ARE YOU ON OUR MAILING LISTS?
To be notified as soon as a new story is published, go to:
klemagazine.com/kle-magazine-email-list

To receive our monthly newsletter, go to:
klemagazine.com/kle-dispatches-newsletter
With factory optic-ready handguns available, many agencies are considering them for duty weapons. As with any move from tradition in law enforcement, opinions can vary greatly. Let's take an objective look at this topic.

I can say that having used a rifle with both iron sights and an optic, I will take an optic any day of the week. Maintaining a target-focus has a significant advantage over a sight-focus methodology, which is needed for using iron sights. Seeing acceptance for rifle-mounted optics was a long, difficult fight. Most officers now agree that it has enormous advantages. I believe we are facing the same situation with handgun optics.

The advantages are faster engagement times and accuracy. Younger officers are preprogrammed for optic use from video games while aging officers have a hard time shifting focus back and forth from the target and sights. Target focus provides the advantage of better situational awareness.

The biggest issue with running an optic is that people expect to be able to pick one up and run it like a pro without putting in the time. If you have spent “x” number of years on irons and suddenly pick up an optic, of course, it will be slower initially. When you develop proficiency with the pistol and optic, you will get a lot faster.

Durability seems to be a concern of most agencies. Any piece of equipment can fail. I have witnessed many iron sights fly off handguns over the years. If you start with a factory optics-ready handgun and a quality optic, you should have few issues with durability or reliability. The question arises when you purchase sub-par electronics or machine your slide to save money. Any handgun optics should be used in conjunction with a quality set of iron sights.

Fogging of the optic seems to be another concern. I suggest agencies establishing a set of rigorous yet realistic testing criteria to include operating the weapon and optic combination during inclement weather. If you experience any fogging, use CutCrap or Rain X anti-fog on the lens. These products are fantastic and will solve that problem. The fogging issue is less of a problem as you can still get good hits by framing your target in the optic window.

Before you form an opinion on the topic of handgun optics, I ask you to take time to learn the facts. If you decide to adopt this technology, please update your agency policies. Policies will need to be written for weapon, optic, and holster selection. Training and maintenance standards will also need to be instituted.

Handgun optics are a tool that can add to an officer’s and community safety but need substantial investment, selection and training.
SMALL AGENCY RISES TO THE CHALLENGE

MASON COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE

Mason County Deputy Devin Hull has law enforcement and Mason County in his blood. An eight-year veteran of the Mason County Sheriff’s Office, Hull comes from a law enforcement family as his father once served as an MCSO deputy.

“I grew up here, and I have always been around law enforcement,” Hull said.

Deputy Cameron Griffin tells a similar story. “We all grew up around here,” he pointed out. “I don’t think we have many deputies who are not from this area.”

Sheriff Patrick Boggs said recruiting and retaining local talent is by design.

Because of the potential talent poaching Boggs, who has been sheriff for 13 years, targets his recruitment to a few counties surrounding Mason. “I feel that hometown families might stay here, even if it is for less money,” he said.

While MCSO focuses on recruiting from a local pool, the crime they face is not dissimilar to what larger cities, such as Cincinnati or Lexington, face, Boggs said.

“I call us a gateway between it all because we have Ashland, Portsmouth, Ohio and Cincinnati are an hour away, as is Lexington,” Boggs said. “We see a lot of drug trafficking that comes down from Dayton, Ohio, which is a little more than an hour and a half away. Many drugs come through there via Detroit.”

The drugs of choice in Mason County are typically methamphetamine and cocaine, Boggs said.

“We get the occasional heroin, but it’s mainly meth and cocaine,” Boggs stated.

While larger agencies often devote several officers to dedicated drug units, Mason County doesn’t have the luxury of doing so, as it employs 11 full-time sworn deputies (including Boggs) and two part-time road deputies.

Instead, Boggs said his deputies learn and experience every type of crime. Should they move on to a larger agency, it can only help to promote themselves.

“We all grew up around here,” he pointed out. “I want my deputies to have universal knowledge of every type of crime. Should they move on to a larger agency, it can only help to promote themselves.”

Boggs paused, reflecting on the phrase “my deputy.”

“We’re a family here in this office,” he emphasized. “While they might be labeled my employees, they’re all my co-workers and my brothers and sisters. We have mutual respect.”

PARTNERSHIPS

Though it is a small staff, MCSO has also formed a partnership with the Maysville Police Department that brought about a community emergency response team.

“I have four deputies on that team,” Boggs said.

“We have a great working relationship with them. We work hand-in-hand, and we cover for them if they are swamped, and they cover for us if we’re swamped.”

MCSO has also partnered with the Mason County School District to provide school resource officers. Boggs added.

