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## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

*Editor's note: Some meeting and event times may be adjusted due to the Thanksgiving holiday. The Nonpareil encourages the public to call ahead before attending a meeting or event.*

### TODAY

- **Bluffs Center Dance** — 7 to 10 p.m., The Center, 714 S. Main Street.
- **Rotary Centennial Club** — 7 a.m., Madison Avenue Hy-Vee by Mall of the Bluffs.
- **Breastfeeding Support Group** — 9:30 a.m., CHI Health Mercy Hospital Lactation Clinic in Mercy 2 Professional Center, Room 206. Call 712-328-5252.
- **Lewis & Clark Study Group** — 9 to 11 a.m., 2 Huron Circle, Salem United Methodist Manawa Center. Find out what happened to the explorers.
- **Midday Optimist Club** — Noon, Golden Corral, 3103 Dial Drive.
- **Carter Lake VFW No. 9661 Hamburger Night** — 5 to 7:30 p.m., 100 Locust St., Carter Lake. 712-347-6969.
- **Greater Communicators Toastmaster Club** — 6:30 p.m., The Center, 714 S. Main. Call Floyd at 712-326-9332.
- **Water Exercise Program** — 7 to 8 p.m., Lewis Central Pool.
- **Carter Lake Optimist Club** — 7 p.m., Carter Lake Senior Center, 626 Locust St.
- **Debtors Anonymous** — 7 p.m., Community of Christ Family Life Center, 150 W. Kanessville Blvd. Call 712-325-6788.
- **Gamblers 12-Step Program** — 8 p.m., 12-Step House, 7306 Grant St., Omaha. For 24-hour hotline, call 402-978-7899.
- **Wednesday Night Live Al-Anon** — CHI Health Building, 622 S. Fourth St.
- **American Red Cross Blood-pressure Screening** — 10 to 11 a.m., Oard-Ross Drug Store, 701 16th Ave.
- **Meal and a Message** — 6 p.m., Fifth Avenue United Methodist Church.

### THURSDAY

- **Optimist Club of Council Bluffs** — 7 a.m., Madison Avenue Hy-Vee.
- **Al-Anon Family Group** — 10 a.m., The 500 Club, 410 S. 16th St.
- **Council Bluffs Rotary** — Noon, The Center, 714 S. Main St.
- **Tops Iowa 1263** — 5 to 6 p.m., Harmony Court. Use east door. Call Shirley at 712-642-3530 or Donna at 712-325-1783.
- **Council Bluffs MAD DADS** — 7 p.m., 133 W. Broadway. Call 712-328-0302.
- **Gamblers 12-Step Program** — 7 p.m., Pacific Hills Lutheran Church, 90th and Pacific Streets, Omaha. For 24-hour hotline, call 402-978-7899.
- **All Acoustic Music Jam** — 1 to 4 p.m., Western Historic Trails Center.
- **White Elephant Bingo** — 12:30 p.m., The Center.
- **Teen Gaming** — 3:30 to 7:30 p.m., Council Bluffs Public Library's Teen Central. Mix of board and video

games for students in sixth through 12th grade. Call 712-323-7553.

• **Southwest Iowa Amateur Radio Club** — 7:30 p.m., American Red Cross, 16th Street and Avenue G.

All amateur radio operators and anyone with an interest in amateur radio welcome. Call 712-328-0107.

• **Friends of Underwood** — Organization seeking more engagement from community members in pursuit of brainstorming and implementing ways to make the Underwood community a better place to live and work. 7:30 p.m., Underwood City Hall.

### FRIDAY

- **Roller Skating** — UMBA Hall, Underwood. 7 to 8:30 p.m., open skating for fourth grade and below (parents may skate with children); 8:30 to 10 p.m., open skating for fifth grade and above. Cost \$4, skates included. No outside skates allowed. Cancelled if Underwood schools closed for weather or a holiday weekend. Call 712-566-2222 or 712-310-0935. Email lindajeanscott07@gmail.com.
- **Southwest Iowa Narcotics Anonymous** — Noon, Let It Be, New Litehouse, 200 16th Ave.; 6:30 p.m., Just for Today, Faith Community Church, 2701 N. Eighth St., Red Oak; 7 p.m., Clean & Free Group, first floor McDermott building, 800 Mercy Drive; 8 p.m., Straight and Grateful, 309 Elm St., Atlantic; 8:30 p.m., Discovery Group Church of Christ, 714 Benson St., Omaha; 8:30 p.m., Rebellions, New Litehouse, 200 16th Ave.
- **Bingo** — 12:15 p.m., The Center, 714 S. Main St. Two to four cards for 25 cents each, plus white elephant gift.
- **Freedom Seekers Al-Anon** — 7:30 p.m., Broadway Christian Church, 2658 Ave. A.
- **Pickin' and Grinnin' Country Music Jam** — 6:30 to 9 p.m., Corn Crib restaurant, 12 East St., Shelby. Musicians and music lovers invited to a weekly jam session. Call the Corn Crib at 712-207-2676.
- **The Council Bluffs Order of the Eastern Star, Chapter 441 Spaghetti Feed** — 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., Masonic Temple, 130 S. Sixth St. Includes salad, hot bread and coffee, tea, water or lemonade and a home made dessert. Cost \$7 for adults, \$3 for pre-teens. Eat in or carry out. Public welcome.
- **Elks Lodge TGIF Dinner** — 6 to 8 p.m. Call 712-323-2589 for weekly menu.

