

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

# **2017**



## **SKAGIT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

**SHERIFF WILL REICHARDT**  
**600 S THIRD ST**  
**MOUNT VERNON, WA 98273**

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## **Mission Statement**

*“The Skagit County Sheriff’s Office is committed  
to the safety of the citizens we serve,  
visitors to our community and our employees.  
Professionalism, enthusiasm and integrity  
shall be our guiding principles  
in accomplishing this mission. “*

## **Vision**

*“Safety through courage and professionalism.”*

# From the Sheriff



I am honored to serve the citizens of Skagit County as your Sheriff. I am exceptionally proud of the dedicated men and women of the Sheriff's Office who strive each day to provide professional and efficient law enforcement services to

the residents and visitors to our county.

The Sheriff's Office is committed to being the best law enforcement agency possible and our members take pride in their duties and serve with enthusiasm and courage each and every day. We are an office that strives to deliver excellent customer service, problem solving and conflict resolution. We believe it is important to remember, while we embrace technology and all of the efficiency that brings, we are always mindful that we are ultimately in the "people business." Ensuring the rights of victims and their families is as important as apprehending and holding accountable the individuals who committed the crime.

This past year we were finally able to see the completion and opening of our new community justice center. This was the accumulation of many years of planning and two years of construction. We are now "operational" in a state of the art 400 bed facility with an adjoining courtroom and adequate programming space. Skagit County Corrections is

now well positioned to address the needs of our community and to hold those accountable who intend to do harm.

As we look forward to 2018 and beyond, many challenges still remain. Attracting, hiring and retaining high quality staff in patrol, corrections and records remains a top priority. Our radio infrastructure for patrol communications and physical security around our main campus also needs to be addressed. Although there are no simple answers, we remain committed to resolving these issues.

Please review our website ([www.skagitcounty.net](http://www.skagitcounty.net)) and learn about the many ways our staff contributes to the safety of our taxpayers. An important facet is how integrated our employees are through their involvement in the community, both on and off duty. The men and women of the Sheriff's Office are your neighbors, church members, service club colleagues and coaches of various youth sports programs. They participate on boards of professional, charitable and non-profit organizations. They provide their time, commitment and expertise to improve the quality of life we all enjoy here in Skagit County.

Thank you for taking the opportunity to learn more about the contributions of our organization. We welcome and appreciate your suggestions and support in our quest to make our county an even better place to live.

Sheriff Will Reichardt

# Introduction

The Skagit County Sheriff's Office is the largest law enforcement agency in Skagit County. We are responsible for a population of approximately 118,000. The unincorporated population is 49,720 and is spread out over a geographical area measuring approximately 1,735 square miles. The county also has over 850 miles of county roads.

We are committed to the safety of the citizens we serve by providing the most professional, well trained employees possible and supplying them with the tools needed to carry out almost any task.

The Sheriff's Office is comprised of 4 major divisions



2017 BUDGETED POSITIONS	
Sheriff (Elected)	1
Undersheriff (appointed)	1
Chief Criminal Deputy (appointed)	1
Chief Field Services (appointed)	1
Chief of Corrections (appointed)	1
Chief of Admin Services (appointed)	1
Corrections Lieutenant	1
Patrol Sergeants	7
Detective Sergeant	1
Corrections Sergeants	10
Patrol Deputies	39
Detectives	6
Animal Control Officer	1
Corrections Deputies	53
Accountant	2
RSO Coordinator	1
Case Expediter	1
Civil Assistant	2
Evidence Technician	1
Support Services Technician	9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>141</b>

2017 BUDGET SUMMARY			
SKAGIT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE		SKAGIT COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE CENTER	
Budget Expenses	\$ 9,414,260	Budget Expenses	\$ 31,871,829
Actual Expenses	\$ 8,955,380	Actual Expenses	\$ 24,500,369
Budgeted Revenue	\$ 1,352,185	Budgeted Revenue	\$ 13,065,060
Actual Revenue	\$ 1,178,509	Actual Revenue	\$ 12,204,208

# Investigations Division



## Chief Tom Molitor

The Investigations Division is headed by Chief Criminal Deputy Tom Molitor. The Chief Criminal Deputy is also the office public information officer, conducts most internal investigations, and oversees the evidence unit.

Additionally, he supervises SCIDEU, the Skagit County Inter-local Drug Enforcement Unit. The day-to-day review of detective reports and assignment of resources is the responsibility of the Detective Sergeant, Sergeant Jennifer Sheahan-Lee, who also supervises the Evidence Technician.

The goal of the Investigation Division is to provide the highest quality criminal investigative support to the Skagit County Sheriff's Office by conducting timely and thorough criminal investigations. Detectives recognize their responsibilities to the community they serve and are committed to investigating all criminal allegations in an ethical and impartial manner with sensitivity toward the needs of victims and witnesses.

The Investigations Division is responsible for the most complex criminal investigations. Detectives are promoted from the ranks of the Patrol Division. Our Detectives are highly trained and receive many hours of specialized training each year.

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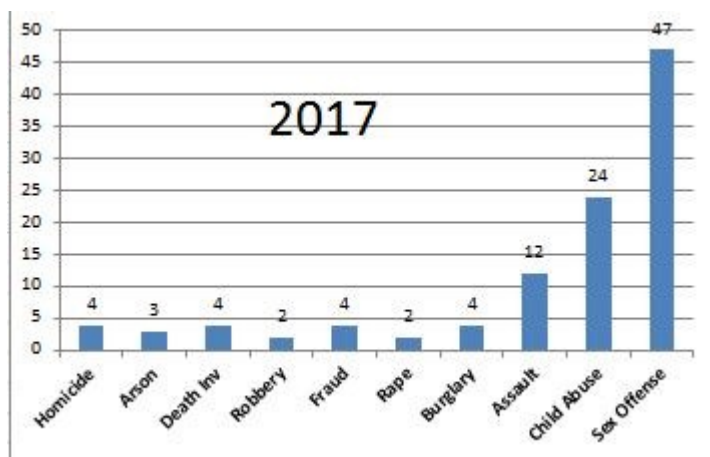
**In 2017, a total of 231 felony cases were assigned to the detective unit.**

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They have significant experience in conducting major crimes investigations, conducting interviews and conducting specialized and complex investigations. The detectives work to identify and apprehend vio-

lators responsible for crimes against persons and property, as well as financial and computer crimes. The detectives also recover stolen property and collect evidence relating to criminal violations.

Detectives investigate reports of both physical and sexual abuse involving children. Investigations of this nature involve a cooperative effort between the Investigations Division and other agencies such as Child Protective Services Department of Social and Health Services. Specialized training and procedures are also utilized that have been specifically designed to achieve the most productive child interview in coordination with specialist in child forensic interviews.



On major cases, a lead investigator is assigned, and the other detectives in the unit assist as a team to maximize investigative resources and experience. Detectives are on-call 24 hours a day to assist the patrol division with investigative issues and to respond in the event of a major crime within Skagit County. The evidence unit and the registered sex offender coordinator are a vital part of the investigations team, as well.

Detectives were responsible for a number of assignments in 2017 that included original investigations, charges and convictions. In 2017, a total of 231 felony cases were assigned to the detective unit. Detectives were responsible for clearing 36 of these cases by arrest.

**Detectives work various major crimes including:**

- Homicides and serious physical assaults
- Death investigations
- Child abuse, elder abuse and sexual assaults
- Kidnapping and robbery
- Missing persons and child abductions
- Burglaries and other major property crimes
- Complex financial fraud investigations
- Cybercrimes and computer and other electronic forensic examinations
- Investigation of cases involving public confidence and maintaining criminal intelligence
- Other significant and complex cases, which constitute higher liability concerns

Detectives worked with multiple agencies throughout the year in order to accomplish the mission of the Investigations Division Prosecutor’s Office, Coroner’s Office, Washington State Patrol, Mount Vernon PD, Burlington PD, Sedro Woolley PD, Anacortes PD, Whatcom County SO, Snohomish County SO, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Social Security Administration, ATF, and FBI.

In 2017 the detectives of the Skagit County Sheriff’s Office continued to participate on the Skagit County Multi-Agency Response Team

(SMART). The mission of this team is to provide investigative resources when an officer involved shooting results in serious injury or death or in cases where a significant criminal act is alleged toward the officer or when a significant criminal event occurs that has or is likely to exhaust the venue agency’s investigative resources. SMART is commanded by administrative staff from the Mount Vernon Police Department and the Skagit County Sheriff’s Office. Lead Investigative Supervisors are comprised of detective sergeants from the Skagit County Sheriff’s Office, Mount Vernon Police Department and the Washington State Patrol. The entire group of SMART personnel, bring a diverse amount of experience and skills to this team.

**REGISTERED SEX OFFENDER PROGRAM**

Registered Sex Offender (RSO) coordinator, Laurie Jarolimek, continues to manage registration and address verification for over 324 sex and kidnapping offenders located in Skagit County and has kept up with ever changing laws governing mandates of these offenders. Coordinator Jarolimek works with all the local agencies to ensure that registered sex offenders in Skagit County are contacted and are in compliance with their registration requirements.

