

# SKAGIT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE 2021 ANNUAL REPORT



**SHERIFF DON McDERMOTT  
MOUNT VERNON, WA**



*Cover Photo by Deputy Richard Eichman.*

*Deputy Erik Kading transports grateful 12 week old boxer puppy back to his owner after being stolen out of his yard.*

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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.”*



# 2021-THE YEAR OF THE FLOOD

The Skagit and Samish Rivers flooded worse than in recent memory here in the valley. The Skagit River crested just over 40 feet in Concrete and nearly the same in Mount Vernon.

Flood stage for the Skagit in Concrete is 28 feet.

Our Emergency Operation Center opened

November 12 and ran 24/7 until November 30 when the rivers finally fell well below flood stage and people were back in their homes and property assessing damages.

On Monday, November 15, many rescues were accomplished that day. In the east portion of the county there were over 20 people rescued in the Cape Horn community. The Sheriff's Office Deputies and Search and Rescues volunteers were utilized for the majority of that day and the 2 weeks of the flooding session.

It was with great teamwork and effort that we were able to successfully rescue people and animals during this historic event.



2021 AUTHORIZED POSITIONS	
Sheriff (Elected)	1
Undersheriff (appointed)	1
Chief Criminal Deputy (appointed)	1
Chief Field Operations (appointed)	1
Chief of Corrections (appointed)	1
Chief of Administrative Services (appointed)	1
Corrections Lieutenant	2
Patrol Sergeant	6
Detective Sergeant	2
Corrections Sergeant	8
Patrol Deputy	39
Patrol Impact team	2
Detective	8
Animal Control Officer	1
Corrections Deputy	58
Accountant	2
RSO Coordinator	1
Civil Assistant	1
Evidence Technician	1
Support Services Technician	11
Body Worn Camera Support Services	2
Case Expeditor	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>151</b>

# SHERIFF'S MESSAGE

## SHERIFF DON McDERMOTT

On behalf of the Skagit County Sheriff's Office, I am pleased to submit the 2021 Skagit Annual Report. This report contains a summary of the Office's accomplishments and highlights the employees' achievements for 2021. The Skagit County Sheriff's Office strives to provide excellent public service each day and is constantly evolving to meet these efforts.

The years of 2020 and 2021 will be long remembered as a time of a global pandemic that greatly impacted Skagit County amid a local public health emergency. Though 2021 continued to challenge our delivery methods of public service, we remain committed to providing our community with the highest level of support, both professionally and personally.

The employees of the Skagit County Sheriff's Office are dedicated to the values that promote honesty, fairness, ethical behavior, and treating others as we would want to be treated. Each citizen contact reflects our commitment to quality service. The Skagit County Sheriff's Office works hard to provide the highest standard of law enforcement and customer service to its citizens.

We are fortunate in Skagit County to serve an incredible community, and we are privileged to have a unique bond with the citizens we serve. So many of our community members volunteer for a variety of programs. We of the Skagit County Sheriff's Office are grateful for your service.

We also recognize the first responders of Skagit County who are comprised of the very finest. We are blessed to be able to work with such dedicated public servants of the local Emergency Medical Services, Fire Departments, Skagit 911 and Law Enforcement Agencies.

I would like to thank the citizens and visitors of Skagit County, and especially the men and women of the Skagit County Sheriff's Office, for making Skagit County one of the greatest places to live, work, play, and visit.

Sheriff Don McDermott




The Skagit County Sheriff's Office is the largest law enforcement agency in Skagit County. We are responsible for a total population of approximately **129,205**. The unincorporated population is approximately **52,565** and is spread out over a geographical area measuring approximately 1,735 square miles, and 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 four Major Bureaus: Patrol, Corrections, Support, and Investigations, as depicted on our Challenge coin.

2021 BUDGET SUMMARY UPDATE			
SKAGIT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE		SKAGIT COUNTY COMMUNITY JUSTICE CENTER	
<b>Budget Expenses</b>	<b>12,656,404</b>	<b>Budget Expenses</b>	<b>18,104,239</b>
<b>Actual Expenses</b>	<b>11,575,895</b>	<b>Actual Expenses</b>	<b>16,379,453</b>
<b>Budgeted Revenue</b>	<b>1,758,933</b>	<b>Budgeted Revenue</b>	<b>15,565,196</b>
<b>Actual Revenue</b>	<b>1,620,084</b>	<b>Actual Revenue</b>	<b>16,086,107</b>

# INVESTIGATIONS BUREAU

## CHIEF TOBIN MEYER

The Skagit County Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigations Unit is responsible for the investigation of complex serious crimes to include sex crimes, robberies, serious assaults, homicides and other serious crimes against persons that are significant felony level offenses. Staffing limitations have resulted in a significant reduction in the Unit's ability to address property crimes to include residential burglaries.