“I call us a gateway between it all because we have Ashland, Portsmouth, Ohio and Cincinnati are an hour away, as is Lexington,” Boggs said. “We get the occasional heroin, but it’s mainly meth and cocaine,” Boggs stated.

“They seem to respond to me well,” she said. “I also have good relationships with the administrators, but mostly, I love interacting with the kids.”

Working as an SRO is not all fun and games, Price said, pointing out that it has many challenges.

“We see social-media bullying, images being circulated and drugs every once in a while,” she said. “THC vaping is a big epidemic, and so are vapes in general. We have a big problem with that here.”

From drug investigations to meeting the needs of students in schools, Mason County offers many opportunities for its deputies.

Det. Devin Hull has served his community in a “gateway” for criminal activity, which comes in from other places such as Canada.

Det. Cameron Griffin also grew up in the area and eventually came on board as a deputy. He said the agency has seen a noticeable increase in drugs in recent years.

Det. Brittani Price serves as a school resource officer. Price said building trust and relationship with students is vital in being a successful SRO. Price and other deputies routinely walk in schools in Mason County.

The Mason County Sheriff’s Office is located in the heart of downtown Maysville. Sheriff Patrick Boggs credits a close working partnership with many outside agencies, such as the Maysville Police Department, to having an effective law enforcement presence.

“Everybody works everywhere, here,” he pointed out. “I want my deputies to have universal knowledge of every type of crime. Should they move on to a larger agency, it can only help to promote themselves.”

Boggs paused, reflecting on the phrase “my deputy.”

“We’re a family here in this office,” he emphasized. “While they might be labeled my employees, they’re all my co-workers and my brothers and sisters. We have mutual respect.”

Hull said.

“We all grew up around here,” he pointed out. “I grew up here, and I have always been around law enforcement,” Hull said.

“We get the occasional heroin, but it’s mainly meth and cocaine,” Boggs stated.

Boggs added.

“Everybody works everywhere, here,” he pointed out. “I want my deputies to have universal knowledge of every type of crime. Should they move on to a larger agency, it can only help to promote themselves.”

Boggs paused, reflecting on the phrase “my deputy.”

“We’re a family here in this office,” he emphasized. “While they might be labeled my employees, they’re all my co-workers and my brothers and sisters. We have mutual respect.”

Hull said.

“We all grew up around here,” he pointed out. “I grew up here, and I have always been around law enforcement,” Hull said.

“We get the occasional heroin, but it’s mainly meth and cocaine,” Boggs stated.

Boggs added.

“Everybody works everywhere, here,” he pointed out. “I want my deputies to have universal knowledge of every type of crime. Should they move on to a larger agency, it can only help to promote themselves.”

Boggs paused, reflecting on the phrase “my deputy.”

“We’re a family here in this office,” he emphasized. “While they might be labeled my employees, they’re all my co-workers and my brothers and sisters. We have mutual respect.”

Hull said.

“We all grew up around here,” he pointed out. “I grew up here, and I have always been around law enforcement,” Hull said.

“We get the occasional heroin, but it’s mainly meth and cocaine,” Boggs stated.

Boggs added.
CORONERS (AND LAW ENFORCEMENT) TALK ROLES, RESPONSIBILITIES AND COLLABORATION

When it comes to death investigations, one will always find the coroner’s office and law enforcement on the scene. Both sworn agencies play integral roles but have very different responsibilities. The two must find ways to work together for the common good. To that end, coroners across the state are paving the way as collaborative, investigative bodies and as a vital resource in catching criminals.

HOOLDING THEIR OWN

It’s well known that a coroner’s duties include pronouncing deaths, notifying families and determining the manner and cause. However, according to longtime coroners Jimmy Pollard, of Henry County, and Jimmy Cornelison, of Madison County, each individual newly elected into the position must decide what kind of coroner they want to be.

"Some coroners out there say (to police), ‘When you get there, get the body out and make everybody mad,” he said. “Then you never solve anything. It’s a give and take….when you act like an idiot, people are going to leave and they don’t want to work with you anymore. That’s not the attitude I like, the investigation part and coming up with a timeline of events or photograph and share pictures with departments for their investigation."

In Henry County, Pollard said that assisting at a death scene can take multiple forms. The coroner might help law enforcement go through an individual’s personal effects in search of receipts to nail down a death scene can take multiple forms. The coroner might help law enforcement go through an individual’s personal effects in search of receipts to nail down a timeline of events or photograph and share pictures with departments for their investigation.

A JOINT PATH

Law states that a coroner is in charge of the body at a death scene. However, according to Cornelison, if a coroner comes in with that attitude, they are an idiot.

"You take detectives who have been detectives for 10 years, and they’ve got all the resources in the world, why would (a coroner) go in there and throw their chest out and make everybody mad,” he said. “Then you never solve anything. It’s a give and take….when you act like a professional organization, you’ll be treated like one. Period. Simple as that."