**Sex Offenders Living in Skagit County:**

SWINOMISH	11
ANACORTES	15
BURLINGTON	27
SEDRO WOOLLEY	28
MOUNT VERNON	65
COUNTY	178
	<b>324</b>



# S.C.I.D.E.U.



## Chief Tom Molitor

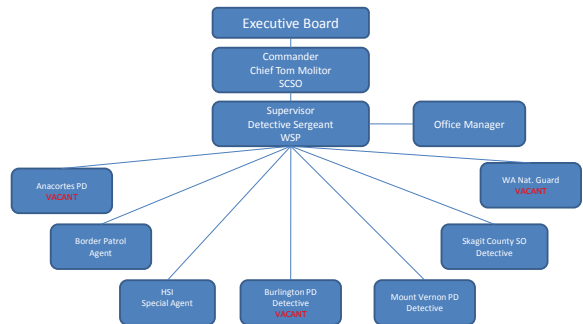
The Skagit County Inter-local Drug Enforcement Unit (SCIDEU) is a multi-agency task force commanded by the Skagit County Sheriff's Office, and

comprised of law enforcement personnel from the Skagit County Sheriff's Office, the Anacortes Police Department, the Mount Vernon Police Department, the Washington State Patrol and the United States Border Patrol.

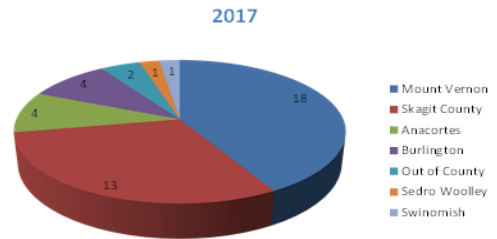
In addition to the core agencies, the Skagit County Inter-local Drug Enforcement Unit conducts complex joint investigations with surrounding county and city jurisdictional agencies as well as state and federal agencies to include the Federal Drug Enforcement Agency and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The Skagit County Inter-local Drug Enforcement Unit achieves these goals through undercover surveillance, undercover buys, and with in-depth investigations based on intelligence information gained from the community. The Skagit County Inter-local Drug Enforcement Unit could not be effective without the help provided by the community

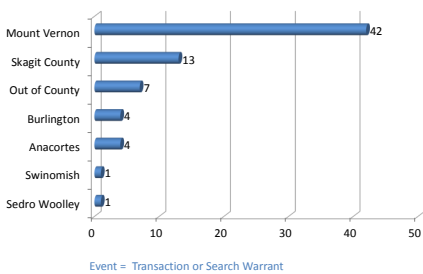
## Organizational Chart



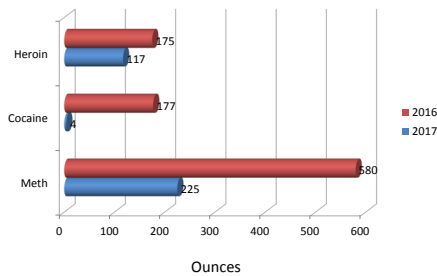
## Case Location



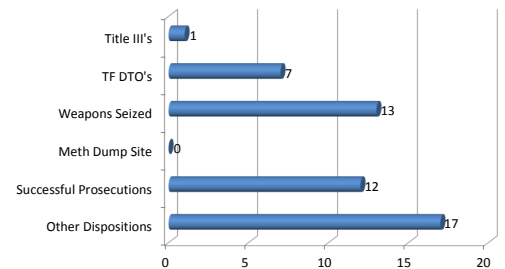
## 2017 Event Locations



## Drug Types Seized



## 2017 Case Info



**MISSION** — The Skagit County Inter-local Drug Enforcement Unit (SCIDEU) is created to disrupt, dismantle, and effectively prosecute criminal organizations such as gangs, drug traffickers and other high to mid-level criminal elements anywhere within Skagit County. SCIDEU will also work closely with other agencies and units in surrounding counties with similar responsibilities in an effort to support enforcement activities.



# Patrol Division



## Chief Chad Clark

The Patrol Division consists of many patrol oriented aspects that work together to respond and solve crimes. Chief Chad Clark runs the division to ensure continuity and quality for

the responses to the citizens calls for service. In 2017 the Skagit County Sheriff's Office responded to over 19,000 calls for service. The types of calls vary from crimes against persons, property crimes, traffic related issues, civil disputes and animal problems.

To accomplish the goals of actively handling calls for service and providing pro-active patrolling, deputies are organized in a squad system. There are four primary patrol squads that consist of five deputies and a sergeant. They rotate from day shift to night shift every two months. Each deputy is assigned to specific zones to help stay organized and provide the most efficient coverage throughout the county. The Patrol Division provided coverage across Skagit County 24/7.

The Patrol Division features several specialty programs and assignments, to include the Traffic Unit, Marine Patrol, K-9 Team, Search and Rescue, Animal Control, High Risk Tactical Team and the Pro-Active Patrol Unit. The Sheriff's Office also contracts with the Town of Concrete and the Town of La Conner for law enforcement services. We take a personal approach to the towns with having selected deputies patrol those towns.

Our deputies receive quality training throughout the year. In 2017 patrol deputies received training with firearms, emergency vehicle operations, active shooter and de-escalation tactics. In addition, deputies receive annual training in the use of force, pursuits and legal updates through the "Daily Training Bulletins" provided as part of the SCSO's Policy Training.

The Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) Program was developed in 2017 and implemented in the fall. The goal of establishing the Sheriff's Office Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Unit is to provide 24/7 aerial support for search and rescue,



tactical, crime scene investigations, and other exigent needs where human life or significant property loss is at risk. The unit will be comprised of one unit supervisor and up to four deputies (one per squad). Deputies will keep a UAV in their vehicle during shift and be ready to deploy as needed. The Skagit County Sheriff's Office Patrol Division is comprised of dedicated professionals who take pride in service.



# Traffic Unit



**Sgt. Chris Baldwin**

The Traffic Unit consists of one sergeant and five deputies. The Traffic Unit’s regular duties include traffic enforcement and collision investigation covering over 850 miles of Skagit County roads.

The Traffic Unit’s mission is reducing collisions that result in injuries and property damage to the citizens of Skagit County and the people who visit our community.

The Traffic Unit leads the traffic safety effort in the county and is committed to the Target Zero effort. The Traffic Unit is responsible for all emphasis patrols during high traffic volume events, such as Tulip Festival, Big Lake Fireworks, and Oyster Run. The Traffic Sergeant is responsible for other county wide emphasis patrols funded by the Washington Traffic Safety Commission such as “Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over”, Distracted Driving, and Click it or Ticket campaigns.

The Traffic Unit works collaboratively with Skagit County Public Works on education, enforcement, and engineering issues. The Traffic Unit assists public works with enforcement while the chip seal process is occurring on county roads. This is an important step in reducing speeds which keep people safe and reduce damage to private property and the road surface.

The Traffic Unit has three Harley Davidson Road King Police Motorcycles that are used for enforcement and community events. The Skagit County Sheriff’s Office Motor Unit assists the United States Secret Service and other Motor Units in the Puget Sound region with escorting dignitaries during their visits.



**The following chart shows the Traffic Unit’s statistics over the last five years.**

<b>TRAFFIC STATISTICS</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
Traffic Related Calls for Service	3508	3290	3546	3461	3076
Traffic Stops	15816	13607	13685	11767	11092
Criminal Traffic	1203	1011	1094	834	857
Criminal Non-Traffic	478	406	588	491	451
Traffic Infractions	6054	5709	5086	3849	3095
Collisions Reportable	286	254	462	405	428
Collisions Non-Reportable	248	244	367	496	457
DUI	130	139	103	103	140
Written Warnings-Traffic	49	5	36	5	1

# LaConner Detachment



## Sgt. Tobin Meyer

Situated on the delta near the mouth of the Skagit River, along the Swinomish Channel, La Conner was founded in 1867 and is Skagit County's oldest community. The town was first settled by non-natives

just after the Civil War, and named after the town founder's wife, Louisa A. Conner. At the turn of the century the population was over 1000 residents. La Conner was briefly the county seat before Mount



Vernon and had the first courthouse north of Seattle. In the late 1800's, the town briefly dis-incorporated, apparently to avoid anti-temperance laws enacted by the city council which would have closed the saloons.

Today, La Conner is a thriving tourist destination with a full time population of approximately 800 persons. This popular tourist location hosts many large events such as the Skagit Valley Tulip Festival, Smelt Derby, Daffodil Festival, bicycle, running and kayak events, art festivals etc. La Conner is a destination location as the town's population grows exponentially during or many tourist events.

The Swinomish Channel is a vital seaport access to the Town. The narrow 12 foot deep channel is a popular waterway for boaters from all over the Northwest and Canada.

Since May of 2001, the Sheriff's Office has been retained to provide police services to the citizens of La Conner. The La Conner Detachment is a division of the Skagit County Sheriff's Office.

Beginning in 2017, the Town of La Conner requested a change to their contract with the Sheriff's Office. The new contract took the Detachment from a Sergeant and two full time deputies assigned to the town and changed it to request the Sheriff's Office provide 80 hours of patrol services within a 10 minute response area of town limits.

Law enforcement services to the Town are now provided by the Sheriff's Office general patrol division, providing 24 hour police protection to the community and day to day administrative needs are covered by the assigned detachment sergeant.

Sergeant Kelly Howell retired from the Sheriff's Office as the La Conner Detachment supervisor and Sergeant Tobin Meyer was assigned to replace him in April of 2017.