One of the focuses and significant investigative themes of 2021 was investigations related to vulnerable populations. These investigations centered around individuals who were at high risk of vulnerability of victimization due to life-circumstances. The two types of cases generally associated to this trend were missing persons and juveniles/adults believed to be victims of human trafficking.

The SCSO Criminal Investigations Unit conducted investigations into fourteen cases of missing persons in 2021. Two of these cases continue as active investigations. Long-term vulnerable missing person cases are challenging due to information originating from rumors and third-party sources. These investigations require a great deal of investigative work to identify and locate sources, verify information and leads as they come in, and develop comprehensive timelines of events.

The Investigations Unit has also worked to rapidly identify vulnerable missing persons who are at high risk of or are potential victims of human trafficking. In 2021, patrol staff, detectives, and partner agencies including the FBI worked together on an unusual missing juvenile incident. Quick action and good investigative work resulted in the recovery of the juvenile who was accompanied by an adult male that travelled to Skagit County to facilitate flying the juvenile to another state. In this case, the juvenile met the suspect online and serves as reminder of the importance of monitoring online activity of children.

The Criminal Investigations Unit has continued to prioritize training and investigative work on social media and digital evidence. The Unit maintains a full-time specialized detective who focuses on forensically searching for and recovering digital evidence. Additionally, this detective works on the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (ICAC). ICAC's focus is on technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and Internet crimes against children and is both proactive and reactive.

For 2021, the bulk of the Investigations Unit's efforts have centered around investigating crimes against children. Skagit County takes a multiple discipline team (MDT) approach to creating the best successes and outcomes for allegations of both sexual and physical child abuse. This partnership follows national best practices. COVID created some unique challenges to this process, but the MDT found ways to remain effective.

No matter the type of investigation, from assaults and robberies to complex homicides, the Skagit County Sheriff's Office Investigations Unit maintains a team of highly experienced, trained and specialized investigators capable of conducting thorough, technically demanding and complex criminal investigations. Our community expects and demands that the Sheriff's Office maintain the staffing and experience necessary to meet today's highly technical investigative requirements. Staffing challenges are beginning to present a concern for the Investigations Unit ability to continue to meet these needs and expectations. The Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigations Unit maintains staffing levels similar to its 1990's era levels, having been significantly impacted by the loss of investigative positions in the 2007-2008 Great Recession. Creative and collaborative solutions as well as budget requests for additional staff will continue to be explored and developed to ensure the investigative needs and expectations of our community are met into the coming years and decades.

### 2021 Criminal Investigation Bureau Accomplishment Highlights

	Total	Arrest	Closed
Homicide	11	1	8
Missing Persons	14	1	12
Assault Felony	5	2	2
Abuse-Child	23	2	14
Sex Offense	52	6	12
Fraud	6	0	5
Property	18	0	0
	129	12	53

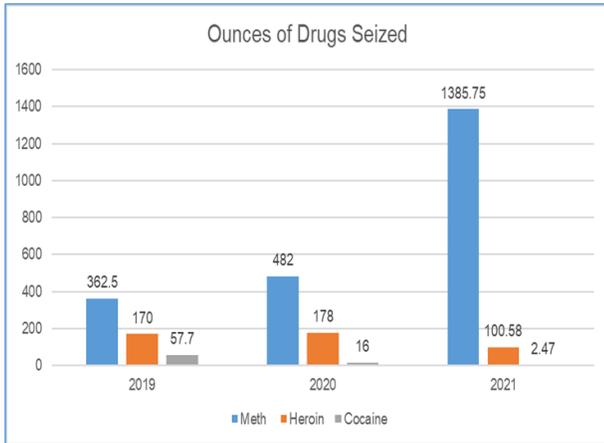
# SKAGIT COUNTY INTER-LOCAL DRUG TASK FORCE

CHIEF TOBIN MEYER



**MISSION** — *The Skagit County Inter-local Drug Enforcement Unit (SCIDEU) was 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.*

The Skagit County Interlocal 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 local Skagit County law enforcement agencies along with Federal agencies. In addition to the core agencies, SCIDEU conducts joint investigations with surrounding counties as well as state



and federal agencies to include the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). The unit achieves their goals through court authorized covert surveillance, which include undercover controlled purchases and in-depth investigations based on intelligence information gained from members of the community. This unit could not be effective without help provided by fellow law enforcement members.