Establishing communication early is the biggest step coroners can take to have a long and productive working relationship with their local law enforcement, whether that means going out for a cup of coffee or just stopping in to say hello.

Discussions away from the scene of a crime, can allow both coroners and law enforcement to discuss what they need to accomplish their job. For coroners this can be things like making sure nothing on or around the body is moved prior to their arrival, and that it is the coroners’ job to notify families.

"You’ve got to work together for a positive outcome,” he said. “In my opinion, you can’t get (to a scene) and split the investigation into two. If you can work as one investigation together, you’re going to be more apt to get a positive outcome than if we are working on our side and they’re working on theirs and there is no communication. That doesn’t do anyone any justice."

MORE EYES MAKES WISE GUYS

According to Richmond Police Major Rodney Tudor, working with an experienced coroner can be a huge benefit to a department.

“We are always taking guidance from (Cornelison), and he has always been able to provide input that maybe we don’t understand or see from our perspective because we are (busy) collecting evidence or interviewing people,” said Tudor. “When it comes to matters of death or what he thinks caused it, things like that, it’s crucial (to listen) because he knows that stuff and shares (that knowledge) with us…” he can show up at a scene and can tell you things that someone else might not see right off.”

In Henry County, Pollard said that assisting at a death scene can take multiple forms. The coroner might help law enforcement go through an individual’s personal effects in search of receipts to nail down a timeline of events or photograph and share pictures with departments for their investigation.

"Some coroners out there say (to police), ‘When you get there, get the body out and make everybody mad,” he said. “Then you never solve anything. It’s a give and take….when you act like an idiot, they are an idiot."

"You take detectives who have been detectives for 10 years, and they’ve got all the resources in the world, why would (a coroner) go in there and throw their chest out and make everybody mad,” he said. “Then you never solve anything. It’s a give and take….when you act like a professional organization, you’ll be treated like one. Period. Simple as that.”

Establishing communication early is the biggest step coroners can take to have a long and productive working relationship with their local law enforcement, whether that means going out for a cup of coffee or just stopping in to say hello.

"You’ve got to work together for a positive outcome,” he said. “In my opinion, you can’t get (to a scene) and split the investigation into two. If you can work as one investigation together, you’re going to be more apt to get a positive outcome than if we are working on our side and they’re working on theirs and there is no communication. That doesn’t do anyone any justice.”

For an expanded version of this article, please visit klemagazine.com.
Death investigations are never an easy task, but if done correctly, the outcome of the case will be successful, said Jim Sparks, a certified crime-scene analyst and senior crime scene technician with the Louisville Metro Police Department.

“The officers and first responders have a lot coming at them,” Sparks said. “The so-called death scene can be several things. It can be a homicide, a suicide or natural causes… so you don’t know what you’re getting into.”

The primary elements in a scene involving a death include scene safety, isolating and securing the scene, minimizing the number of people who enter the scene and documenting the scene.

**Scene Security**

Once an officer has determined a death has occurred, they must secure the scene, which includes rendering necessary first aid, suspect apprehension (assuming the person is in the immediate area) all while maintaining scene integrity.

“That is where crime-scene management comes into play,” Sparks explained. “When they get to the part when they know it is a valid crime scene, they need to isolate, secure and contain it.”

Often, they perform this task while working on mobile data terminals, radios and answering phone calls from their supervisors, Sparks said.

Securing a scene is where law enforcement breaks out the yellow tape, and Sparks said there is a method to the madness.

“I have a moniker I call the law of halves,” he said. The law of halves involves yellow tape placement, Sparks explained. “If the crime scene is 100 feet, then I go out 100 feet, then go an additional 50 feet and set up the first barrier tape,” he said. “Then beyond that tape, and you would use your best judgment, and set up the second barrier tape. The second barrier tape is where the public and media would be.”

The area between the two barriers of tape is the staging area, an area where detectives and crime-scene unit personnel meet, Sparks said.

Once the scene is established, it should be secured and isolated, Sparks said.

“You want to eject everyone that is not essential out of the scene,” he explained. “You want to keep it as clean as possible.”

A detailed scene log must also be kept, Sparks said.

**Evidence**

Establishing the barriers helps maintain the most important type of evidence — the physical evidence.

Sparks said there are four main categories of evidence in every case. Each type has a crucial role to play in a case.

“Physical evidence is the most critical of the four,” Sparks said.

“Physical evidence establishes a crime has taken place,” he explained. “It links the victim to the crime scene, and it also links the perpetrator to the crime scene.”

When it comes to physical evidence, scene security with controlled entry and exit points are of the utmost importance, Sparks said.

“It’s a scientific principle — the Locard Exchange Principle,” he said.