Sergeant Meyer brings the Sheriff's Office marine unit back to La Conner as the marine unit supervisor for the Sheriff's Office and is trained in the operation of the Sheriff's Office 33' Safe Boat, moored at the La Conner Marina. The boat is strategically located for a quicker response to water related emergency situations and for enforcement along the Swinomish Channel. The La Conner Detach-

Calls for service per year:			
2017	643	2010	669
2016	608	2009	669
2015	760	2008	701
2014	606	2007	624
2013	588	2006	611
2012	641	2005	763
2011	606	2004	722



ment works with local search and rescue groups on training, equipment and response issues.

Sergeant Meyer also began the process of standing-up a new Unmanned Aerial unit in late 2017 out of the La Conner Detachment. The unit will be flight ready beginning early 2018.

typically be alarm calls, alcohol violations, civil cases and citizen assists.

The La Conner Detachment was involved in several community functions and school activities, including Sound Rowers, the Smelt Derby, Daffodil Festival, Tulip Festival Parade, July 4<sup>th</sup> Independence



Day Parade, the Halloween Parade, Turkey Trot, and Christmas Tree Lighting, which included a lighted boat parade.

The Sheriff's deputies can routinely be found patrolling the school zones before and after classes start and throughout the day. Additionally, deputies continue to work with the school to improve safe travels to and from school and attending special events.

2017 has brought changes and challenges to the La Conner Detachment due to a renegotiated contract. Working through providing a different level of service to the town has been an adjustment, but overall has gone smoothly.

Change is an opportunity for growth and

The La Conner Detachment accounts for an average of approximately 670 calls for service annually. The most frequent calls for service continue to

the La Conner Detachment looks forward to maintaining their relationship with all of the stakeholders in the La Conner community.

# East Detachment



## 1996 East Detachment Deputies

Dep. Mike Murrell

Dep. Mike McKissen

Dep. Paul Budrow

Dep. Greg Adams  
(Current East Detachment  
SGT)

The Sheriff's Office established the East Detachment in 1996. The detachment is the primary law enforcement unit in eastern Skagit County. Currently, one Sergeant and six deputies provide coverage for the largest geographical area in the Sheriff's Office. The area makes up approximately half of the county, covering from just east of Sedro Woolley all the way to the eastern county line at the top of the North Cascade Pass. The East Detachment provides law enforcement services to the towns of Lyman, Hamilton, Concrete, Rockport, and Marblemount.

The East Detachment Sergeant is tasked with supervising the Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue (SAR) program while the East Detachment Deputies are assigned as the primary SAR coordinators. Each deputy is assigned to an individual SAR group and acts as the liaison between volunteers and the SCSO.

A contract between the Town of Concrete and the Skagit County Sheriff's Office to provide law enforcement services to the town was signed in 2004. Deputies provide small town police services including business checks, foot patrols and school security services.

This year, 2017, the East Detachment handled 4547 complaints, 627 of which were within the Town limits of Concrete.

East Detachment Deputies are also assigned

to patrol the unincorporated areas of eastern Skagit County. These deputies work cooperatively with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and US Forest Service to provide law enforcement and SAR services to the vast stretches of wilderness areas east of Sedro Woolley.

The East Detachment is a unique unit within the Sheriff's Office. This detachment is responsible for all elements of law enforcement. Deputies assigned here work independently, and may often work with state and federal agencies. Deputies are expected to attend Community Block Watch programs and work cooperatively with community groups to solve issues and decrease crime in their neighborhoods.

In 2017 East Detachment deputies continued to work with United General Hospital and other partners on underage "Party Intervention Patrols", which focuses on underage youth drinking in the eastern portion of the county. This program, led by Deputy Paul Wolfe, is directed at first time offenders, to keep them out of the criminal justice system. The East Detachment also continued its partnership with 5B's Bakery in Concrete, to provide warm jackets and clothing to upriver neighbors in need.

East Detachment deputies are committed to maintaining a high level of service to the citizens and visitors to Eastern Skagit County.

# ProAct Unit



## Sgt. Chris Kading

In January 2016, the Sheriff's Office created a ProActive Policing Unit. The team consists of two deputies which are assigned full time, and a part time supervisor.

The ProAct Unit was established to address community problems, both criminal and civil.

ProAct uses a variety of investigative methods, including crime analysis, citizen informants and community involvement. The Unit develops creative ways to find solutions before they become a larger community problem.

This year the team began working cooperatively with the Washington State Department of Corrections, along with other local, state, and federal agencies. By expanding our list of available resources, the ProAct Unit has been very effective in targeting Skagit County's Most Harmful Criminals. Criminals do not recognize jurisdictional boundaries, therefore having multiple agencies available to assist the Skagit County ProAct Unit has proven beneficial.



In 2017 a significant amount of time and effort was placed in apprehending an elusive fugitive from the upriver area. The ProAct Unit took the lead in a collaborative effort by multiple agencies to apprehend the wanted felon.

The ProAct Unit has addressed community problems by conducting street level drug investigations. Often times the community problem is fueled



by the combination of stolen property and illicit drug transactions. ProAct has served search warrants, seized methamphetamine, heroin, multiple vehicles and a significant amount of currency based off community problems. Several cases initiated by ProAct have expanded into larger investigations involving multiple agencies.

Throughout 2017 the ProAct Unit saw great success. The team made numerous felony arrests for drugs, stolen property, burglaries and many misdemeanor crimes. Known drug locations were shut down, stolen property was recovered and returned to owners, and many community problems were solved. The team also developed a large cache of information on other crimes that will keep them busy far into 2018



# K-9 Unit



## Sgt. Annette Lindquist

K-9 Espo is currently the only K-9 in the Sheriff's Office. Deputy Moses and K-9 Espo improved in all categories compared to 2016 statistics. Deployments were up almost 35% resulting

in an increase of 160% for captures.

Total Deployments 49

Captures (Located) 21

Evidence or Articles 13

Use of Force 2

K9 Espo's health has been great and the team has avoided any significant injuries to the dog. K9 Espo is now 5 years old and has maintained a weight of about 81 pounds. His level of maturity allowed the team to certify at a "Master Handler" status.

Some highlights from the year include the search for and apprehension of a most wanted criminal, which grabbed a lot of media attention. This individual was one of the most challenging subjects to track, testing several K9 teams from the region. We were pleased to be a part of the great teamwork that safely led to his arrest.

Deputy Moses worked with all of our new deputies during K9 week to give them insight into how a

K9 and his handler work in the field. During actual deployments this experience helps make the entire team even more successful.

In 2017 a book was published which has a chapter about K9 Espo and the experiences the author had during a ride along. Deputy Moses and K9 Espo continue to provide public demonstrations to schools and service clubs, educating them on the value of a K9 team.



Deputy Moses and K9 Espo train with the Sheriff's Office High Risk Team.



# Marine Patrol Unit



## Sgt. Tobin Meyer

The Skagit County Sheriff's Office Marine Patrol Unit is supervised by Sergeant Tobin Meyer who has been a member since 2006 and was appointed unit supervisor in early 2014. Sergeant Meyer is

committed to maintaining the high standards and expectations placed on this specialized unit when it comes to safety and professionalism.

The Skagit County Sheriff's Office Marine Patrol unit consists of two sergeants and eight deputies who have received specialized training in marine law enforcement and search and rescue training, to include



a 40 hour Washington State marine law enforcement academy, swift water rescue, technical rescue training, BUI investigation, boating accident investigation, emergency vessel operations course, and 40 hours of in-service underway training including night operations training that ensure the unit is capable of responding twenty-four hours, everyday, to all types of water emergencies.



For 2017 the marine unit focused on increased swift water operations and training in and around the Skagit River, recognizing this body of water as one of the most dangerous for recreational boaters in Skagit County.

The marine unit also focused on honing navigation and night operation skills aboard the Sheriff's Office 33' SAFE patrol boat.



The Skagit County Sheriff's Marine unit assisted the United States Coast Guard with keeping on-water demonstration participants safe and peaceful during an event at March's Point. The demonstration included several canoes and kayaks, and several hundred participants. No injuries were reported during the event.

In all, 2017 was a very busy year for the Skagit County Sheriff's Office Marine Patrol Unit with dozens of search and rescue missions, hundreds of hours of underway patrols, and dozens of hours of public safety presentations and events.

## 2017 Accomplishments

In 2017 the Skagit County Sheriff's Office Marine Patrol Unit accomplished 197 patrol hours on Skagit County waterways and participated in 23 Hours of community outreach and education.

Within those hours marine patrol deputies conducted:

**207 Visual Safety Spot Inspections**

**137 Written Safety Inspections**

**Noted 46 Safety Violations**

**43 Hours on Search and Rescue Cases**

**Assisted or Rescued 19 vessels**

**Assisted or Rescued 25 People**

**Conducted 6 Boating Accident  
Investigations**





# Search And Rescue



## Sgt. Greg Adams

Skagit County's Search and Rescue program is once again considered one of the top SAR groups in the State of Washington. With several thousand training hours this year, Skagit SAR remains

one of the best trained and most capable SAR units in the state.

All SAR volunteers are assigned a Washington State DEM Emergency Worker Card number and are available to assist other jurisdictions upon request. SAR volunteers conduct Search and Rescue missions within Skagit County, but also assist other agencies across Washington. SAR continues to have strong working relationships with local Skagit County Fire Departments, both full-time and volunteer. Skagit SAR also works cooperatively with the Washington State Parks Department, and federal assets including the US Navy at Whidbey Island, the US Coast Guard from Port Angeles, WA and Homeland Security.