Since 2019 the Skagit County Inter-local Drug Enforcement Unit Commander, Chief Tobin Meyer has continued his work with the executive board to maintain a close alignment of the needs of the board and the

community tailored to the operational output of the unit. Preliminary work included closely aligning proactive policing units from the Sheriff’s Office and the Mount Vernon Police Department with the Drug Task Force. By housing the combined unit, SCIDEU improved our real-time intelligence sharing between the units and improved the coordination and efficiency related to frequent investigative overlap. This combined unit has resulted in much greater operational output to include an increase each year in cases generated. This improved unit efficiency while continuing to accomplish the goals and missions of the proactive policing units and the drug task force.

A record setting 100,306 overdose deaths nationwide were reported to the CDC in 2021. Fentanyl continues to show a dramatic increase in Skagit County. This all-too-often lethal drug continues to gain a foothold in Skagit County resulting in an exponential increase in controlled substance overdose deaths. SCIDEU continues an aggressive stance in addressing these controlled substance homicides. In coordination with the Prosecuting Attorney’s Office, the Task Force continues to pursue, identify and charge dealers with Controlled Substance Homicides.

## 2021 TASK FORCE STATS

- **2021-Task Force cases opened - 69**  
(a 16% increase from 2020)
- **2021- Special Investigations cases opened - 32**
- **18,600 Fake Percocet 30 (Fentanyl) illicit pills seized as compared to 597 in 2020**
- **1385.75 ounces of Methamphetamine seized**
- **100.58 ounces of Heroin seized**
- **2.47 ounces of Cocaine seized**
- **19 Firearms seized**
- **Cash seized - \$2,604,011.59**  
(Large scale marijuana operation case)
- **Assets seized – 4 residences, multiple vehicles**

# FIELD OPERATIONS BUREAU

CHIEF CHRIS BALDWIN

The Skagit County Sheriff's Office Field Operations Bureau is the second largest bureau in the Skagit County Sheriff's Office. Chief Chris Baldwin oversees the Field Operations Bureau. In 2021 the Skagit County Sheriff's Office responded to over 18,765 calls for service. The types of calls for service include crimes against persons, property crimes, traffic related issues, civil disputes, community caretaking issues, and animal problems.

The Field Operations Bureau is organized into a squad system and provides 24/7 law enforcement coverage throughout Skagit County. There are four primary patrol squads that provide law enforcement coverage to the central and western geographical areas of Skagit County. Each patrol squad has a sergeant and five deputies assigned. The East Precinct provides law enforcement coverage to the eastern geographical area of Skagit County. The East Precinct has a sergeant and six deputies assigned. The Field Operations Bureau features several specialty programs and assignments, to include the Traffic Unit, K9 Team, Skagit Regional Response Tactical Team (SRRT), Marine Patrol, UAV, Search and Rescue, and Animal Control. The Town of Concrete and Town of La Conner contract with the Sheriff's Office to provide law enforcement services.



In 2021 the Sheriff's Office was granted two additional deputies to respond to mental health calls for service more effectively. The Sheriff's Office entered an MOU with Compass Health to embed two mental health

clinicians with the deputies. The program is now known as **Integrated Model of Police And Crisis Teams (IMPACT TEAM)**. The deputies and clinicians ride in the same patrol vehicle and respond to calls for service that have a mental health component to them. The IMPACT Team will determine the appropriate course of action on each call. The IMPACT Team will provide valuable resources and follow-up to clients that are experiencing a mental health crisis. The Sheriff's Office has four deputies assigned to the IMPACT Team. The IMPACT Team is authorized seven



mental health clinicians. North Sound Behavior Health Administrative Service Organization funds four clinicians. Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) funds two clinicians; Health Resource and Services Administration (HRSA) funds one clinician. The HRSA clinician is embedded with the East Precinct and works out of the Concrete Office which provides service to eastern Skagit County.

In 2021 the Sheriff's Office completed the build out of their emergency radio communications infrastructure from the legislative grant and county dollars we received in 2019. The Sheriff's Office has 17 repeater sites. This upgrade has vastly improved radio coverage throughout Skagit County making citizens and first responders safer.

# IMPACT - CRISIS RESPONSE

CHIEF CHRIS BALDWIN

In 2021, the IMPACT team was engaged in approximately 431 calls for service. These calls include domestics, mental, suicide attempts, welfare checks, and more. Neighboring agencies requested assistance from the IMPACT team approximately 57 times over the course



of 2021. IMPACT Mental Health Professionals provided approximately 1,179 services to approximately 400 community members. The IMPACT team is a versatile team that is focused on solving problems, utilizing the available resources within our county.