Dr. Edmond Locard was a pioneer in forensic science. He formulated the basic principle in forensic science as “Every contact leaves a trace.”

“Every time you go into that scene, you’re introducing contaminants into it,” Sparks explained. “Conversely, every time you leave that scene, you’re taking stuff out. I work with a lot of our cold case detectives, and they’ve been working on a homicide case that is 20 or 20 years old, and it comes down to a hair on a sock,” Sparks continued. “We can get DNA off that hair, but the case comes down to a single fiber of hair, and now you (the patrol officer) go stomping through that crime scene, and through static, that hair attaches to your pants, and you walk out without knowing it. That is why we want to try to minimize access to that scene.”

There are many things a patrol officer can do to help the case, Sparks said. For example, they a piece of them nobody crosses that barrier tape, and I mean nobody. They must enter and exit at an established point.”

Sparks said scene security and safety are two of the most important elements of any death investigation. He also said establishing a single scene entry and exit point is critical.
If you chase someone, and they throw drugs or a handgun over in a bush, you know where it is, and you can place another officer there to secure it and make sure no one illegally takes it or tampers with the scene,” Sparks said.

The three classifications of evidence are testimonial, documentary, and demonstrative.

The testimonial is simply that – statements from witnesses and suspects on the scene.

That is why you Mirandize the individual,” Sparks said. “You tell them their rights.

Documentary evidence is any material that may be available at the scene—for example, surveillance camera footage or a suicide note.

Demonstrative evidence is often used in court where legal counsel asks the officer to demonstrate something for the court, such as what they did to take the suspect down, Sparks said.

DOCUMENTATION AND THE FIVE SENSES

More often than not, a patrol officer will arrive on the scene long before a detective or crime scene technician.

From the moment they arrive, they must start documenting the scene.

“I tell patrol officers that if they have a camera issued to them, take as many photos as quickly as they can, with the understanding they have many responsibilities on them, to begin with,” Sparks said. “As people come in, such as fire, EMS, and detectives, they are introducing all kinds of outside stuff to that crime scene, and it’s being contaminated. If officers can take some photos of that scene before anyone else arrives, the old saying of a picture is worth a thousand words comes into play.”

Note-taking must be beyond reproach for the good of the case, officers and agency, Sparks said, adding that after a while, the many different scenes begin to blur together.

“I’ll get subpoenaed, and I’m like, ‘Did I go to that scene?’ The report says I did, but I don’t remember it,” Sparks said. “In Louisville, there are so many of those cases. If you’re in a small town, that might not be the case.”

Good initial note-taking can aid the detectives once they arrive on the scene.

“Taking detailed notes and using your five senses—sight, hearing, smell, touch, and taste—can be critical to a case.”

If you go to a scene where smoke is involved, and maybe there is a metallic taste in your mouth. Is that not important to note?” Sparks asked. “It sure is. While it may not mean dickdandy to you, an investigator will say, ‘There is a certain chemical that causes that,’ and unknowingly to you, it could be very critical. So put it in your notes.”

SMALLER AGENCIES

LMPD has the resources to field a robust unit dedicated to working crime scenes. Many smaller agencies may not have that luxury, but it doesn’t mean the quality of the investigation should suffer.

“I know budgets and personnel limit many smaller departments, but having people who’ve gone through courses like the Kentucky Criminalistics Academy is vital,” Sparks said. “KCA is where you can learn how to take good, quality pictures with a digital camera, whether it is a point and shoot or a single-lens reflex (SLR). It is as vital as being proficient with your weapon. Your weapon protects you and the camera protects your notes.”

“(KCA) also teaches officer skills such as bullet trajectory and blood-spatter-pattern analysis, Sparks added. Through proper training and technique, such as photography and note-taking, once the case moves into the trial phase, everything will pay off, Sparks said. Without attention to detail, things could go south in a courtroom.

“Taking good notes helps with memory when it comes to trial,” Sparks said. “It may be a year to two years down the road (before it comes to court), but when you’re trying to remember the details about the scene, taking good, copious notes is very important.”
Dallas Greer said.

“It allows you to shoot CS (tear) gas with it, and rubber or wooden batons. It gives you more capability,” said. “You can shoot CS (tear) gas with it, and rubber or wooden batons. It gives you more capability.”

According to Greer, assistant team commander with the KSP Special Response Team, that agency began using the ARWEN when it first came out in 1980.

“All KSP SRT members are trained on how and when to use the ARWEN-37, but only four members are designated as ARWEN-37 specialists and are assigned the weapon as part of their standard loadout,” Greer said.

In all, the ARWEN-37 uses AR-1 impact baton rounds, AR-5 barricade penetrating rounds, OC and CS chemical munitions.