Sergeant Greg Adams is the SAR Coordina-

tor based out of the East Detachment Office. He is assisted by Sergeant Tobin Meyer, the Sheriff's Office Marine Patrol Unit supervisor. Sergeant Meyer oversees the marine based SAR units. Six deputies currently assigned to the East Detachment, hold collateral duties as SAR deputies. Several patrol deputies have previously served in SAR and are important to the overall mission. SAR deputies are re-



sponsible for the coordination of training and the supervision of actual SAR missions. Each deputy is currently assigned a SAR unit, acting as liaison between the SCSO and SAR volunteers.



The Skagit County Search and Rescue Council provide guidance, and acts as a liaison between all SAR groups and the Sheriff's Office. In 2017 the Skagit County Search and Rescue Council continued to implement a new training regimen mandated by the state to ensure across the board accountability for





aircrews have proven invaluable in assisting with patient extrication from remote locations. US Navy aircrews also assist the SCSO Marine Patrol Unit and work cooperatively with SAR deputies. Skagit County SAR also relies on SnoHawk, and the Helicopter Rescue Team from Snohomish County. Airborne SAR assets are extremely important tools in the vast rugged terrain of Skagit County.

In 2017 SAR continued implementation of the Washington State SARVAC (Search and Rescue Volunteer Advisory Council) standards, and updated training to further improve group performance. SAR works with local Fire Departments by implementing the Unified Command Model. Together we can provide excellent extrication, treatment and packaging of patients in the field.

The Skagit County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue Program saw a slight

training. Each group specializes in a certain discipline, but work cooperatively during missions.

Skagit County Search and Rescue has 10 groups consisting of over 100 active members. Water-based assets include Skagit Bay Search and Rescue, Skagit Technical Water Rescue, and the East County Water Rescue called "River Dogs".

Land based units include GSAR (Ground SAR), Skagit Mount Rescue Unit, Four Rivers 4wheel drive group, Skagit ATV, and the ARES/RACES amateur radio group.

Skagit County SAR works closely with the US Navy based at NAS Whidbey Island. Whidbey

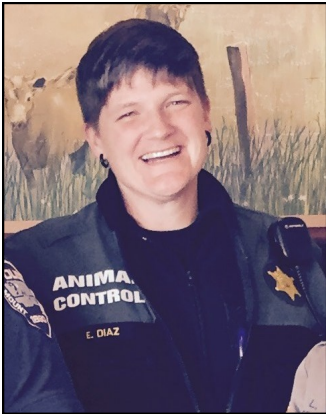
decrease in actual missions in 2017 with a total of 38 missions. Skagit SAR completed over 9,000 training hours in 2017.

The Sheriff's Office SAR program continues to increase staffing with a volunteer base of over 50 new candidates. This increase in staffing allows for greater turnout on missions, and an overall boost in search personnel available to the Sheriff's Office.

In 2018 the Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue will strive to continue to be one of the leading teams in the State of Washington.



# Animal Control Unit



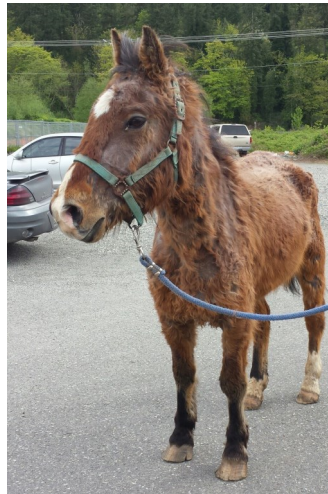
## ACO Emily Diaz

The Skagit County Sheriff's Office Animal Control Officer responds to calls for service regarding animal complaints. These range from reports of animal

cruelty, welfare checks, dangerous dogs, nuisance problems, injured animals, traffic hazards, abandoned animals, barking dogs, illegal kennels, cock-fighting, and neglect. The Sheriff's Office on average, responds to more than one thousand animal problems and complaints each year.

The Animal Control Officer investigates, applies for and executes search warrants, and completes all charging documents related to animal cases. Animal Control is also responsible for finding appropriate placement for the animals seized. Animal Control also maintains and oversees foster homes for livestock that are seized when directly related to Sheriff's Office cases. Animal Control also oversees the appropriate permanent placement of these animals.

Animal Control is responsible for declaring aggressive dogs in Skagit County as *Dangerous* or *Potentially Dangerous*. Animal Control monitors these dogs to make sure the owners are in compliance with the laws.



The following chart shows Animal Control's statistics over the last five years.

TYPE OF CALL	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Animal Problem-Total Calls for Service	1648	1529	1522	1408	1555
Lost or Found Animals	542	323	321	286	306
Traffic Hazard (Animal Related)	275	279	307	197	310
Collisions (Traffic Hazards resulting in Collisions)	33	53	85	64	86
Animal Cruelty or Neglect Calls for Service	191	180	259	226	195

# High Risk Team HRT



**Sgt. Chris Baldwin**  
The Skagit County Sheriff's Office (SCSO) High Risk Team (HRT) is a multi-jurisdictional team which is commanded by the Sheriff's Office. HRT is comprised of SCSO

Deputies and Officers from the Burlington and Sedro Woolley Police Departments. HRT is certified in Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) through the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission. HRT is a member of the Washington State Tactical Officers Association and the National Tactical Officers Association.

HRT utilizes highly trained and skilled members to help keep the citizens of Skagit County safe. HRT trains every month and utilizes specialized equipment to handle situations that rise above patrol division capabilities. HRT's training includes active shooter, high risk warrant service, hostage rescue, building searches, barricaded subjects, linear bus entries, boat interdiction techniques, among other specialized tactics. HRT is also responsible for training much of patrol in many of the above tactics.

HRT obtained a Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) MaxxPro rescue vehicle through the federal surplus grant program. The MRAP is used for search and rescue and tactical operations. The MRAP is capable of transporting the team into hostile situations where gun fire may be occurring. The team utilizes many pieces of specialized equipment that includes but is not limited to an AVATAR III tactical robot, eye ball remote cameras, cell phone disrupter, night vision, thermal imager, and gas/less lethal munitions.

HRT responded to a bomb threat and active shooter threat at Oak Harbor High School in March

of 2017. HRT assisted the Oak Harbor Police Department and other agencies in clearing the school.

HRT responded to assist the Oak Harbor Police Department with a barricaded suspect in April of 2017. HRT deployed the Avatar robot and eye ball cameras to safely clear the residence.

HRT was called upon several times in 2017 to apprehend one of Skagit County's most harmful criminals. The suspect was wanted for several outstanding felony warrants. The suspect managed to evade arrest for several months by fleeing in vehicles and on foot. The suspect committed more than 40 new felony charges during his time on the run



which included burglaries, auto theft, and theft of firearms. In October 2017 the suspect armed himself with a handgun and fled on foot from a traffic stop in the Mount Vernon area. HRT with assistance from several agencies throughout the area provided containment and other assets which included air support, K9 teams, and armored vehicles. The foot chase lasted six hours and covered approximately four miles which included thick brush, swamps and swollen creeks. The suspect shed his clothing during the foot pursuit and eventually barricaded himself in thick blackberry bushes on a creek bank. The suspect refused to surrender and chemical munitions



were deployed into the blackberry bushes which caused the suspect to climb up a tree on the creek bank. The suspect was negotiated out of the tree and safely taken into custody without incident.

HRT assisted the Skagit County Inter-local Drug Enforcement Unit (SCIDEU) and various federal agencies in serving several high risk drug related search warrants in 2017, resulting in the removal of drugs and the arrest of numerous dealers in Skagit County.

HRT is responsible for the eradication of illegal marijuana growing operations in the county. HRT partners with SCIDEU, DEA and the National Guard in flying the county to spot illegal marijuana

growing operations. HRT has several ATV's that it utilizes in patrolling forest lands for marijuana eradication.

HRT Team members work regular patrol shifts and are distributed evenly among the various patrol squads and the investigations unit. Team members are often called to high risk calls while on normal patrol. Team members utilize their HRT training and experience to resolve these calls before the full team responds.

HRT is subject to call out 24 hours a day 7 days a week. HRT is state certified and is the most trained unit in the Sheriff's Office.





# Administrative Services Division



## Chief Jackie Brunson

The Administrative Services Division is supervised by Chief Jackie Brunson. There are eleven fulltime positions in the division; including two Accountants, two Civil Assistants, and seven Support

Services Technicians.

The Accountant processes all accounts payable and accounts receivables, semi-monthly payroll, and general ledger entries. She also does most of the purchasing for the entire department, including the jail. In addition, she manages the inventory and assists in the budget preparation process. The jail accountant is primarily responsible for all of the jail billings for housing and medical.

The Civil Assistants carry out the Sheriff's statutory responsibility for the service of civil process and execution of writs. Judicial process documents originate from the courts, governmental agencies, and private attorneys in Washington. Examples of documents include subpoenas, writs of restitution, writs of habeus corpus and orders of protection. In 2017, the Civil Assistants processed 145 writs of restitution, a 7% increase from 2016. Additionally, they processed 118 other miscellaneous writs. They also processed 802 protection orders, subpoenas, and other miscellaneous papers. This was a slight decrease from 2016.

The data entry unit processed over 12,000 case reports. Our warrant entry unit entered 5,924 warrants and 1,707 orders. In 2017 the warrant entry unit worked in conjunction with the 911 center and the Clerk's office to make the warrant process paperless. This did not decrease the number of entries they have to make but it does make the retrieval, service and quash process more efficient and all electronic. The warrant entry unit is also

responsible for entering all stolen guns, stolen vehicles and missing persons in WACIC/NCIC and they also provide criminal history information to detectives and patrol deputies.