Skagit County secured a grant to add an east county mental health professional to the IMPACT team. She started working out of the Concrete Sheriff's Office in late 2021, providing follow up care, resource connections, and responding with East County Deputies on calls for service. City agencies in Skagit County have expressed the desire to join IMPACT by providing law enforcement officers for mental health professionals to partner with. We look forward to fulfilling that need in 2022.



## The following is a success story:

*The flooding that Skagit County experienced in November of 2021 negatively impacted many of the Skagit County residents. One resident who has been extremely close to homelessness and had been affected by the flooding in our area was mostly stranded, living out of his RV. The resident was contacted by the IMPACT team, where we learned that the resident was suffering from a possible medical emergency. The resident wanted to go to the hospital, however he was afraid of having his RV towed and would not leave his RV. The IMPACT team was able to coordinate with partnering agencies and bring a physician to the resident. Ultimately the residents' RV was moved to a safe location and the resident was transported for medical treatment. It was later discovered that the resident underwent life saving surgery.*

As of February 2022, the IMPACT team consists of three fulltime IMPACT clinicians, two part time IMPACT clinicians, and four deputies designated as IMPACT deputies. IMPACT clinicians and deputies coordinate responses and a continuum of care for those experiencing a crisis. IMPACT clinicians will respond to calls and perform follow up with deputies. IMPACT clinicians perform a lot of over the phone follow up with patients.

In 2021, the Crisis Response vehicles were put into service as part of the IMPACT program. Be on the lookout for them.

# TRAFFIC UNIT

**SGT JEFF WILLARD**



The Traffic Unit, made up of a Patrol Sergeant and five deputies, is responsible for around the clock traffic enforcement and collision investigation on over 850 miles of Skagit County roads. Their mission is to reduce 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 goal.* Emphasis patrols during high traffic volume events, such as the Skagit Valley Tulip Festival, Big Lake Fireworks, Oyster Run, and major holidays are another important part of providing traffic safety to our community. The Traffic Sergeant is the Region 11 Law Enforcement Liaison to the Washington State Traffic Safety Commission and is responsible for all county wide emphasis patrols funded by the Washington Traffic Safety Commission such as “Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over”, “Distracted Driving,” “Click it or Ticket” campaigns and Motorcycle Safety Enforcement.

In 2019, Sergeant Jeff Willard was appointed to the position of Traffic Sergeant. Sergeant Willard brought with him over 20 years of traffic experience as a traffic deputy and as a police motorcycle instructor. In 2021, the Traffic Unit has continued to streamline the process and improve the partnership with Skagit County Public Works who continue to process and dispose of “junk RV’s” and “junk motorhomes” on Skagit County right of ways. This is an ongoing project that has yielded measurable results for the citizens of Skagit County.

In 2021, the Skagit County Motors Unit had two instructors that assisted in teaching motorcycle safety familiarity to agencies across the state at the Washington State Patrol Academy. Three of our traffic deputies worked as Field Training Officers (FTO) with newly hired deputies to teach them the mission of the Traffic Unit and how it relates directly to safety in our communities. Perhaps the most interesting traffic contact in 2021 was when our traffic deputies escorted an airplane back to the airport after it was forced to land on Ovenell Rd.

Working collaboratively with Skagit County Public Works on education, enforcement, and engineering issues, the Traffic Unit assists public

works with enforcement while the summer 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 Electra Glide Police Motorcycles that are used for traffic enforcement, community events and assisting the United States Secret Service and other Motor Units in the Puget Sound region with escorting dignitaries during their visits.

Even though the Oyster Run was officially canceled in 2021 for the second year in a row, the Traffic Unit still, in conjunction with the Washington State Traffic Safety Commission, spearheaded a “Motorcycle Safety Emphasis.” The emphasis was held Friday, Saturday and Oyster Run Sunday, which included a motorcycle speed emphasis during the day shift and a DUI emphasis during the night shift. This high visibility emphasis was fully funded through the Washington State Traffic Safety Commission. It yielded numerous contacts and no motorcycle collisions or fatalities reported on county roadways during the emphasis.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions in 2021, the Traffic Unit saw a drastic reduction of self-initiated traffic enforcement. This was an intentional effort to reduce deputies’ exposure to the motoring public and reduce the likelihood of coming into contact with COVID infected citizens. We did, however, work with State Farm Insurance to write a grant for an electronic radar and message trailer that can be deployed in areas of need for traffic control. We also received a grant for more Portable Breath Test (PBT) machines that assist our deputies in alcohol-related investigations.

