulted in the death of Dr. Jim Redd. Redd, a well respected physician, family man, and community leader with no previous criminal record, took

his own life after an artifacts raid by over 100 heavily armed BLM, FBI and other federal agents in the small rural town of Blanding. Redd was chained up and interrogated by federal agents in his garage for over 4 hours before being released on bail.

While that incident was still fresh on the minds of the locals, a protest ride against the 8 year closure of an existing RS2477 road resulted in the arrest of a dozen men including outspoken County Commissioner Phil Lyman. This case was also botched by the BLM and the DOJ. After expending over 1 million dollars on the prosecution of these men, the only ones who got convicted and sentenced were Lyman and city councilman Monte Wells. The punishment for driving on a "closed road" (a misdemeanor) was 10 days in the county jail in St George and a fine of \$1000. Trumped up damages

to archaeology on the road in areas where neither Lyman nor Wells even drove their OHV, amounted to \$96,000, of which \$60,000 was for reimbursement for the cost of preparation of the archaeology report identifying the damages to a pot shard, two rocks stacked upright that was called a storage cist and several other lithic and rock scatter sites. Both of the cases were overseen by BLM Special Agent in Charge for Utah and Nevada, Dan Love. Love a relatively newly trained law enforcement officer with no previous law enforcement experience has knocked heads with numerous sheriffs throughout the state.

The response to the abuse of these federal agencies is HR4751, Law Enforcement for Local Lands Act sponsored by House Oversight Committee Chairman Jason Chaffetz. This bill declares that, by September 30, 2017, the Department of Agriculture (USDA) shall terminate the Forest Service Law Enforcement and Investigations unit and cease using Forest Service employees to perform law enforcement functions on federal lands. Also by such date, the Department of the Interior shall terminate the Bureau of Land Management Office of Law Enforcement and cease using Interior employees to perform law enforcement functions on federal lands. For FY2018 and each fiscal year thereafter, Interior shall make a grant to each state, determined according to a specified formula, to permit the state, directly or through sub-grants with units of local government in it, to maintain law and order on federal land, protect individuals and property on federal lands and enforce federal law.

Sheriffs across the state are excited to think we could get back the control of our public lands law enforcement duties which would make our constituents very happy.

A New Dog in Town

By Sheriff Terry Thompson, Weber County

Say hello to "URL"! Utah's first Electronic Detection K-9, or what some may jokingly refer to as Utah's first "porn dog." URL is a 16 month old black Labrador. He is one of only nine certified ED K-9s in the country and the only one in the western state region. URL's trainer also trained Bear, the ED K-9 who played a key role in the arrest of Subway pitchman, Jared Fogle.

Specially trained to sniff out electronic storage devices such as thumb drives, cellphones, SIM cards, SD cards, external hard drives, tablets and iPads, URL offers a unique set of skills to aid investigators in fighting crime. Whether it's child pornography, terrorism intelligence, narcotics or financial crimes information, URL has the ability to find evidence hidden on basically any electronic memory device. He will assist our investigators on these specific types of cases, and he will also be used in our correctional facility to seek out contraband such as cell phones.

Now we realize some of you may be skeptical and wonder how this is possible? URL does not actually "search" for

illegal materials, but rather his highly sensitive nose has been trained to detect the unique chemical compounds found in the certain electronic components.

Rescued from a shelter when he was a puppy, URL went through six months of training in Indiana before becoming certified. His handler, Detective Cam Hartman, also received nine days of expert training and the pair will have to be re-certified on an annual basis.

URL's purchase was made possible through funding from the Weber Metro Narcotics Strike Force, and his acquisition has been strongly supported by the Weber County Attorney's Office. The Sheriff's Office will be responsible for his care and deployment as he serves the Northern Utah area.



Our first Electronic Detection K-9, URL

2016 UTAH SHERIFF'S SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Utah Sheriffs' Scholarship Program awards scholarships providing assistance to Utah individuals committed to pursuing an education and career in a law enforcement field at a Utah College or University with resources made available through the Utah Sheriffs' Honorary Membership Program.

Scholarships of a maximum of \$500 each are awarded to students from each county where the Sheriff is an affiliate of the Honorary Membership Program.

Utah Sheriffs are pleased with the Honorary Membership Program's ability to bring scholarships to Utah students. To continue to do so and fund other important projects and initiatives, continued support of the Honorary Membership Program is essential. We could not function without our Honorary Members. This year's scholarship recipients are:

Name	County	College/University
Robert Lane Yardley	Beaver	Dixie State University
Garreth W. Mayer	Beaver	Southern Utah University
Mariah Rose Brennan	Beaver	Utah Valley University
Baylee Jean Netto	Beaver	Dixie State University
Aubrey Woolsey	Beaver	Southern Utah University
Alisann Camille Heath	Carbon	Utah State University Eastern
Destiny Dawn Basso	Carbon	Utah Valley University
Brittany Blanche Petersen	Juab	Southern Utah University
Jessica Kimball	Millard	Utah Valley University
Beau Jeffery Gehre	Millard	University of Utah
Jace Farrell Middleton	Millard	Dixie State University
Faith Marie Fullmer	Piute	Snow College
Brennen Carson Chappell	Sevier	Snow College
Sheriff Justin Martinez	Summit	University of Utah
Jusdan Lance Meyer	Tooele	Utah Valley University
Makayla Ann Shinton	Tooele	Utah Valley University
Marcus James Jensen	Tooele	Southern Utah University
Brandon H. Morgan	Utah	Southern Utah University
Kyra Kitchen	Utah	Snow College
Alyssa DeOnne Taylor	Washington	Utah Valley University
Kayla Reynolds	Wayne	Utah Valley University

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