3,215 referrals and supplemental reports were prepared and sent to the Skagit County Prosecutor's Office. This is a 17% increase from 2016. There were 2,237 public records requests processed for dissemination. We respond to the majority of the public disclosure requests electronically therefore we only receive a minimal amount of revenue for those public records requests, the maximum allowed by law.

Statistics from our Traffic Records show that there were 11,092 traffic stops and of those stops, 5,484 citations were written resulting in a 12% increase over 2016.

In 2017, we issued 2,010 concealed weapons permits, which is an 11% decrease from 2016. In 2017 pistol transfers also decreased. We processed 1,631 pistol transfer checks for a total decrease of 15% from 2016.

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**In 2017, we issued 2,010 concealed weapons permits, which is an 11% decrease from 2016.**

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In 2017, 4,221 old case files were purged in accordance with Washington State Retention Schedule. This is an ongoing project that we are receiving assistance on from the Registered Sex Offender Coordinator in her spare time.

In 2017 we were fortunate to receive 361 hours of volunteer labor. 137 were attributable to our Chaplain, 41 hours were worked in investigations and evidence, and the remaining 183 hours were clerical assistance we received in Records. The records volunteers were assigned tasks such as filing, data entry, and archiving old records. Our volunteers are comprised of citizens, retired former employees and college students earning work experience credit.

# Corrections Division



## Chief Charlie Wend

The Skagit County Community Justice Center (SCCJC or Justice Center) is located at 201 Suzanne Lane in Mount Vernon, Washington. The Justice Center opened to inmates on October 7, 2017. It was built to hold 400 inmates. The new SCCJC replaces



the previous jail, which was built in 1983 and originally designed to house 83 inmates. The old jail had been severely overcrowded for many years.

The Skagit County Community Justice Center provides services for all law enforcement agencies in Skagit County. The Skagit County Sheriff's Office is responsible for detaining pretrial defendants, detaining convicted offenders waiting for transport to the Department of Corrections, and for incarcerating inmates sentenced to serve less than one year, or more than one year in the case of consecutive sentences. While inmates are in the custody of the Sheriff's Office, the Sheriff is responsible for their supervision, safety, health and well-being. Additionally, in the new Skagit County Community Justice Center, corrections deputies remain respon-

sible to ensure that inmates appear in court when needed and that inmates are transported to other jurisdictions when necessary. Justice Center deputies remain responsible for Superior Court and District Court courtroom security.

During much of 2017, jail operations were seriously impacted by overcrowding. The previous jail was designed for a significantly smaller volume of prisoners. Managing the confined population, managing bookings and releases, and managing prisoner transport were all negatively impacted by severe overcrowding. The last three months of 2017 finally offered relief from the impacts of overcrowding after moving into the new Justice Center. Prior to October of 2017, there were multiple instances where the jail was compelled to stop accepting prisoners for up to four hours or more at a time due to a backlog of bookings or because deputies had to contend with incidents occurring in the intake and release area of the jail.

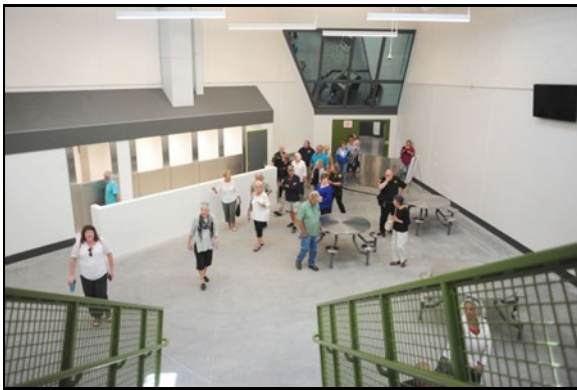
During 2017, the new SCCJC was completed and replaced the former Skagit County Jail. The firm responsible for building the new facility, Lydig Construction, in conjunction with the design firm DLR, continued weekly meetings between the architects, contractors, and Skagit County. This group



continued to monitor the workflow of the project throughout the year, ensuring that the project stayed on track and that design/construction issues were collaboratively resolved.

Working toward the Justice Center's opening two sergeants had been assigned to the Skagit

County Sheriff's Office "Jail Transitions Team." These two sergeants worked on numerous issues related to the new jail which included design review, staff hiring and background investigations, and operational issues such as the development of revised inmate handbooks, post orders, and policies. This team also worked in cooperation with other sergeants to revamp the screenings, assessments,



and classification system. This collaboration between Public Health, SCCJC staff, and behavioral health organizations, both public and private, resulted in significant changes to the processes that have now been either replaced or were non-existent to begin with, due to limitations in the old jail.



The significant increase in both facility population and the physical size of the new SCCJC became apparent during 2016 as the new building began to take shape. The importance of sufficient staffing became increasingly apparent, and significant planning began to occur in 2016, reaching into 2017, to ensure core operations were in line with

staffing projections. Efforts to recruit staff were in full swing during 2017, with jail staff participating in numerous job fairs and reaching out to potential deputies at law enforcement testing centers throughout the State.

Staffing of the jail continued to be a challenge in 2016, but in 2017 the jail successfully added an additional seventeen deputies. These additional deputies were necessary as the Justice Center neared completion and the corrections staff began to prepare for the move from the jail to the Justice Center. The goal to be fully staffed upon the opening of the new Justice Center in 2017 was successfully met. Significant background investigation work was accomplished in a short period of time, and the new deputies appear to share the vision of polite, respectful interactions with inmates in the facility, while remaining "fair, firm, and consistent" in giving direction to inmates. This new cadre of deputies has brought significant new energy to the Corrections Division, and they display excitement and commitment, both to the work and to the vision of the Sheriff and of the Chief of Corrections.



On October 7, 2017, the move to the Justice Center was made with the assistance of the Whatcom County Corrections Bureau and with the assistance of the Washington State Department of Corrections (DOC). In approximately 8 hours, all 189 inmates had been moved to the new SCCJC without any major problem. We used three DOC buses; each bus had a capacity of 43, and was staffed with two DOC officers and one SCCJC Deputy. Whatcom County supplied a 32 passenger bus staffed with two Whatcom County Deputies. Additionally, a combination of 10 marked and unmarked Sheriff's Office vehicles, for traffic control and escort of the buses during the lifts from the previous jail to the new SCCJC were utilized. Approximately 12 lifts were made during the inmate transport and



approximately 37 deputies assisted with the transfer from the previous jail to the new Justice Center. Staff coordinated the movement of the inmates in each jail and along the routes to and from the previous jail and the Justice Center. Summit, new food service provider working in the new Justice Center, prepared meals for the inmates, DOC staff, Whatcom County staff and JC staff.

The new Justice Center design accommodates 400 inmates. The “core” functions of administration, medical, food service, and laundry are designed to, with minimal additions, accommodate the eventual build-out to 800 inmates. The selected design will allow for placing the additional 400 cell living unit onto the jail with minimal disruption to the ongoing functions of the jail. The new Justice Center has over 100,000 square feet of space, compared to the 29,000 square feet of the old jail. A deputy will have walked the length of 7 football fields upon the completion of just one of the 24 required population checks/counts in the new SCCJC. Although the contractors are still working out the “bugs” in the complex systems necessary to operate the Justice Center, operations in the new facility are underway and, other than a few glitches here and there, are working as planned.

The Corrections Division continued to expand medical staff hours during 2017. There are

now nurses regularly available in the jail from 6 am to 10 pm providing assistance with “Fit for Jails”, medication passes, and extended clinic hours. The Health Care Manager position came into full swing in 2017, and this person continued to assess the staff and operations of the medical clinic and department. This manager provides supervisory oversight of nursing staff and is responsible for the development of necessary medical policies and procedures through 2017. Also, in 2017, Skagit County



contracted with Naphcare, a private Correctional Healthcare organization to provide medical and behavioral health counseling to inmates, which began on February 1, 2018. This will be a major step forward for medical services in the jail.

In 2017, the average daily prisoner population was 213 inmates. In 2016 and continuing into 2017, inmates began to be housed out of county in



the Snohomish County jail, Whatcom County jail, Island County Jail, or Western State Hospital. In the Western State Hospital cases, during 2017, jail and SCCJC staff also began to transport, or have inmates transported to Yakima or Maple Lane in Chelalis. The trend over the last ten years continued to be one of housing more prisoners per day than the design capacity of the jail, but that was no longer the case upon the move to the SCCJC in October. The total number of prisoners booked into the jail and Justice Center in 2017 was 4,222. During this report period, booking restrictions limited bookings to felony violations, DUI charges, Domestic Violence charges, and some local misdemeanor war-



rants. The Sheriff's Office contracts with member agencies in Skagit County to provide inmate housing. These include: Anacortes, Burlington, Mount Vernon, Sedro-Woolley, Swinomish, Upper Skagit, Concrete and La Conner. Since the move to the SCCJC, booking restrictions have been relaxed though not removed. Due to the number of unserved warrants in Skagit County the Justice Center could be filled in no time at all. Concern around the SCCJC's growing population should drive continuation of at least some level of booking restrictions through 2017 and into, if not through, 2018.

