

Julie Hanes safe, captor dead in kidnapping ordeal

Written by Jan Schultz and Russ Pankonin, The Imperial Republican

“It could have had a much different outcome.”

Those were the words from State Patrol Capt. Jim Parrish Sunday night following a daylong ordeal that ended in the death of the suspect who kidnapped one of Imperial’s own.

Julie Hanes, 38, of Lincoln, Neb., the daughter of Jim and Pam Hanes of Imperial, Neb., was released by her captor, her estranged husband Dwayne Lawrence, also 38, from a Haarberg Farms cornfield near Imperial at 6:25 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 25.

About 90 minutes later, Lawrence took his own life with a gunshot wound to the head in the same field Hanes walked out of, two miles northwest of Imperial.

Lawrence’s 7:45 p.m. death ended a 33-hour ordeal that began in Lincoln Saturday when Hanes was taken at gunpoint from her business, Audacious Hair Salon & Massage.

Residents of this normally quiet community on a Sunday afternoon had that peacefulness upturned as the sound of a search helicopter and Code-Reds alerted them that the Lincoln kidnapping had come to their doorstep.

Many were aware of Hanes’ kidnapping Saturday, but confirmations they had come to the Imperial area weren’t made until Sunday morning.

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SWAT team members from the Nebraska State Patrol had a strong presence in the area Sunday as the search continued for Julie Hanes and her abductor. Here, a pair of SWAT team members travel along Highway 6, west of Imperial, Neb. □ □

—Imperial Republican photo

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