

Sheriff earns spot in top national group

◀ **SHERIFF** from A1 an FBI Trilogy course, which focuses on organizational leadership for police leaders.

Getting involved in extensive police training comes at a critical time in law enforcement, especially with the George Floyd killing at the hands of a police officer in Minneapolis last year.

"I've always been active in this and with all the events going on across this nation with law enforcement drawing a lot of criticism, being active in this training is putting

"I am going to have a legacy of leading law enforcement in a better direction."

Sheriff Lon Thiele Elected to National Board

your voice forward," Thiele said. "I've always attended training that would benefit my role as sheriff and the communities I serve."

The sheriff said he gets excited every time he attends any FBI-LEEDA training. "Any time I come back from training, I always put something forward

to make sure we are doing the best for our county residents," Thiele said.

Thiele said the goal of FBI-LEEDA is to develop better leaders to assist all law enforcement personnel.

In regards to the Floyd killing, Thiele expects police reform to take place in Minnesota

and the rest of the nation. "We need to make sure law enforcement is doing its job properly and it all reverts back to proper training," he said.

Last year, Thiele took on a similar role by being elected to the Minnesota Sheriff's Association executive board. He will become president of the MSA in a few years. Thiele wants to help in any way he can in training police officers.

"I am going to have a legacy of leading law enforcement in a better direction," said Thiele.

Former sheriff Ringhofer dies at 70

◀ **FORMER** from A1 sheriff worked with a bridge crew with the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

"He took a liking to it," Fisher said. And, at Fisher's urging, Ringhofer applied to be a sheriff's deputy and joined the Steele County Sheriff's Office on Jan. 1, 1980.

Ringhofer quickly rose through the ranks, being promoted to investigator in 1983. In 1999, he was promoted to chief deputy. On March 1, 2002, Ringhofer was appointed sheriff, replacing retiring sheriff Bill Hildebrandt. Ringhofer remained as the county's top law enforcement official until he retired on April 30, 2010.

"I was glad to see him climb the ladder to become sheriff," said Fisher.

Fisher recalled how the city and county "worked well together" in the early years when both he and Ringhofer were officers. "It was a close-knit law enforcement community," Fisher said.

For about two years, Fisher and Ringhofer overlapped as top officers serving the area, Fisher as chief of Owatonna

and Ringhofer as county sheriff. Fisher retired in 2004.

"It was easy to go to each other for help," Fisher said of the years they served as chief-sheriff combo. "We had a lot of inner workings between the two departments."

But Fisher and Ringhofer's relationship extended far beyond work. They have known each other for about 50 years, starting with motorcycle rides together. Later they started fishing, hunting and playing softball together. Ringhofer married the sister of Fisher's wife.

"We became very close," Fisher said, adding the friendship continued after the two left law enforcement.

Fisher said he will remember Ringhofer most for his hunting skills. Ringhofer often traveled to places like Wyoming and Utah to hunt pheasant, bear, turkey, elk and deer. "He loved to hunt," Fisher said. "You say hunting and he was ready to go."

Funeral services are planned for Thursday morning at St. John Lutheran Church in Owatonna. A full obituary can be found on page A12.

Putting down roots in rural Minnesota

◀ **PUTTING** from A2 the couple quite like life in rural Minnesota. The pair realized they wanted to raise their children in their home community. Today, Shawn, Patrick and their five children live on a hobby farm two miles from the farm where Shawn grew up and her family still lives. Shawn serves her community through her law practice and is proud to demonstrate that small towns are an excellent place for business owners to be. She has found that people are eager to support local businesses and has enjoyed being able to give back to the community where she grew up.

A recent report from the Center for Rural Policy and Development found that wages in rural Minnesota can go further in meeting the cost of living compared to the seven-county metro area. Employers and economic development professionals can use this report, and the accompanying tool that shows wage data for various occupations across the state, to recruit more people to move to rural Minnesota. Additionally, remote work has become so commonplace that more people are able to live where they want to live instead of where their work is located. This is a huge opportunity for small towns to gain

a younger generation of workers who are committed to building their lives in rural Minnesota.

SMIF is able to play a supporting role for people moving back to the region. For entrepreneurs who want to start or grow a business here, we offer business financing and training opportunities. For families who have young children, we support early childhood through a variety of programs and funding, including efforts to enhance the availability and quality of childcare facilities.

Personally, there is no place I would rather be than in rural Minnesota. As the pandemic continues to shape our

lives, I believe more and more people will be moving back home or choosing rural where they can work remotely or start their own businesses while taking advantage of small-town life.

To read more stories about young people who are choosing to work and live in SMIF's 20-county region, visit smifoundation.org/stories.

Tim Penny is the president & CEO of Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation. He represented Minnesota's First Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1982-1994.

Deputy's PIT maneuver brings chase to stop, driver arrested

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

A Waseca man faces a felony charge after a deputy deployed the PIT maneuver during a high-speed chase in Steele County.

Sebastian Robert Schumacher, 26, has been charged with fleeing police in a motor ve-

hicle, which is a felony. In addition, he has also been charged with driving after revocation and reckless driving, which are misdemeanors.