In 2011 the jail initiated a substance abuse treatment program operating within the confines of the jail. The Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Program (RSAT) continues to operate in the jail and is funded through a federal grant and sales tax reve-

nue, administered by Skagit County Community Services and partnering with a local chemical dependency treatment program through a contractual agreement. This comprehensive Intensive Outpatient Treatment Program consists of group treatment for 12-16 weeks and also Moral Recognition Therapy, with a goal of reducing offender recidivism. RSAT operated through 2017 and continues to provide treatment intervention for inmates experiencing Substance Use Disorders. In December 2012, RSAT was granted additional Federal funding and Skagit County became the only jail based chemical dependency treatment program in Washington State to receive federal funding. In 2017, fifteen inmates participated in the RSAT program utilizing RSAT funding with 11 successfully completing the program. An additional 93 inmates participated in RSAT utilizing .1% sales tax funding, with 29 graduating, for a total RSAT participation of 108 inmates with 40 graduations.

The budgeted expenditures for the Corrections Division in 2017 were \$31,871,829 and the actual expenditures were \$24,500,369. The budgeted revenues for 2017 were \$13,065,060, while the actual 2017 revenue was \$12,204,208. This 2017 budget includes the capital expenses related to the new Justice Center.

In 2017, Skagit County prisoners required literally thousands of court appearances, medical appointments, and mental health or chemical dependency evaluations or appointments. All these interactions necessitated deputy involvement including transport and supervision of the inmates.

The SCCJC strives to maintain effective custody and control of offenders while sustaining a healthy, safe and secure environment for staff and inmates. Our focus is to keep our community safe and to provide quality programs to inmates so that they have opportunities to acquire more responsible behavior and increase their chances of returning to the community as law-abiding citizens.

# Jail Alternatives



## Sgt. Ron Coakley

The varied duties of the personnel in the Alternatives Section include Inmate Work and Treatment Programs, Courthouse Security, Trial Security Planning, Therapeutic Court Liaison, Fugitive Extra-

dition and monetary obligation collections. The Alternatives Section encompasses numerous diverse programs, including inmates that are employed and continue to work during their sentence, those who do community service, jail internal operations work and even substance treatment. Staffing for this section in 2017 consisted of one Sergeant, one Court Deputy, 2 Alternatives Deputies<sup>1</sup>, 1 RSAT Deputy and 1 civilian Court Coordinator<sup>2</sup>.

During 2017, the Alternatives Sergeant continued as a member of the Transition Team, participating in all aspects of the transition into the new jail; including planning, construction, training and occupation. The Skagit County Community Justice Center was completed and fully occupied on October 7, 2017.

The Alternatives staff deals with defendants from immediately after their conviction until their sentence has been completed. Each defendant undergoes an initial screening to determine appropriate sentence resolution, followed by a specific program-oriented interview, booking, supervision while completing the sentence and release from control. Alternatives inmates are tested for alcohol and drug use prior to commencement and randomly during their sentence. All Alternatives inmates are “booked in” and are carried on the Skagit County Jail Roster. Alternatives staff processed 2344 court commitments, conducted 540 interviews and 503<sup>3</sup> bookings.

The Alternatives staff also maintains the turn-in schedule of those defendants who must serve

straight jail time and is responsible for court notification if the defendant fails to report for their sentence. 116 referrals were submitted for failure to comply with commits, 118 failure to comply cases were resolved, resulting in defendants spending an additional 566 jail days more than their original sentences.

The Court Coordinator (CC) position was instituted to impact and reduce the jail population in both the short and long-term outlook. The CC determines if in-custody defendants have cases pending in Skagit County, other than the immediate ones they are held on. The CC informs the legal community about the status of these defendants, with the anticipation that this information will result in resolution of all of the defendants’ pending criminal cases.

In the short term, consolidation and resolution of cases means that defendants spend less time in jail, with the resultant decrease in costs. In the long term, the effect of this program is felt even more. The vast majority of these defendants are sent to prison, and leaving here with pending cases may result in warrants being issued for non-appearance. Prison inmates with outstanding warrants often are not allowed to participate in certain beneficial programs, including treatment for addiction and mental illness, as well as vocational programs. Studies have shown that programming in prison results in less recidivism, therefore less jail population. Since inception, the CC has made a significant impact in reducing the number of inmates having to return to the community to deal with cases that would have been left pending. The CC has also taken on several projects for the jail, assisting with RSAT and Alternatives data collection and analysis, and a study of felony sentence compliance. With the move to the new facility, the CC has also been tasked with a wide

<sup>1</sup>A 3rd alternatives Deputy was added in November. <sup>2</sup>The RSAT & Court coordinator were transferred to other supervisors as of July 2017. <sup>3</sup>Total bookings for the Skagit county Jail in 2017 were 4222.

array of data collection, dissemination and public record request fulfillment.

### **Electronic Home Monitoring (EHM)**

Inmates live at a private residence and wear an electronic anklet that records when they leave and return to the premises. These inmates are allowed to go to their job, treatment appointments, self-help meetings (AA, NA, etc.) and some other limited destinations. These inmates pay a daily fee to participate in this program. We also utilize the Transdermal Alcohol Detection (TAD) program, which is a continuous alcohol detection system in conjunction with the EHM system, sampling alcohol intake from the perspiration of the offender. 207 defendants participated on EHM, serving 7964 days.

### **Alternative Interview Bookings (AIB)**

Some defendants are allowed by the sentencing Judge to serve their sentence in a program administered by agencies other than the Skagit County Jail. These defendants must meet the same screening criteria as Alternatives inmates, to ensure that the basic participation criteria are met, as well as generating the appropriate tracking paperwork so the proper information is submitted to the Courts and State. Legislative changes in July 2015 dramatically affected this program, resulting in a significant decrease. 28 defendants were authorized to participate in other agency programs.

### **One Day Offender Program**

Minimum security inmates spend their required hours in custody at a location other than the jail. During this time they may receive an alcohol/drug evaluation, attend Alcohol Information School, attend the DUI Victim Impact Panel or complete Community Service work. These inmates pay a fee to participate in this program. \$4300 was collected in 2017. 108 defendants participated in the ODO, serving 127 days.

### **Work Release**

Inmates live in the jail and are released daily to continue to work at their job in the community.

These inmates pay a daily fee to participate in the program. 55 inmates (48 male, 7 female) participated on Work Release, serving 2621 days.

**In 2017, 398 defendants/inmates served a total of 10,712 days on Jail Alternatives.**

### **Out of Custody Worker Alternatives**

(not housed in the jail):

1. Litter Crew – Joint program with Skagit County Public Works, Sheriff, Health Department, Washington Department of Corrections, Washington Department of Ecology. 56 defendants participated on the Litter Crew, serving 9140 hours.

2. Community Service Workers at: City of Mt Vernon, City of Sedro Woolley, Town of Lyman, Washington State University Extension Office, Skagit County Departments (Facilities, Sheriff's Office, Law Library, Prosecutor's Office, Parks, Records) 108 defendants participated in CSW, serving 1356 hours.

### **In-Custody Worker Programs (housed in jail):**

1. Skagit Transit – Contractual compensation agreement to provide workers 6 nights a week. 57 inmates participated on Skagit Transit Crews, serving 6648 hours.

2. Inmate Workers – Kitchen, laundry and cleanup workers for interior jail operations. Inmates participating in trustee duties served 55,000 hours.

**In 2017, defendants/inmates worked 72,144 hours on Jail Programs.**

### **Trial Security**

The Alternatives Sergeant is responsible for the planning and staffing of court proceedings which may pose security risks. This includes trials which are high-profile, proceedings having an in-custody defendant or defendants, domestic issues or any other heightened security matters.

### **Courthouse Security**

Security for the courthouse complex is provided in two ways; visitor screening by contract



security personnel and uniformed deputies patrolling the complex. Pacific Security Agency provides personnel who run security checkpoints. With the opening of the new facility, there are now 3 checkpoints, one each in the Superior Courthouse, the Public Safety Building and the SCCJC.

The Court Deputy patrols three buildings, maintaining a uniformed presence in the corridors, outside premises and the 6 courtrooms and 3 hearing rooms. The Deputy's primary responsibility is maintaining security and order within the courtrooms. The Deputy also assists with security of inmates being transported to hearings, fingerprinting defendants upon conviction, performing DNA sample collections and arresting defendants with outstanding warrants or when ordered by a Judge. The Court Deputy is responsible for preparing and disseminating the weekly Superior Court criminal in-custody calendar. This includes coordinating the transport to court of juveniles charged in adult court but held in Juvenile Detention. The Court Deputy made 126 arrests, fingerprinted 462 defendants and conducted 234 DNA sample collections.

170577 visitors entered the two courthouses through the security checkpoints and 28<sup>4</sup> after-hours events requiring security were held. 636<sup>5</sup> prohibited items were abandoned at the checkpoints.

### **Therapeutic Court Liaison**

The Alternatives Sergeant is the Sheriff's representative on the Skagit County Drug Court & Mental Health Court teams. These innovative programs combine supervision and treatment for offenders whose criminal actions are a result of their mental illness or dependence on drugs. Once an offender is admitted to a therapeutic court, they begin a two year treatment plan. Clients make monthly restitution payments and in order to graduate are required to attain certain treatment and life goals, including education, continuing sobriety, treatment and employment. Successful completion of the program results in the charges being dismissed.