TRAFFIC STATISTICS	2018	2019	2020	2021
Traffic-Related Calls for Service	3,144	2,779	2,268	1171
Traffic Stops	9,727	9,997	9,568	4621
Criminal Traffic	794	878	538	157
Criminal Non-Traffic	436	556	413	321
Traffic Infractions	2,548	1,943	1,156	800
Collisions Reportable	359	305	315	427
Collisions Non-Reportable	379	398	499	554
DUI	125	139	134	94

# LACONNER PRECINCT

## SGT JEFF WILLARD

LaConner is a thriving tourist destination with a full time population of approximately 950 persons. This popular tourist location hosts many large events such as the Skagit Valley Tulip Festival, Daffodil Festival, Lighted Boat Parade, bicycle, running and kayak events, art festivals, etc. LaConner is a destination location as the town's population grows exponentially for 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 2001, the Sheriff's Office has been retained to provide police services to the citizens of LaConner. The LaConner Precinct is a division of the Skagit County Sheriff's Office.

Beginning in 2017, the Town of LaConner requested a change to their contract with the Sheriff's Office. The new contract took the Precinct 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 service to the community and day to day administrative needs are covered by the assigned precinct sergeant.

The LaConner Precinct accounts for an average of approximately 600 calls for service annually. The most frequent calls for service continue to typically be suspicious calls, alcohol violations, traffic issues and citizen assists. In 2019 Sergeant Jeff Willard took over as the LaConner Precinct Sergeant from Chief Tobin Meyer. Sergeant Willard attends the monthly city council meetings, department head meetings and reviews the security checklists for all events in LaConner. Sergeant Willard is the liaison between the Skagit County Sheriff's Office and the city of LaConner.

The LaConner Precinct was involved in several community functions and school activities, including the LCHS Senior graduation car parade, Sound Rowers event, Daffodil Festival, Tulip Festival, July 4<sup>th</sup> Independence Day parade, Halloween Parade, and the 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.

In 2021 the sheriff's office negotiated a new 5-year contract with the city of LaConner. This milestone achievement is the first time the sheriff's office has obtained a contract length of 5 years. This 5-year contract is another step towards the 15-year precinct plan that Sheriff McDermott has laid out for the Sheriff's Office. The new contract includes the addition of three city codes to be enforced by deputies. These codes included dangerous dogs, abandoned vehicles and extended stays on public property. Deputies will also increase Community Policing by performing "Foot Patrols".

In October 2021 the LaConner Precinct had been dealing with a homeless man with mental health issues sleeping and living out of the Pioneer Park picnic shelter. Deputies had attempted to help the man several times, but he was confrontational towards deputies and refused any help. Deputies reached out to the man's family and obtained additional information about his condition which eventually led to the SCSO IMPACT team getting involved and a DCR pick up order being issued by Superior Court. During the extremely cold weather in October, deputies contacted the man again in the shelter. The man was medically in poor shape and shivering from the freezing weather. Deputies were able to take the subject into custody on his DCR pick up order and admit him to the Skagit Valley Hospital where he could receive the treatment he so desperately needed.

In 2022 the Skagit County Sheriff's Office is looking forward to continuing to fulfill its contract with the town of LaConner for police services and continuing its relationship with the LaConner School District.

Calls for Service	
Year	Calls
2021	585
2020	569
2019	564
2018	594
2017	643
2016	608
2015	760
2014	606
2013	588
2012	641
2011	606

# EAST PRECINCT

## SGT GREG ADAMS

The East Precinct operates out of the Town of Concrete, holding office space next to Concrete Town Hall. Concrete, with a population slightly over 750, has contracted with the Sheriff's Office for law enforcement services since 2004. Law enforcement services are provided to the towns of Lyman, Hamilton, Concrete, Rockport, and Marblemount. The Skagit County Sheriff's Office East Precinct is supervised by one Sergeant and six patrol Deputies.

The East Precinct is the primary law enforcement unit in Eastern Skagit County. The patrol area stretches east of Sedro-Woolley all the way to the North Cascade pass, making up a little over 1,250 miles of the county. For context, that's almost half of size of the entire county!

Situated in the most rural part of the county, the East Precinct maintains a close working relationship with many law enforcement partners. Some of those partners include Skagit County Parks, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Washington State Patrol, and the National Park Service.

