

# Lunzman hired as Brown County's next chief deputy

By Elisa Sand [esand@aberdeennews.com](mailto:esand@aberdeennews.com) Nov 8, 2018 1 min to read



Brown County Chief Deputy Tom Schmitt, back, retires in December. His replacement is Dave Lunzman, a former agent for the South Dakota Division of Criminal Investigation and current Aberdeen City Council member. American News photo by Elisa Sand

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Dave Lunzman and Tom Schmitt will once again be working together, albeit briefly.

Schmitt, 62, will be training Lunzman, 51, as the new chief deputy for Brown County. Schmitt retires Dec. 14 after 24 years as chief deputy and, before that, 17 years as an Aberdeen police officer. Lunzman starts his new position Nov. 26.

It was during Schmitt's time as a police officer that he and Lunzman previously worked together, though on opposite shifts.

Lunzman was a police officer from August 1990 to December 1997 and detective until February 2000. Schmitt's tenure on the police force was from 1978 to 1995.

Schmitt said he never thought about seeking the chief deputy position until he got some encouragement to apply.

"It's been a huge learning curve," Schmitt said of the transition from the police department to the sheriff's office. "There's so much more involved with the sheriff's office."

Schmitt said some of those additional responsibilities include courthouse security, prisoner transports and overseeing the jail and its inmates.

"When I was (a police) officer, we made an arrest, brought him to the jail and never thought about it," Schmitt said.

Lunzman jumped to DCL, a state agency, in 2000. He worked for 17 years in the Aberdeen office, which is in the basement of the sheriff's department. He retired in 2017 when he became a member of the attorney general's Elder Financial Abuse and Vulnerable Adult Task Force.

He also sits on the Aberdeen City Council — a post he will keep.

"I personally feel it's a good move for me," Lunzman said.

He said he enjoyed his time on the task force, but thinks the move to the sheriff's office will be an opportunity to see a different part of law enforcement.

"The sheriff's office does more than any other office," Lunzman said.

He was involved in Sheriff Mark Milbrandt's re-election campaign in the June primary.

Milbrandt said Lunzman's work for the campaign had nothing to do with his decision to hire him as chief deputy. The decision was based on Lunzman's law enforcement and office management experience, Milbrandt said.

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2	-	Kyle Busch	4	7		700
3	-	Kevin Harvick	1	4		691
4	↑1	Denny Hamlin	2	3		669
5	↓4	Brad Keselowski	3	4		663

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