### SATURDAY

- **Treynor Optimist Club** — 8 a.m., Treynor Community Center.
- **Underwood Optimist Club** — 7:30 a.m., UMBA Hall.
- **Overeaters Anonymous** — 8:30 a.m., Douglas County Hospital, town hall meeting room, first floor, 42nd and Woolworth Streets, Omaha. Call Tracy at 402-551-9711. 10:30 a.m., Unity Church, 3424 N. 90th St., Omaha. Wheelchair accessible and child care provided. Call Dala at 402-210-3755.
- **Southwest Iowa Narcotics Anonymous** — 5 p.m., Saturday Serenity, St. Paul's Episcopal Church,

812 Farnum St., Harlan; 6 p.m., On the Right Track, 515 E. Broadway; 8 p.m., Living Clean, 303 Walnut St., Shenandoah; 8:30 p.m., Rebellions, New Litehouse, 200 16th Ave.

- **Gamblers 12-Step Program** — 7 p.m., 354 N. 76th St., Omaha. For 24-hour hotline, call 402-978-7899.

- **Electric Music Jam** — Noon to 4 p.m., Western Historic Trails Center.



# Lacy talks law enforcement at Rotary

**Clifford Davis**

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David Lacy, Chief of Nebraska City Police since 2006, has over 30 years of experience with the department, which comprises 14 sworn officers. He spoke at last week's Rotary meeting about current issues in national and local law enforcement.

"These days, law enforcement is about as popular as Vietnam veterans in 1969 and 1970 when they were coming home. I think that's unfair," Lacy said. "We've all seen some boneheads do stupid things, but for the most part, officers are conscientious about what they're doing. They're trying to make their community better.

"But my officers feel beaten down just from what they've seen in the national media," he said.

Police use of deadly force in the line of duty, whether justified or not, has meant murder charges, civil penalties, and prison for some officers. This in turn has led to low morale, he said.

So, two years ago, Chief Lacy introduced a contest of sorts at the police station, in which officers took turns posting quotes on the back door that provided encouragement—reminders that they are engaged in a noble profession and need to do their best regardless of public opinion.

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## LACY

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The one that stayed up for the longest, about a month and a half, was a twist on the warrior's creed of ancient Sparta, substituting the word "badge" for "shield" in the original:

"This is my badge. I bear it before me into battle, but it is not mine alone. It protects my brother on

my left. It protects my city. I will never let my fellow officers [brothers] out of its shadow, nor my city out of its shelter."

Lacy went on to address popular stereotypes about the police, such as the assumption that when two police cars are parked on the side of the road with the officers talking to each other, they're just hanging out, goofing off.

Not necessarily, said Lacy.

He told the story of bumping into a neighbor in the grocery store. The neighbor complained about seeing two police cruisers parked at the end of his street, the officers talking. The cop cars were still there twenty minutes later.

As it was about six o'clock, Lacy explained that's when the officers change shifts, and that the day guys were probably telling the night guys what they dealt with. He pointed to the firemen still sitting outside eating ice cream, an hour later after he first saw them when he left work for the day.

"You're not [complaining] about that," Lacy said. "A good waste of my taxpayer's money," replied the neighbor.

"Well, here, I got a buck and half, I'll give you that," said Lacy.

Lacy went on to describe the demographics of the police force in the city, past and present. In 2003, the accrued years of offi-

cers' service was 240, roughly 20 years per officer. Lacy and Capt. Lonnie Nieman's service accounted for 36 of those years.

By 2006, when Lacy was appointed to replace William Muldoon as police chief, accrued years of service in the department had dropped to 105, mainly due to retirements. The department was largely younger officers.

In 2017, the number of years of accrued service is 135, or an average of ten years per officer. Sixty-two of those years belong to Capt. Nieman and Chief Lacy.

Lacy considers a new hire's first two years on the job to be a wash as the officer learns the ropes. (Whether the odd numbers are on the left or right side of the street, as one neophyte asked Lacy to clarify, depends on whether you're going north or south.) Six officers now on the force have less than two years' experience.

He tells new officers, "You've got 7,000 people in town who are going to figure you out in five minutes. You're not going to figure out seven thousand people in a year."

It is worth noting, said Lacy, that 10 percent of the people are 80 percent of the problem. Using data from the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS), Lacy re-

viewed numbers of calls to the police department over the past few years—occasions when an officer is dispatched to a scene of some kind.

The annual number of calls between 2013 and 2016 averaged around 5,400 calls, with a jump to 5,861 in 2016-2017.

He broke down numbers further into parking violations, arrest warrants, and follow-ups, when officers have further questions or people reporting an incident provide additional information later.

Hours spent completing reports also account for a major part of policing, occupying 44 percent of officers' time. Arresting and jailing a drunk driver and processing the paperwork, for example, takes about four hours.

Lacy, himself a member of Rotary, concluded his talk by honoring the Rotarian practice of having the speaker tell something about himself that others may not know. He spoke of his passion for coin collecting.

A while ago, an elderly friend with not long to live invited Lacy to his house and, aware of "young Lacy's" numismatic pastime, offered him a 1905 five-dollar gold piece.

"I don't have enough money to buy that," replied Lacy.

"Who said anything about selling it to you? I have no need for it, and

I've always been told they don't take cash in Hell," said his friend.

The gathering concluded with Rotarian and first assistant fire chief Dennis Marshall publicly inviting the police department to come over to the fire station anytime for ice cream.



**Nebraska City Police Chief David Lacy addresses the Rotary Club about contemporary law enforcement issues on Nov. 15.**

PHOTO BY CLIFFORD DAVIS