



# ALL COUNTY TRACK AND FIELD

WHICH TOP ATHLETES WERE NAMED TO THE 2009 SQUAD? SEE SPORTS, B1

HILLSDALE **MONDAY** | JUNE 29, 2009

# DAILY NEWS

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## HILLSDALE

# Cleaning up the streets

### Sheriff hopes new filters will save money, environment

By **STEVEN HOWARD**  
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A supplemental engine oil filtration device will save the Hillsdale County Sheriff's Department thousands of dollars a year, according to tests overseen mutually by the department and the product's manufacturer. Undersheriff Jeremiah Hodshire said he was skepti-

cal of the claims at first, given it is traditional to change oil regularly and often.

"I've been looking at this well over a year," he said. "I wanted to make sure the product is a good product."

Hodshire commissioned a study in which the filter was installed in a heavily-used patrol car. The car was given an oil change, along with an-

other patrol car not containing the filter to act as a test control. Both cars were driven as they normally would have been for 6,500 miles, having their oil tested at regular intervals during the period.

The tests were conclusive. "Utilizing this device, we've ended up with a better refined oil," he said. "It offers significant savings over the

life of the vehicle."

The creator of the device, NTZ Manufacturing, USA LLC, is based in Wixom, Mich. and has contracts with Ford and Volkswagen, among other companies, for similar devices.

Though the units cost approximately \$190 each, Hodshire said they will quickly

## By the numbers

Hillsdale County Sheriff's patrol cars 18

patrol cars.

14 number of oil changes per car.

\$300 expected savings per car with NTZ filter.

SEE OIL, A5

# OIL

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pay for themselves.

"We put 40,000 miles per year on a patrol car. That amounts to roughly 14 oil changes," he said.

Hodshire said his department plans to eventually test the devices up to 10,000 miles before an oil change. If the results are positive, which preliminary figures indicate they will be, the number of required yearly changes would be reduced to four per car. At \$30 for an oil change, the savings quickly add up. The department would then be saving \$300 per car per year for each of the 18 patrol cars.

Even though the monetary savings were immediately enticing, Hodshire said he wanted to make certain they would not compromise the safety or performance of his fleet.

"You never want to compromise officer safety or public safety," he said. "I wanted to make sure the tests would yield the results they were promising, and they did."

The filter is interchangeable as well, and can be put into a new patrol car when an old one is decommissioned.

With budget cuts being called for across the board, Hodshire said the cost savings are nice but are not the only benefit.

"Then you look at the environmental waste," he said. "We're not discarding this oil."

Cathy Williams, NTZ director of marketing, said the efficiency of traditional filters is limited.

"Your engine filter is only

capable of removing a certain size of particles," she said. "Mostly, the larger ones."

Williams said her company's product removes much smaller particles, and she hopes to educate people on how important this emerging technology is.

"It's just getting adopted. People are getting used to cleaning oil," she said. "Oil doesn't become old, it becomes dirty."

Williams cited how rigorous, independent test results reinforced the company's claims.

"We tested the oil eight times during the test," she said. "After 5,500 miles, the oil was actually cleaner than when we started."

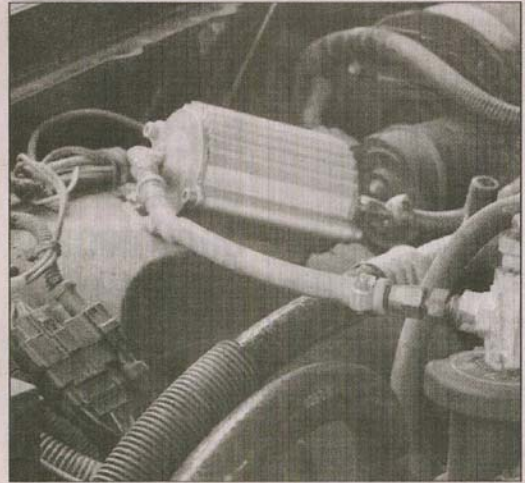
The control car did not do as well.

"At 3,800 (miles), that one was already way out of spec," she said.

Because safety and performance were not compromised, and the product worked as pitched, Hodshire said he will start installing the filters in his fleet as soon as possible.

"We have just authorized the purchase of five more units," he said.

Ninety percent of patrol cars will have the device by December; the remainder by February, according to Hodshire.



The NTZ Micro Filtration device installed on a Hillsdale County Sheriff's Department patrol car. The supplemental filter has more than doubled oil life in the test vehicle.

DAILY NEWS/ STEVEN HOWARD



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