“The biggest pro to the ARWEN-37 is that it is a rifle barrel that is capable of mounting a red-dot optic,” Greer said. “This allows it to be extremely accurate as a less-lethal launcher, especially when compared to smoothbore launchers or launchers with only standard iron or plastic leaf sights.”

Another benefit is the impact on the target.

“First, it is best to classify the ARWEN as a ‘less-lethal’ weapon because it still has the lethal capability if used a certain way,” Greer explained. “But a lethal outcome is not likely to occur when using this weapon in a prescribed way.”

If appropriately used, Greer said the suspect would suffer soft-tissue injuries or bone fractures. When KSP SRT members are trained, they are taught to target the solar plexus, back, arms and legs.

“We avoid the head, chest and groin,” he said. “Less-lethal weapons like the ARWEN-37 have helped law enforcement do their jobs more efficiently and safely,” Greer said.

“Without a doubt, the ARWEN-37, and less-lethal launcher weapon systems in general, have changed the game regarding how SWAT teams, including KSP SRT, do business,” he said. “It allows us to have a less-lethal option that can reach out and touch someone from a greater distance than other less-lethal options like the ASP baton and Taser, and with the added capability of being able to launch chemical munitions into a residence. It has expedited the timeline which tactical teams can safely end barricades.”

**ALTERNATIVE TO BULLETS**

LESS-LETHAL OPTIONS ARE EFFECTIVE

Law enforcement officer uses many tools in his or her work. Those tools range from handcuffs and oleoresin capiscum (OC) spray to a variety of tactical weapons, both lethal and less-than-lethal.

In the world of special response tactical teams, the popular less-than-lethal ARWEN-37 offers law enforcement officers versatility, according to Department of Criminal Justice Training Firearms Section Supervisor Joe Wallace.

“The ARWEN affords more options because there are a host of munitions you can shoot with it,” Wallace said. “You can shoot CS (tear) gas with it, and rubber or wooden batons. It gives you more capability.”

In all, the ARWEN-37 uses AR-3 impact baton rounds, AR-5 barricade penetrating rounds, OC, and CS chemical munitions.

“The impact baton rounds are essentially big, hard rubber bullets that are fired at a non-compliant suspect to gain pain compliance, Kentucky State Police Sgt. Dallas Greer said.

According to Greer, assistant team commander with the KSP Special Response Team, that agency began using the ARWEN when it first came out in 1980.

“All KSP SRT members are trained on how and when to use the ARWEN-37, but only four members are designated as ARWEN-37 specialists and are assigned the weapon as part of their standard loadout,” Greer said.

In all, the ARWEN-37 uses AR-3 impact baton rounds, AR-5 barricade penetrating rounds, OC and CS chemical munitions, Greer said.

“They can also be used to knock out windows or street lights to gain a tactical advantage on a call out,” Greer added.

The ARWEN isn’t a tool that sits around, gathering dust. Greer said KSP SRT uses it routinely.

“(We) use this weapon, in some form or fashion, on almost every single call out,” Greer explained. “Whether it’s launching impact baton rounds at a non-compliant suspect, or launching chemical munition barricade penetrator rounds into a residence on a barricaded subject, the ARWEN-37 is relied on heavily by KSP SRT as its primary less-lethal weapon. We also use Tasers, but the ARWEN-37 is still our primary less-lethal option.”

**WEAPON BENEFITS**

The most significant benefit to the ARWEN-37 is the fact it cannot be confused with any other weapon, Wallace said.

“We want to make sure it cannot be interchanged because, under stress, that can be an issue,” Wallace explained. “Because it’s a 37mm, there is no way to confuse it with a 40mm munition. You cannot confuse a less-lethal round with a less-lethal round. Having this type of weapon system removes that risk.”

Additionally, the sound the weapon makes is much different from that of a shotgun, shotgun, or rifle, Wallace continued.

“If somebody uses a shotgun for a bean bag, and you have a guy with a knife, and you want him to drop it, if a shotgun is used, it sounds like a shotgun,” Wallace said. “Then other people are going to respond with what is called sympathetic gunfire, where they think (the person using the shotgun) sees something they don’t, so they start shooting. With this weapon, it is easily recognized that it is not a shotgun, rifle or handgun. It makes a thumping noise. It doesn’t sound like a regular gun.”

“Without a doubt, the ARWEN-37, and less-lethal launcher weapon systems in general, have changed the game regarding how SWAT teams, including KSP SRT, do business,” she said. “It allows us to have a less-lethal option that can reach out and touch someone from a greater distance than other less-lethal options like the ASP baton and Taser, and with the added capability of being able to launch chemical munitions into a residence. It has expedited the timeline which tactical teams can safely end barricades.”