Community Oriented Policing and the East Precinct are one in the same. Deputies assigned to the East Precinct regularly attend community meetings, town councils, and meet with stakeholders in the upriver area. The East Precinct works closely with organizations in the area, including Community Action, Concrete School District, Mount Baker Presbyterian Church, Puget Sound Energy, Concrete Chamber of Commerce, and local businesses.

With the North Cascade National Park in our "backyard", the East Precinct Sergeant also supervises the Skagit County Search and Rescue program (SAR). The Search and Rescue program remains as one of the most capable in the state. The Sheriff's Office managed 55 Search and Rescue incidents for the year, representing an

increase of 66% compared to 2020. Additionally, East Precinct Deputies are assigned as Search and Rescue coordinators. Each Deputy is assigned to an individual SAR group and acts as the liaison between SAR volunteers and the Sheriff's Office.

The most common calls Deputies responded to out of the East Precinct were Suspicious complaints, Civils, and Thefts. Mental health calls represented the largest increase from 2020 with an increase of about 75%. In total, the East Precinct handled 2,123 calls for service. This represents an increase of about 4% from 2020.

The East Precinct was recently assigned a mental health professional

to better serve the needs of the community. Erin Birman brings a background in behavioral health since 2005 to the Sheriff's Office. Working directly out of the East Precinct, deputies are available to offer resources they were unable to in the past and better serve people experiencing a crisis.

The East Precinct along with the Sheriff's Office are committed to the safety of the citizens and visitors of Eastern Skagit County and look forward to a successful 2022 and beyond.



# ANIMAL CONTROL UNIT

## ACO EMILY DIAZ

The Skagit County Sheriff's Office Animal Control Officer, Emily Diaz, responds to calls for service regarding a wide variety of animal-related complaints, throughout the entire county. These include reports of animal cruelty, welfare checks, dangerous dogs, nuisance problems, injured animals, traffic hazards, abandoned animals, barking dogs, illegal kennels, cockfighting, weapon offenses, theft, natural disasters, rescue, and neglect. On average, the Sheriff's Office receives more than 1,300 animal problem complaints each year.

The Animal Control Officer (ACO) also investigates, applies for, and executes search warrants, and all charging documents related to animal cases in the county. Once animals are seized, appropriate placement must then be found. In 2021 there were criminal charges filed in 19 animal cases.

During the year the Sheriff's Office seized 48 dogs, 1 horse, 1 bird, 1 goat, and 1 pig.

Animal Control was included in the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) for the first time, during major flooding that impacted Skagit County. Having Animal Control in the EOC was a benefit to coordinate animal rescue, transportation, disposal, housing, feed, and other resources for animals and owners in need.

Our Animal Control Officer was nominated and received the Bucky Award from Pasado Safe Haven for her hard work and dedication that led to the conviction of Animal Cruelty for a woman who failed to provide medical attention and abandoned her dog. The award comes with \$2500 to be split between the Prosecutor and ACO who handled the case, on any training they choose.

Animal Control was able to investigate, locate, and return two kittens that had been stolen from their home and family. It was a pleasure to show the children missing their pets that the system can and does work.

Animal Control investigated a reported animal abuse case. At the conclusion of the investigation, charges were filed on a man who was caught on camera beating his dog. The dog later died of its injuries.

Another part of the Animal Control job is the responsibility for declaring aggressive dogs as potentially dangerous and dangerous. In 2021 we had 29 Potentially Dangerous Dog cases and 5 Dangerous Dog cases. Animal Control then follows up to monitor these dogs to ensure the owners are in compliance with the laws.



TYPE OF CALL	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Animal Problem-Total Calls for Service	1,522	1,408	1,555	1,381	1,436	1,298	1118
Lost or Found Animals	321	286	306	241	250	231	288
Traffic Hazard (Animal-Related)	307	197	310	130	21	74	99
Animal Cruelty or Neglect Calls	259	226	195	236	102	209	251

# MARINE PATROL UNIT

## SGT BRIAN MORGAN

Marine Patrol is called upon year-round for emergency situations that arise on the water. 2021 was another active year for our unit. November flooding resulted in boating deputies rescuing six people trapped in homes surround by water on Francis Rd. Several others were assisted or rescued in the Cape Horn community. Other water rescues were accomplished by our volunteer East County Water Rescue group, Conway Fire Department, and helicopter crews from Naval Air Station Whidbey Island. Our deputies were involved with 23 search and rescue cases in 2021. A total of 19 people were rescued or assisted on the water. A total of 162 written vessel safety inspection were completed.