The charges stem from an incident on April 26 in which a Steele County sheriff's deputy was monitoring traffic on Hwy. 14 at 72nd Avenue. The deputy saw

a smaller car increasing speed on a truck traveling eastbound on Hwy. 14. The officer clocked the vehicle at 88 mph.

After the deputy pulled into traffic to stop the vehicle, it increased speed to 111 mph. As the vehicle approached 18th Street S.W., it made erratic movements by swerving back and

forth, the criminal complaint said.

The deputy performed the PIT maneuver, which spins the vehicle out of control and brings it to a stop. After he was taken into custody, Schumacher was apologetic to the deputy saying that he was sorry, according to the complaint. He stated he didn't know why he

failed to stop other than he was on parole and was scared.

A small plastic box and a baggie that contained marijuana was found by police during a search of the vehicle. The deputy also located another small plastic container on the passenger's side floor that contained a glass pipe

and rubber tubing, which are commonly used for ingesting illegal narcotics, the complaint said.

Court records show Schumacher has a revoked license due to a DUI offense in February 2017.

The felony charge is punishable up to three years in prison and a \$5,000 fine.

PUBLIC SAFETY

◀ **BLOTTER** from A4

report of a fraud incident in the 1600 block of Cedar Ave. S. at 11:57 a.m.

April 27

Theft: Officers took theft reports in the 700 block of 16th St. SE at 7:56 a.m. and the 1000 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 4:36 p.m.

April 28

Thefts: Police received theft reports from the 300 block of 22nd St. SE at 8:32 a.m. and the 200 block of Mill St. E. at 3:41 p.m.

Identity: At 8:49 a.m., identity theft occurred in the 600 block of El Dorado St. SE.

Suspicion: Police responded to suspicious activity in the 3000 block of Hoffman Dr. NW at 2:26 p.m.

Shoplifting: At 2:46 p.m., a shoplifting incident occurred in the 2100 block of Bridge St. W.

April 29

Warrant: Officer made a warrant arrest in the 800 block of Willowbrook St. NE at 8:32 a.m.

Child Protection: Police received a child protection report from the 500 block of 15th St. NE at 1:44 p.m.

Restraining Order: At 4:33 p.m., a restraining order violation occurred in the 300 block of Mineral Springs Road NE.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF

April 23

Crash: Paramedics and deputies responded to a motor vehicle accident with injuries in the 11000 block of County Road 3 in Summit Township at 7:35 a.m.

Shoplifting: At 12:18 p.m., a shoplifting incident occurred in the 100 block of Riverview Court in Medford.

Drugs: Deputies responded to drug activity at the detention

center at 8:45 p.m.

April 24

Hit and Run: At 5:12 p.m., a hit and run accident occurred in the 300 block of 4th Ave. W. in Ellendale.

April 25

DWI: Deputy made a DWI arrest at Highway 30 E. and 64th Ave. SE in Blooming Prairie Township at 1:52 a.m.

Theft: Deputy took a theft report in the 4000 block of Crane Creek Road in Owatonna Township at 4:53 p.m.

Drugs: Deputies responded to drug activity at the detention center at 5:10 p.m.

April 26

Pursuit: Deputies pursued a subject at Highway 14 W. and 39th Ave. SW in Owatonna Township at 6:58 a.m.

April 27

Burglary: Deputies began a burglary investigation in the 15600 block of 35th Ave. SW in Summit Township at 6:14 a.m.

Suspicion: Deputies responded to suspicious activity in the 8900 block of 48th St. SE in Aurora Township at 8:56 a.m.

Fraud: Deputy took a report of a fraud incident in the 400 block of Main St. S. in Medford at 1:43 p.m.

Disturbance: Deputies responded to a disturbance at County Road 3 and Highway 30 W. in Summit Township at 8:44 p.m.

April 29

DWI: Deputy made a DWI arrest in the 3900 block of 28th St. SW in Owatonna Township at 12:21 a.m.

Crash: At 9:16 a.m., a motor vehicle accident occurred at 69th St. NE and 34th Ave. NE in Medford Township.

Suspicion: Deputies responded to suspicious activity in the 8600 block of 108th St. SW in Lemond Township at 8:32 p.m.

ARRESTS

Steele County

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF

Darian Margaret Bohlman-Reyna, 27, arrested at 10:20 a.m. April 28, warrant arrest, held for court.

Edward Anthony Thomas, 44, arrested at 1:31 a.m. April 29, DWI, held for court.

Christian Markus Pickett, 33, arrested at 3 a.m. April 29, extradition hearing arrest, held for court.