**OPPOSITE PAGE:** A Laurel County deputy (TOP-LEFT) trains at the Richmond Police Department firing range in February. KSP SRT uses the ARWEN-37 regularly when it is called out, according to Sgt. Dallas Greer.

(LEFT) The ARWEN-37 is popular with law enforcement as it provides the ability to shoot multiple munitions, including a rubber or wooden baton, tear gas and CS chemical gas.
Coroners play a significant role in public service. In KRS 72.400, the General Assembly recognized the coroner as an "elected constitutional peace officer" and that the coroner’s work is "the ascertainment of the cause and manner of death in cases in which the coroner has jurisdiction is an essential governmental service."

Coroners are called upon to handle matters related to the death of an individual in the community. Sometimes, coroners must initiate and conduct investigations into a person’s death that was accident, sudden, unexplained or may have been the result of criminal activity. Within these investigations, coroners often engage in actions that are typically within the traditional province of law enforcement.

The coroner’s legal authority arises from Kentucky’s Constitution and mandates the election of the coroner in a county shall not exceed one for every 25,000 residents based on the most recent federal census. KRS 72.025 mandates coroners to require a constitutional oath of office and must execute a surety bond before assuming office. (Ky. Const. § 228; KRS 72.010.)

KRS 64.185(6) does, however, permit the coroner to appoint additional deputy coroners regardless of population upon the consent of the legislative body of the county. Under KRS 72.020(1), any person, hospital, or institution having possession of the body of any person whose death occurred under any of the circumstances outlined in KRS 72.025(1)-(12) shall immediately notify the coroner and a law enforcement agency.

Concerning training, the General Assembly expressed its intent in KRS 72.400 to encourage the coroner to participate in approved training sessions to improve skills and to cooperate with the Office of the Kentucky Medical Examiner. KRS 72.415(2)(a) further requires deputy coroners to hold a high school diploma or its equivalent, complete a 40-hour basic training course after the first year of employment, and complete a training course of at least 18 hours each calendar year.

For death investigations, KRS 72.415 provides that "coroners and deputy coroners shall have the full power and authority of peace officers in this state, including the power to arrest and the authority to bear arms.” Accordingly, coroners are strongly encouraged to review the laws of arrest as established in KRS 433.005 and KRS 433.015. Coroners and deputy coroners also have the power and authority to administer oaths, enter public or private premises to make investigations, seize evidence, interrogate persons, require the production of medical records, books, papers, documents or other evidence, impound vehicles involved in vehicular deaths, employ special investigators and photographers and expend funds necessary for carrying out the investigations of coroner’s cases.

Because coroners possess the "full power and authority of peace officers," coroners are advised to stay abreast of current law concerning the use of force, search and seizure, interrogations, open records, and laws of arrest to aid in the fulfillment of constitutional and statutory duties.

For death investigations, KRS 72.415 provides that "coroners and deputy coroners shall have the full power and authority of peace officers in this state, including the power to arrest and the authority to bear arms.” Accordingly, coroners are strongly encouraged to review the laws of arrest as established in KRS 433.005 and KRS 433.015. Coroners and deputy coroners also have the power and authority to administer oaths, enter public or private premises to make investigations, seize evidence, interrogate persons, require the production of medical records, books, papers, documents or other evidence, impound vehicles involved in vehicular deaths, employ special investigators and photographers and expend funds necessary for carrying out the investigations of coroner’s cases.

Concerning training, the General Assembly expressed its intent in KRS 72.400 to encourage the coroner to participate in approved training sessions to improve skills and to cooperate with the Office of the Kentucky Medical Examiner. KRS 72.415(2)(a) further requires deputy coroners to hold a high school diploma or its equivalent, complete a 40-hour basic training course after the first year of employment, and complete a training course of at least 18 hours each calendar year.

Basic and in-service training for coroners is offered through the Department of Criminal Justice Training. Investigative information, crime scene investigation, photography, record keeping, search and seizure, constitutional and statutory duties are topics included during these trainings.

The office of the coroner is a significant component of governmental service. Because coroners possess the “full power and authority of peace officers,” coroners are advised to stay abreast of current law concerning the use of force, search and seizure, interrogations, open records, and laws of arrest to aid in the fulfillment of constitutional and statutory duties.

Coroners play a significant role in Kentucky law. In KRS 72.400, the General Assembly recognized the coroner as an "elected constitutional peace officer" and that the coroner’s work is "the ascertainment of the cause and manner of death in cases in which the coroner has jurisdiction is an essential governmental service."

Coroners are called upon to handle matters related to the death of an individual in the community. Sometimes, coroners must initiate and conduct investigations into a person’s death that was accident, sudden, unexplained or may have been the result of criminal activity. Within these investigations, coroners often engage in actions that are typically within the traditional province of law enforcement.