The teams consist of a Superior Court Judge (or Commissioner), Court Coordinator, treatment professionals (Skagit Recovery Center, Compass

Health), legal professionals (Prosecutor, Public Defender) and law enforcement (Mount Vernon Police Department and Sheriff's Office). As the liaison, the Alternatives Sergeant is responsible for ensuring good communication between Courts, Jail and Sheriff's Office. 169 in-custody clients were transported to Therapeutic Courts and 42 taken into custody for transport to the Jail.

### **Fugitive Extradition**

The Alternatives Sergeant is the Sheriff's representative to the Northwest Cooperative Shuttle Prisoner Transport System and also arranges extradition and transport of fugitives to and from Skagit County from around the state and country. 26 fugitive extraditions were arranged.

### **Monetary Obligation Collections**

In 2013, efforts were increased to collect on debts owed to the Sheriff's Office and Jail. The Alternatives Sergeant and SO Accountant instituted several processes to notify people of their debts and encourage them to pay. These debts include a \$125 court ordered restitution for each DUI processed by the Sheriff's Office. Prior to this year, no effort was made to collect on these unpaid obligations. In excess of \$2000 was collected for DUI restitution.

### **Alternatives Section Goals for 2018**

1. Increased substance testing of Alternative participants, particularly Work Detail and Home Monitoring clients
2. Continued expansion of the One Day Offender Program
3. Continued expansion of the Transdermal Alcohol Detection program for sentenced inmates & pre-trial defendants
4. Expansion of all inmate programs vis a vis new jail agreement, with emphasis on worker programs.

<sup>4</sup>DUI & DV panels, Small Claims court, late jury or hearings. <sup>5</sup>Prohibited items include knives, scissors, etc. These items are destroyed by the SCSO Evidence technician

# 2017 In Review

## JANUARY

**Suicidal Subject-Agency Assist West Side Bridge Mount Vernon-** MVPD with SCSO Deputies, Brian Lewellen and Paul Wolfe, responded to a suicidal subject on the Westside Bridge in Mount Vernon. Both agencies did a superior job being proactive, calling needed resources and negotiators. Units on scene were successful in verbal negotiations and convinced the female to not only climb back up, but to also agree to be treated at the hospital.

## FEBRUARY

**The E-Warrant Project-**The Skagit County Sheriff's Office worked with other county partners to move to a paperless warrant system.

## MARCH

**Recruitment and Hiring for the Skagit County Criminal Justice Center-** Chief Brunson and Sergeant Brown conducted interviews, background in-



vestigations and coordinated the hiring of the new employees to fill all the allotted positions in time to provide training to these new deputies, prior to the move.

**Prospective applicants at Commissioner's Hearing Room**

## MARCH/APRIL

**Skagit Valley Tulip Festival-**The Skagit Valley Tulip Festival is the largest tulip festival in the Washington State. It is held annually in the spring and the valley receives several hundred thousand visitors each year. The Sheriff's Office coordinates with other local law enforcement agencies, municipalities, area fire departments and several other county resources, to help provide a safe environment for visitors and locals.



## MAY

**Party Intervention Patrol Grant-** This pilot program was developed by United General Hospital with the vision to bring intervention and education services to minors using alcohol and marijuana. The program was then implemented in the East County and has been very successful.

**House Fire on Downey Road-** On May 24<sup>th</sup>, during the early morning hours, Skagit County Sheriff's deputies responded to an in-progress report of a house fire. Upon arrival, Deputies Pacini and Case determined that someone was still inside the residence. Both deputies, along with Swinomish Tribal Police Corporal Dave Heenan and Officer Aaron Nelson, went into harm's way, entered the burning building and rescued a woman who had been badly injured by the fire.

## JULY

**Skagit County Multi-Agency Response Team (SMART) -Leadership Role**

Chief Tom Molitor was selected to serve as the Team Commander for SMART. Detective Sergeant Jenny Sheahan-Lee will serve as a Team Supervisor.

**Big Lake Fireworks-** An annual event to help raise funds for the Big Lake Fire Department. The fireworks spectacular draws large crowds each year. The Skagit County Sheriff's Office assigns several deputies to patrol the area including traffic control and boat patrol.

**Officer Involved Shooting-**On July 11, 2017, the Skagit Multiple Agency Response Team was called to investigate an officer involved shooting in Oak Harbor, WA.

## AUGUST

**Suicidal Subject on the Railroad Tracks-**

Deputy Brad Holmes, witnessed a male subject in a wheelchair straddled on the railroad tracks. The subject was defiantly challenging the oncoming train. Deputy Holmes pushed the subject out of the path of the oncoming train just seconds before the train passed.

**Active Shooter Training-** First responders from across Skagit County participated in Active Shooter Training.



**SEPTEMBER**

**Skagit County Sheriff Mentoring Program-** The Skagit County Sheriff's Office, in coordination with the Concrete School District, developed the Mentoring Program. The core values of this program include respect, leadership, integrity accountability, and teamwork.



**The Oyster Run-** is the largest rally in the Pacific Northwest with attendance estimated in the tens of thousands. This is another example of the teamwork by local and state agencies to provide a law enforcement presence to monitor traffic problems and other potential issues that might arise from this event.



**OCTOBER**

**Moving to the Skagit County Community Justice Center-** The move of the entire inmate population was completed in less than eight hours and without major incident

**Protectors of the Salish Sea Demonstration-** Patrol Division of the Skagit County Sheriff's Office monitored over 100 protestors marching against fossil fuels out at the two Skagit County refineries.

**Capture of a Most Harmful Criminal-** A wanted fugitive on a one man crime spree, responsible for more than 40 felony crimes within Skagit County, was ultimately taken into custody after an intensive multi-agency manhunt.



**NOVEMBER**

**Rescue at Edgewater Park-** Skagit County Sheriff's Office responded to a report of two people trapped on an embankment near Edgewater Park, Mount Vernon. One of the suspects was wanted for bank robbery. The teams used river boards to locate and rescue both subjects.

**Pro-Active Assignment Whitmarsh Road-** The SCSO Pro-Active Patrol Team took on the assignment of working with the property owner to clear out individuals trespassing on the property and creating other problems within the area.

**DECEMBER**

**Skagit County Sheriff's Office UAV/Drone Program-**Sergeant Tobin Meyer began work on the development of the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) Project earlier in 2017. The goal of establishing the Sheriff's Office Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Unit is to provide 24/7 aerial support for search and rescue, tactical, crime scene investigations, and other exigent needs where human life or significant property loss is at risk.



**Corrections Corporal Position-** With the pending move to the Skagit County Community Justice Center, the realization that a greater need for additional supervision had to be established as part of the functional operations of the new facility. The Administrative Staff, Corrections Sergeants and the Correction's Guild worked collaboratively to develop the corporal position.



# Awards

## **THE MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD**

**Sergeant Ron Coakley:** During the course of the two year period prior to the move into the Skagit County Community Justice Center, the team was responsible for managing and coordinating all of the transition tasks. Ron was a primary member of the Jail Transition Team. He continued to operate as the Alternatives Program Sergeant during the Transition Phase.

## **THE LIFESAVING AWARD**

**Deputy Paul Pacini and Deputy Joshua Case:** On May 24<sup>th</sup> 2017, Deputy Pacini and Deputy Case responded to a report of a house fire along with Swinomish Tribal's Corporal Heenan, and Officer Nelson, who confirmed that someone was still inside. All four law enforcement officers worked as a team, and at great risk to themselves, located the victim within the residence. She was lying on the floor unconscious and badly injured. The victim was pulled to safety, and taken to waiting aid units.

**Deputy Brad Holmes:** On August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017, Deputy Holmes came upon a subject in a wheel chair on the railroad tracks. The subject was attempting to commit suicide as a train was approaching. Deputy Holmes made the decision, to approach the subject and remove him from the tracks and out of harm's way.

## **THE ANNE JACKSON AWARD**

**Sergeant Chris Kading:** This award is in remembrance of Deputy Anne Jackson's characteristics of teamwork, commitment, thoughtfulness, charity, selflessness, humanity, and humor. Sergeant Chris Kading has admirably served the citizens of Skagit County both as a member of the Skagit County Sheriff's Office and as a volunteer fireman. Chris was a founding member of the High Risk Team, and was an original ProActive Team deputy. Currently he is the leader of the Proactive Team. Chris has been a part of numerous voluntary projects within the Sheriff's Office and within the community and his deeds symbolizes what we remember Anne for.

**Volunteer Brittni Huffman:** There are many unfortunate animals within Skagit County in great need of care, support and love. Brittni Huffman is a volunteer who helps bring relief to these abused and neglected creatures. Brittni can be counted on at all times and in any weather to serve our community. In keeping with the spirit of Anne, Brittni Huffman is presented the Deputy Anne Jackson Award.

## **SHERIFF'S AWARD**

**SCCJC Transition Team: Lieutenant Deanna Randall-Secrest, Sergeant Ron Coakley, Sergeant Juanita O'Neil, Sergeant Brian Schrader, Sergeant Polly Storie and Sergeant Aaron McIntosh:** Members of the Jail Transition Team were responsible for multiple projects that included facility construction, hiring of additional personnel, document development, program development, training, overseeing purchase of furniture, equipment and supplies.

**Chief Brunson/ Sergeant Brown SCCJC Employment Project:** In the course of transitioning to the Skagit County Community Justice Center, one of the significant challenges was the lack of trained staff available to operate the new jail facility. Chief Jackie Brunson and Corrections Sergeant Keith Brown took the lead on this project. Because of their effort, we had employees hired and in place to train and assist with the move to the new facility.