In 2021 we sent three of our newest team members to the 40-hour Basic Marine Law Enforcement training course. Their ongoing training and mission experience continues to grow. Four of our team members attended an intensive Swiftwater Rescue Technician-1 course in December. Unit members accumulated 435 hours of combined marine training time in 2021.

Marine Patrol accomplished several fleet maintenance improvements in 2021. All three of our boat trailers received new tires. Marine 21, which is our primary lake boat, received a much-needed new paint job. It was painted using a durable marine grade "bed liner" type paint.

Our fleet consists of four boats. Marine 33 is our primary saltwater response vessel. It is a 33' Safe Boat



with a fully enclosed cabin. Marine 33 is capable of foul weather and day/night operations.

Marine 33 is equipped with specialized equipment which includes a fire pump system. Marine 33 is currently moored in La Conner.

Marine 21 is our primary lake boat. It is a 21' center console Safe Boat. Marine 21 is also our backup vessel for saltwater operations. Marine 21 has been in the Sheriff's Office fleet for about 25 years now. It continues to provide reliable service and has been a valuable resource for Skagit County.



Marine 4 and Marine 5 are both 18' Koffler flat bottom

riverboats. Each is equipped with a jet pump outboard and backup kicker motor.

Marine 4 is stationed in Burlington. Marine 5 is stationed in Concrete. These are our primary boats for river and flooding operations.



# SEARCH AND RESCUE

## SGT GREG ADAMS

The Skagit County Search and Rescue program remains one of the most capable and recognized units in the state. Search and Rescue or (SAR) is made up of highly trained volunteers whose mission remains, to help those in peril and rescue those in need. The group is supervised



by Sergeant Greg Adams along with Skagit County Deputies who take on individual groups as a collateral assignment. Additionally, the Sheriff's Office would like to recognize the Search and Rescue Volunteer Programs Coordinator, Tina Bobbit, who assists the Search and Rescue coordinators in training, allocating resources, and administrative tasks for the unit.

Although many of the call outs for the team involve locating the missing or injured, Skagit County Search and Rescue is a team that works together to assist the Sheriff's Office under a multitude of collateral duties. Specifically, Search and Rescue has assisted in evidence collection, flood evacuations, and put forth an amazing effort in implementing the Covid test site and remain a continuing presence to this day.

Skagit County Search and Rescue consists of eight groups divided between land and water operations. Each group specializes in their own discipline and works together cooperatively on missions. The land operation groups consist of Ground Search and Rescue (GSAR), Mountain Rescue, K9, and Off-Road Vehicles (ORV). The Marine operation consists of Skagit Bay, East County, and

Skagit Technical Water Rescue. Our communication group is made up of trained radio operators, Ares Races. In total, Skagit County Search and Rescue is made up of over 131 certified members. This is an increase in membership of over 12% compared to 2020. Through community involvement, and an active presence online, Skagit County Search and Rescue will continue to recruit and retain highly motivated individuals.

Search and Rescue members go through rigorous training prior to deploying in the field. For example, the overall training and volunteer hours for the unit reached over 13,000 hours! A new element added to the Search and Rescue team this year was the Search and Rescue Support Academy. Volunteers from the County completed six weeks of training to assist in logistics and radio communication. This will allow more volunteers to be involved in the program and serve their community who are not able to attend more specialized training.

This past year, a few Search and Rescue members launched a social media platform on YouTube serving as a PSA to help with tips and tactics while traversing in the field. The videos have received over a thousand views online. Due to their success, the group will continue to make and produce these films when a valuable topic or message comes up.

Total SAR missions for the year was (55). This was a dramatic increase from 2020 where the team responded to (33) total missions. The increase in missions speaks to the level of preparedness and ability to always answer the call for service. Over 1500 hours were spent responding to missions in the field.





With a highly capable team, it's difficult to mention all the accomplishments from 2021. However, there are a few other examples worth mentioning. The Mountain Rescue group who specializes in technical rescues involving extreme terrain undertook avalanche training. A committee was formed to honor the late SAR member JB Bryson, who was killed during a mission. Skagit County groups began training with neighboring counties and Search and Rescue was able to sponsor five members through the Skagit County EMT program.

Christine Nidd of Ground Search and Rescue was recognized this past year and received one of the Sheriff's Office highest honors, recipient of the Anne Jackson Award. The award was established in remembrance of the late Sheriff's Deputy Anne Jackson who showed charac-

teristics of teamwork, commitment, thoughtfulness, charity, selflessness, and good humor. Chris Nidd earned this honor and is a valuable member of Search and Rescue.

Looking forward, Skagit County Search and Rescue will continue to serve "so others can live" and represent the best in our community.



