



**LARAMIE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT**  
1910 PIONEER AVENUE  
CHEYENNE, WYOMING 82001

**Brian Kozak**  
SHERIFF

**LARAMIE COUNTY JUVENILE SERVICES CENTER**  
13794 PRAIRIE CENTER CIRCLE  
CHEYENNE, WYOMING 82009

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### **News Release**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## **LARAMIE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE PUTS SCHOOL RESOURCE DEPUTIES INTO THE SCHOOLS**

At the request of Sheriff Brian Kozak, Laramie County Commissioners approved funding positions for our School Resource Deputy (SRD) program. Sheriff Kozak and the administrative staff developed an SRD policy based on best practices from the National Association of School Resource Officers (NASRO) to clearly define what roles deputies will have within our schools. With policy in place, a Corporal was assigned to supervise the program. Deputies Fertig and Konegni completed NASRO SRD certification and were assigned to District Two schools. These deputies will focus on school security, student relationships, teaching, and law enforcement around the schools.

Deputy Fertig started his law enforcement career at the Laramie County Detention Center in 2018. He spent three years working in the jail as a Detention Deputy. During this time, he learned how to communicate effectively as a law enforcement officer as well as deal with confrontational situations. In 2021, Deputy Fertig transferred to Laramie County Sheriff's patrol division. In 2023, Deputy Fertig was certified as a field training officer and assisted in the training of new patrol deputies. He is also certified as a Drug Recognition Expert. Deputy Fertig has been selected to be the School Resource Deputy for Pine Bluffs and Albin. Fertig said, "I plan to use and refine the skills I have acquired throughout my career to ensure a safe learning environment in Laramie County School District 2. I look forward to building solid relationships with the schools and surrounding communities."

Deputy Konegni grew up on a cattle ranch north of Cheyenne and graduated from the University of Phoenix in 2013 with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice. Konegni started her law enforcement career with the Salina Police Department in Salina, Kansas. She started with the Laramie County Sheriff's Office in 2015. In 2017 Konegni was selected for the Detectives Division. In detectives, she worked people crimes, mostly crimes against children. Konegni has attended training relating to speaking with

juveniles, human trafficking, and child abuse. In 2019, Deputy Konegni transferred back to patrol. She attended Basic SRD school in Bozeman, Montana in August of 2022 and was selected to be a School Resource Deputy in Burns and Carpenter. “I really enjoy working with our youth in our community and try to be a positive resource in their daily lives.”

Sheriff Kozak said he pushed for the program because he did not want to risk an extended response time to our schools in Eastern Laramie County. “I feel reassured knowing there are full-time deputies assigned to these schools. There is nothing more important than protecting our young people and being a resource for the parents.” Kozak said.

Justin Pierantoni, School District #2 Superintendent, had this to say about the School Resource Deputy Program, “Laramie County School District #2 is grateful to Sheriff Kozak and his department for the two officers who service our vast school district. The deputies have made an immediate impact, building relationships and providing support in a positive manner. We look forward to the service this new relationship will provide for our students, families and staff.”

The Sheriff’s Office will continue to require all patrol deputies to patrol the schools and to take part in school safety. They will continue to walk the campuses, interact with students, and will continue to engage in traffic enforcement near the schools.



*Riding for the BRAND as one team to fight crime!*