**Julia Benson- Measures for Justice Project:** Julia Benson was responsible for the completion of the Measures for Justice Project. The project gathers criminal justice data at the county level, to assess and compare the performance of the entire US criminal justice system. In addition, the Skagit County Sheriff's Office was able to provide other agencies with the list of reports and parameters she used to extract the information Measures for Justice was looking for, saving these agencies valuable time.

**Laurie Suttles & Jacoba Gage -E-Warrant Project:**

Laurie and Jacoba were part of an inter-office team tasked with the conversion of paper warrants to electronic. This process involved several other agencies and was quite a technical achievement, involving creating an entirely new system to utilize our database system for warrant storage and retrieval. This required Laurie and Jacoba to assist in designing a process to convert paper warrants to electronic format, add new electronic warrants; define policy and procedure for access, verification and disposition.

**CIVILIAN AWARD**

**Kelsy Ozuna:** Kelsy helped managing inmates with mental illness and emotional distress, at times as the sole practitioner. Kelsy also worked with the jail and county staff, and other agency partners, as we planned for updated behavioral health screening, assessment, and treatment in the new Justice Center.

**Ami Tidrington:** Ami came onboard to assess the physical needs of the of the “old” jail, while beginning to work on transition issues affected by the looming move into the new Skagit County Community Justice Center. Ami also began to develop correctional health care policies to bridge the gap between the present and February 1, 2018, when a private contractor takes on the correctional health care responsibilities of the Justice Center.

**Ron Kitchner and Facilities Maintenance Staff:** In his capacity as Facilities Manager, Ron was an integral part of the design and build team for the Skagit County Community Justice Center (SCCJC). His countless hours spent pouring over drawings and meeting with design, construction and operations staff, resulted in many changes which dramatically affected the final completion of the SCCJC. Ron and his staff , James Baltus and Kevin Hoidal, responded to every call for service and made valuable suggestions as to better operations, spending many hours assisting in the SCCJC.

**Mike Almvig and Information Services Staff:** In his capacity as Information Services Director, Mike was instrumental in assisting with contracts for the new technologies employed in the SCCJC. He and his entire staff spent many hours assisting Corrections staff with drafting, publishing, and evaluating proposals and final contract language.

**Sheriff Will Reichardt-United Way:** Sheriff Reichardt showed extraordinary leadership through his commitment to Population Health Trust – a coalition that brings the community together to address housing issues, specifically with respect to affordability and access.



# Scholarships & Service

## Anne Jackson Memorial Scholarship

Zoe Brunson, daughter of David and Jackie Brunson. Zoe will graduate from Burlington-Edison High School in June and plans on attending WSU in the fall to study Special Education.

## Erick Valenzuela Memorial Scholarship

Treyton Howell, the son of Kelly and Brooke Howell. He will graduate from Sedro-Woolley High School in June. He has been accepted to several colleges and plans on studying Business Administration.



## Robert and Becky Gates Scholarship

Tommy Molitor - WWU -Senior (Tom Molitor)  
 Matt Molitor - WSU -Soph (Tom Molitor)  
 Nathan Dills -UW - Soph (Steve Dills)  
 Grant Craig - WSU -Fresh (Kevin Sigman)  
 Devin Willard - Whitworth – Soph (Jeff Willard)  
 Payton Holmgren - SVCC – Fresh (John Hamlin)  
 Hannah Lee - WSU – Senior (Jenny Sheahan-Lee)  
 Caleb Neufeld - WWU Junior (Duane Neufeld)  
 Andrew Backstrom - SVCC - Fresh (Glenn Backstrom)  
 Madison Algeo - SVCC – Soph (Marty Steiner)  
 Taylor Algeo – WGU Junior (Marty Steiner)

## YEARS OF SERVICE

### January

Corrections Sgt. Brian Schrader 25

### February

Patrol Dep. Brad Holmes 15

Corrections Dep. Doug Faddis 10

### April

Patrol Dep. Patrick Beisler 10

### May

Undersheriff Don McDermott 35

### June

Patrol Dep. Brian Lewellen 5

### July

Records Cathy Peterson 5

### August

Chief Jackie Brunson 25

Det. Theresa Luvera 25

Records Jamie Bredstrand 10

Patrol Dep. Paul Wolfe 5

### September

Patrol Dep. Marty Steiner 25

Corrections Dep. Eli Salinas 10

### November

Patrol Sgt. Tobin Meyer 15

### December

Patrol Dep. Craig Mullen 30

Corrections Dep. David Anderson 10

# Employee Recognition

## RETIREMENTS / DEPARTURES



**Chief Charlie Wend**  
7 years



**Sgt. Kelly Howell**  
31 years



**Dep. Larissa  
"Lori" Sigman**  
25 years



**Dep. Julie Zorn**  
16 years



**Dep. Wade  
Wilhonen**  
15 years



**Records  
Cathy Peterson**  
5 years



**Civil Asst.  
Elizabeth Morgan**  
3 years

## VOLUNTEERS

Pastor Robert Weltz  
*Chaplin*

Dave Willard  
*Evidence*

Donna Dewey  
*Front Office*

Richard Treston  
*Front Office*

Randy Parker  
*Transition Team*

Jeff Brown  
*High Risk Team*

## NEW SERGEANTS



**Corr. Sgt.  
Don Marlow**



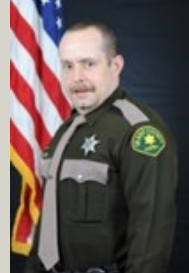
**Corr. Sgt.  
Keith Brown**



**Corr. Sgt.  
Kelly Howell**



**Sgt. Jeff Willard**



**Sgt. Brian Morgan**

## NEW EMPLOYEES

### CORRECTIONS

Sherry Kness  
Marie Hanshaw  
Patrick Treadway  
Natasha Bass  
Shiloh Bell  
DeeAnna Boonstra  
Jesse Quinn  
Cameron Howard  
Jacob Melnick  
Gabriel Gomez  
Alexander Medina  
Peyton Garrison  
Jackson Stramler  
Lucas Budrow  
Mitchell Kahns  
Robert Pittis  
Blake Townsend

### RECORDS

Melinda Larsen  
Michelle Brisson

### PATROL

Bryan Clark  
Mackenzie Brown  
Beau Montgomery  
Emily Passovoy



# Community Involvement

## Benevolent Association

The SCSOBA sponsors the following events

- \$2500 Anne Jackson and Erick Valenzuela Scholarships.
- Assist and facilitate the Robert Gates Scholarship fund.
- The Annual Anne Jackson Summer Picnic.
- Paid for Junior Deputy stickers/badges

January -

- \$250.00 to Skagit Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Services

March-

- Batteries for the CareTrak Program
- \$200 Donated to the Special Olympics
- \$500 to Leadership Skagit

April-

- \$250 given to the MVHS Autism class

May -

- Paid for hotel stay for night for Homicide Victim's family
- \$250 to sponsor SCSO Detectives conference

June-

- Provided bus ticket for Citizen after release from Jail

August-

- Provided 2 night hotel stay for parents of SCSO jail deputy who was hospitalized

September-

- \$250 to Sponsor SCSO Traffic Deputies conference

October-

- \$75.00 for the Allen Elementary School Fun Run

November -

- \$250.00 donated to the MVPD annual winter coat drive

December -

- \$400 for food baskets for needy families in the S-W area.
- \$1000.00 to sponsor Shop with a Hero .



**Torch Run**

**Polar Plunge**

**Tip a Cop**

**Coat Drive-MV Police Department Assist**

**Winter Clothing Needs-East Detachment**

**Neighborhood Watch**

**Community Food Drive**

**Guns and Hoses Golf Tournament**

**Drug Take Back Program**

**Veteran's Day Parade**

**Shell Refinery Day**

**Hexcel Corporation Family Day**

**Leadership Skagit**

**Shop with a Hero**

**Lunch with a Deputy**



# Goodbye Chief Charlie



Seven years after joining the Skagit County Sheriff's Office as Chief of Corrections and nearly 40 years after starting his career as an officer in the state Department of Corrections, Chief Charles "Charlie" Wend retired at the end of 2017. His departure came only months after the opening of the Skagit County Community Justice Center, which he helped establish. Charlie was part of a team of Sheriff's Office employees and community members who worked for several years to bring the concept of a new jail facility into reality. "There was this tremendous sense of 22 years of hard work paying off," Wend said of the community's journey to get a new jail.

"He was certainly a big part of saying, 'Hey, here's what a jail can be, and here's what a jail should be,'" Skagit County Sheriff Will Reichardt said, "Wend worked for years as an officer for the state Department of Corrections in Skagit County before Reichardt approached him about taking the county jail's top job. "I considered myself

very fortunate to get someone with his background, his experience, his connections to the community and his passion for corrections," Reichardt said. "I have not been disappointed. I consider him a close friend and a professional colleague that has made a huge, lasting impact on this community."

While the jail is a tangible aspect of his career, Reichardt said the changes Wend made inside the jail - how the deputies see themselves and each other - will have a lasting impact. "I think jail deputies kind of got the feeling that they were not fully appreciated," Reichardt said. "But Charlie really instilled a sense of professionalism and pride in being a corrections deputy."

"I'm really proud of where we are, compared to where we were," Wend said. "I've really tried for 37 years to conduct myself with integrity and a high level of compassion. I will be able to comfortably look myself in the mirror, and I'm very proud of that."