The coroner’s legal authority arises from Kentucky’s Constitution and mandates the election of the coroner in a county shall not exceed one for every 25,000 residents based on the most recent federal census. In KRS 72.400, the General Assembly expressed its intent to encourage the coroner to participate in approved training sessions to improve skills and to cooperate with the Office of the Kentucky Medical Examiner.

Concerning training, the General Assembly expressed its intent in KRS 72.400 to encourage the coroner to participate in approved training sessions to improve skills and to cooperate with the Office of the Kentucky Medical Examiner. KRS 72.415(2)(a) further requires deputy coroners to hold a high school diploma or its equivalent, complete a 40-hour basic training course after the first year of employment, and complete a training course of at least 18 hours each calendar year.

Basic and in-service training for coroners is offered through the Department of Criminal Justice Training. Investigative information, crime scene investigation, photography, record keeping, search and seizure, constitutional and statutory duties are topics included during these trainings.

The office of the coroner is a significant component of governmental service. Because coroners possess the “full power and authority of peace officers,” coroners are advised to stay abreast of current law concerning the use of force, search and seizure, interrogations, open records, and laws of arrest to aid in the fulfillment of constitutional and statutory duties.

Coroners play a significant role in Kentucky law. In KRS 72.400, the General Assembly recognized the coroner as an "elected constitutional peace officer" and that the coroner’s work is "the ascertainment of the cause and manner of death in cases in which the coroner has jurisdiction is an essential governmental service."

Coroners are called upon to handle matters related to the death of an individual in the community. Sometimes, coroners must initiate and conduct investigations into a person’s death that was accident, sudden, unexplained or may have been the result of criminal activity. Within these investigations, coroners often engage in actions that are typically within the traditional province of law enforcement.

The coroner’s legal authority arises from Kentucky’s Constitution and mandates the election of the coroner in a county shall not exceed one for every 25,000 residents based on the most recent federal census. In KRS 72.400, the General Assembly expressed its intent to encourage the coroner to participate in approved training sessions to improve skills and to cooperate with the Office of the Kentucky Medical Examiner.

Concerning training, the General Assembly expressed its intent in KRS 72.400 to encourage the coroner to participate in approved training sessions to improve skills and to cooperate with the Office of the Kentucky Medical Examiner. KRS 72.415(2)(a) further requires deputy coroners to hold a high school diploma or its equivalent, complete a 40-hour basic training course after the first year of employment, and complete a training course of at least 18 hours each calendar year.

Basic and in-service training for coroners is offered through the Department of Criminal Justice Training. Investigative information, crime scene investigation, photography, record keeping, search and seizure, constitutional and statutory duties are topics included during these trainings.

The office of the coroner is a significant component of governmental service. Because coroners possess the “full power and authority of peace officers,” coroners are advised to stay abreast of current law concerning the use of force, search and seizure, interrogations, open records, and laws of arrest to aid in the fulfillment of constitutional and statutory duties.

For death investigations, KRS 72.415 provides that "coroners and deputy coroners shall have the full power and authority of peace officers in this state, including the power to arrest and the authority to bear arms.” Accordingly, coroners are strongly encouraged to review the laws of arrest as established in KRS 433.005 and KRS 433.015. Coroners and deputy coroners also have the power and authority to administer oaths, enter public or private premises to make investigations, seize evidence, interrogate persons, require the production of medical records, books, papers, documents or other evidence, impound vehicles involved in vehicular deaths, employ special investigators and photographers and expend funds necessary for carrying out the investigations of coroner’s cases.

Concerning training, the General Assembly expressed its intent in KRS 72.400 to encourage the coroner to participate in approved training sessions to improve skills and to cooperate with the Office of the Kentucky Medical Examiner. KRS 72.415(2)(a) further requires deputy coroners to hold a high school diploma or its equivalent, complete a 40-hour basic training course after the first year of employment, and complete a training course of at least 18 hours each calendar year.

Basic and in-service training for coroners is offered through the Department of Criminal Justice Training. Investigative information, crime scene investigation, photography, record keeping, search and seizure, constitutional and statutory duties are topics included during these trainings.

The office of the coroner is a significant component of governmental service. Because coroners possess the “full power and authority of peace officers,” coroners are advised to stay abreast of current law concerning the use of force, search and seizure, interrogations, open records, and laws of arrest to aid in the fulfillment of constitutional and statutory duties.
APB: SROs NEED TO BE AWARE OF APP TRENDS

NEW TECHNOLOGY COULD LURE STUDENTS INTO TROUBLE

The world of apps is an ever-changing door. “So, with the old and in with the new.”

Because of it, law enforcement, especially school resource officers, must be aware of the latest trends school-aged children are utilizing. Department of Criminal Justice Training Instructor Bill Eckler said.