COURT NEWS

Dodge County

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of April 18 - 25:

DODGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Jason A. Andrist, 50, Mantorville, parking violation, \$32; John G. Baker, 40, Dodge Center, disorderly conduct, \$280; Cody L. Cunningham, 17, West Concord, speeding, \$280; Mark T. Fielding, 50, Owatonna, possession of marijuana, stay of adjudication, \$1,000, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, mental health evaluation, cognitive skill training, 100 hours of community service and 5 years of supervised probation; Eric F. Heins, 58, Mantorville, burning permit violation, \$105; Marty A. Hinrichs, 47, Egota, speeding, \$220; Jimmy A. Jones, 29, Lee Summit, MO, speeding, \$220; Kelsey K. McGrane, 34, Rochester, speeding, \$130; Jose G. Mendez, 41, Kenyon, invalid license, \$180; Tanner C. Minette, 25, Mantorville, DWI,

\$1,005, Ignition Interlock, chemical dependency evaluation, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments and 2 years of supervised probation; Bill E. Ndumbe, 19, Rochester, speeding, \$380; Garrett C. Rasmussen, 20, Dodge Center, invalid license, \$180; Nicholas L. Schulz, 16, Mantorville, speeding, \$220; Thomas L. Stamman, 60, Lonsdale, unlawful passing, \$130; Scott D. Tester, 32, Minneapolis, disorderly conduct, 45 days in county jail; Ashton S. Voss, 18, Dodge Center, speeding, \$140; Nathaniel B. Wallin, 26, Rochester, speeding, \$380; Fred K. Yeanay, 36, Dodge Center, invalid license and speeding, \$220.

KASSON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Heather J. Behnken, 44, Oronoco, careless driving, \$75; Chastidy A. Burgdorf-Ristau, 20, Harmony, hands free violation, \$130; Samantha L. Keefe, 42, Byron, speeding, \$140; Annie M. Leitzen, 35, Minneapolis, DWI, \$455, 4 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments and 2 years of supervised probation; Logan J. Onken, 29, Dodge Center, revoked license, \$280; Giovanni Padilla, 28, Kasson, possession of marijuana and DWI, \$405, chemical dependency evaluation, no controlled substance use and 2 years of supervised probation; Wesley T. Parson, 36, Dodge Center, DWI, \$1,005, 30 days in county jail/home electronic monitoring and 2 years of supervised probation; Jezreel J. Ramirez Olmeda, 33, Rochester, stop sign, expired registration,

speeding and revoked license, \$700; Megan A. Reed, 36, Bryon, suspended license, \$280; Rachel H. Wiebold, 38, Pine Island, DWI, \$505, chemical assessment, no alcohol use, Ignition Interlock program and 1 year of supervised probation; Brian T. Woods, 43, Rochester, invalid license and registration violation, \$480; Myron W. Wunderlich IV, 33, Owatonna, revoked license, \$280.

MN DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES

William J. Barry, 55, Rochester, hunt pheasants without stamp validation, \$130.

MN STATE PATROL ROCHESTER

Karen L. Adams, 51, Byron, speeding, \$120; Travis R. Andrist, 39, Kasson, speeding, \$140; Brenda L. Bayardo, 36, Owatonna, speeding and no registration, \$320; Timothy J. Brown, 38, Cambridge, limited license violation, \$180; Ethan C. Burgett, 21, Emmons, seat belt, \$105; Kyle G. Greene, 34, Byron, speeding, \$120; Melissa L. Hitchcock, 33, Hayfield, speeding, \$130; Katherine J. Knetter, 26, Kenyon, speeding, \$120; Brett A. Persons, 18, Mankato, possession of paraphernalia, \$130; Payton D. Richard, 19, Rochester, allow illegal operation, \$180; Scott A. Simon, 47, Owatonna, speeding, \$130; Kayla M. Thompson-Woerner, 27, Rochester, speeding, \$220; Breanna M. Williams, 29, Byron, no insurance, \$280.

WEST CONCORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

Ann M. Rassavong, 31, St. Paul, speeding, \$140; Keith A. Schandorff, 54, West Concord, parking violation, \$32; Calvin J.

Shilts II, 25, Hampton, suspended license, \$280.

OWATONNA FIRE

April 16

Crash: Fire rescue responded to a motor vehicle accident with injuries at 54th Ave. SE and Highway 14 E. at 7:23 a.m.

April 17

Accident: At 1:54 a.m., a motor vehicle accident with injuries occurred at 3rd Ave. NW and 21st Ave.

Police: Fire personnel assisted with a police matter in the 2200 block of Hartle Ave. SE at 11 a.m.

Burning: Firefighters responded to an authorized controlled burning at 18th St. SE and 84th Ave. SE at 1:48 p.m.

Carbon Monoxide: At 6:59 p.m., a carbon monoxide incident occurred in the 100 block of Cedar Ave. N.

April 20

Fire: Firefighters responded to a transport vehicle fire on Interstate 35 at 8:06 a.m.

April 21

Crash: At 5:51 p.m., a motor vehicle accident with injuries occurred in the 3300 block of 28th St. SW.

April 22

Brush: Firefighters responded to a brush fire in the 1200 block of Frontage Road W. at 3:46 p.m.

Building: Firefighters responded to a building fire in the 5200 block of Kenyon Road NE at 6:22 p.m.

Fire: Fire personnel assisted with a prescribed fire at Cedar Ave. N. and 36th St. at 8:44 p.m.

April 23

Brush: At 11:18 p.m., a brush fire occurred in the 5200 block of Kenyon Road NE.