“Facebook used to be a kid thing,” Eckler said. “Then parents became involved, so kids don’t do it much anymore. It’s kind of the same thing we’re seeing with Snapchat (where kids are using it less because parents understand it better).”

Presently, Eckler said apps such as Tik Tok, KiK, WhatsApp, and Houseparty are reeling in children, and potentially opening up doors for pedophiles to hunt and other less than desirable activity.

Apps such as Houseparty allow up to eight video chats at one time, DOCJT Instructor Cody Shepherd said.

“You can drop in on conversations,” Shepherd said. “So, if you and I were talking, one of my friends could drop in on the conversation. The person dropping in only has to have permission from the person who initiates the video chat. This one person and I might not like the other person (on the call), so we could team up and bully that person.

“Having said that, the biggest things at the schools,” he continued. “There is also another avenue of sexting – trying to get pictures of the girls. Houseparty is real big about that. (Boys) will get a girl in there, and three or four guys will join in (and the girl may not be aware of it). It could make her feel deflated and weak.”

A significant problem with many of the messenger or video chat platforms is they are untraceable, Eckler said.

“This can be used to the criminal’s advantage, whether they’re using it to set up a drug deal, bullying, or attempting to lure a minor into a compromising position.

“The biggest one for criminal activity is going to be the WhatsApp or Facebook, which now has its encryption or secret messaging,” Eckler explained.

“These apps can also be used to target children by pedophiles. In the November/December 2018 Kentucky Law Enforcement magazine article, 14% of teens reported in 2014 that friends had invited someone over whom they had only met online, and another 38% of teens had considered meeting someone in person whom they first met online, according to enough.org.

Additionally, just 28% of parents have installed software on computers to prohibit certain websites and app visitations; only 17% have such software on mobile devices, according to the website. The key for school resource officers is to build rapport with the children in the schools, Shepherd said.

“It’s about having a network with the students,” he explained. “I had students who would come up to me and tell me when they saw certain things posted. They’ll tell you all sorts of things if they respect you. It comes down to having the respect of the students.”

Cops Pull Over Wienermobile

Oscar Mayer’s iconic Wienermobile got a grilling from a Wisconsin sheriff’s deputy after the driver failed to give enough room from another coach on the road. Traffic laws in Wisconsin require vehicles to move out of the lane closest to another car that is on the side of the road with emergen-

New Technology

cy lights flashing. The deputy issued the driver a verbal warning for not following the law. The Waukesha Sheriff’s Office posted a tweet showing the deputy’s SUV parked behind the Wienermobile with the hashtags, #MoveOver #SlowDown #Wienermobile. (Photo from Waukesha County Sheriff’s Department)

Parrot Fools Police

Neighbors, Police

Neighbors in Florida got quite the surprise when they responded to a call reporting the sounds of a woman in distress, only to discover it was just an extremely vocal parrot. According to police, the parrot’s owner was working on his wife’s car in the driveway when the bird began cries of “Let me out! Let me out! Let me out!”

The screams were realistic enough to prompt neighbors to call the police, concerned that a woman was actually in trouble. In a Facebook post, the Palm Beach County Sheriff’s Office shared, “Our deputies in Lake Worth Beach came to the help of someone screaming for help. Hilarity ensued.”

Teen Tries to Take Flight

Florida police arrested a man for shoplifting at a local grocery store. When police arrived, they discovered the man wrestling with the store manager and customers who were attempting to detain the suspect. Police used a Taser to gain compliance, and while doing so, packed ages of rifle stock fell out of his pants, according to police.

The man was charged with resisting arrest, theft, and petty theft.

Send funny, interesting or strange stories from the beat to Michaela.Moore@KY.GOV

STRANGE STORIES FROM THE BEAT

Where’s the Beef?

Florida police arrested a man for shoplifting at a local grocery store. When police arrived, they discovered the man wrestling with the store manager and customers who were attempting to detain the suspect. Police used a Taser to gain compliance, and while doing so, pack- ages of rifle stock fell out of his pants, according to police.

The man was charged with resisting arrest, theft, and petty theft.

Nerf Gun Used in Assault

A woman in Louisiana is facing charges after turning Nerf guns on the husband she accused of cheating, according to police. The woman allegedly branded the plastic toys with foam darts before chosing her husband out of their West Monroe home and down the road. She was still holding the Nerf guns when police arrived and later admitted to the assault, according to an affidavit, which notes the husband suffered minor cuts to his face and arm. The woman is charged with one count of domestic abuse child endangerment, as minors were home at the time of the incident.

Send funny, interesting or strange stories from the beat to Michaela.Moore@KY.GOV
Put More
On Your Plate!

KENTUCKY
Fallen Officers Trust

KLEMF.org

KENTUCKY LAW ENFORCEMENT MEMORIAL FOUNDATION