## FIELD TRAINING UNIT

### SGT STEVE DILLS

The Skagit County Sheriff's Office Field Training Unit had a very busy year in 2021. We are in the midst of another busy hiring cycle that we have not seen in some time. I'd like to take a moment to thank the command staff for their support of our unit as we teach and train our newest deputies.

We had several new deputies go through our field training program this year which is over 480 hours of training. The following deputies completed field training in 2021: Erik Kading, DeeAnna Boonstra, Sande Keyes, Darian Willis, DeShawn Halttunen, Andres Ibarra-Mendez, Mitchell Kahns, and Mack Brown. We have Deputy Patrick Schreiber currently in the academy with Deputy Wesley Kuzminky awaiting his academy date in 2022.

We are also continually looking to improve our training program. Deputy Mark Walker returned from

military leave and attended Field Training Officer basic school and is now being utilized as a traffic Field Training Officer. We are making modifications to our Agency 360 Daily Observation report program to make it flow easier with the training process. We have added a module for an FTO Sergeants training program to utilize with the anticipation of several promotions.

With the close of 2021, we look to continue to strive to provide the best training program that we can. We will continue to look for ways to build on our current program to meet the needs of our student officers, employees and community members. We are projecting to have several more student officers in our post academy program for 2022 as well as providing training for our deputies returning from military leave.

# SKAGIT REGIONAL RESPONSE TEAM

## SGT KEVIN SIGMAN

SRRT trains every month on tactics designed to effectively and safely resolve high-risk incidents. Training includes active threat response, high-risk warrant service, hostage rescue, building searches and barricaded subjects. SRRT is also responsible for providing tactical training to patrol deputies. In addition, SRRT coordinates with other units within the Sheriff's Office and partner agencies: Skagit County Inter-Local Drug Enforcement Unit (SCIDEU), Crisis Negotiation Team (CNT), Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) team, K-9, Investigations, and Marine Patrol. SRRT team members work regular patrol shifts, are distributed evenly among the various squads, and are often called to incidents while on patrol. Members utilize their training, tools and experience to resolve calls before the full team responds. SRRT is subject to callout 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

### **In 2021, the SRRT activated and responded to 7 different incidents. Two notable callouts included:**

The first occurred on February 4. SRRT was requested to assist the Skagit County Inter-Local Drug Enforcement Unit (SCIDEU) to apprehend a suspected armed drug dealer in the Sedro Woolley area. The suspect threatened to be involved in a shootout with the police and presented a pistol during the last drug buy. This deployment included the use of vehicle take down tactics and other new tactics. There was some concern about trying to arrest the suspect at his residence, so SRRT



waited for the suspect to leave, tracked the car, and used several unmarked cars to box the suspect in to keep him from fleeing from a Sedro Woolley gas station. The tactics worked exactly as planned and the suspect was taken into custody before he knew what happened and without injury to anyone.

The second action, also in February, was when SCIDEU requested assistance with serving search warrants on a large-scale drug trafficking organization. SRRT arrived on scene and conducted a surround and callout with announcements and overhead lights. After there was no answer, SRRT breached the front door and cleared the residence, locating a large marijuana grow in the basement. SRRT moved to the detached garage and knocked and announced. After no answer, SRRT breached an exterior and interior door to gain entry. A large marijuana grow was found in the shop. SRRT then responded to another location where a small grow was located inside the residence.

# K-9 UNIT

## SGT STEVE DILLS

The Skagit County Sheriff's Office K-9 unit deployed over 46 times this year. It was a unique year that faced all K9 teams in the state due to new legislative mandates. Deputy Moses and K9 Espo were still able to find success and stay active in the community by conducting demonstrations when called upon. Deputy Moses and K9



Esposito attended two WSPCA seminars to stay proficient in their skill set. Deputy Moses has been going through the WSPCA (Washington State Police Canine Association) Master trainer program and has one more seminar to attend to get certified. The K9 program was the recipient of two generous donations from citizens within our community to go towards the purchase of canines. It is my hope to start working towards acquiring a new canine in 2022. I was honored to be selected to work on the Washington State K9 Model policy 1054 work group. This allowed me to work with other community and law enforcement groups to establish a K9 model policy for the State of Washington. We are looking forward to serving the citizens of Skagit County in 2022.

On a December morning in 2021, a Deputy contacted the occupants of a newer Mercedes SUV in the Bow area of Skagit County after a drug complaint. The driver provided a false name and the Mercedes returned as a stolen vehicle. The driver continued to be uncooperative and fled at a high rate south on I-5.

A short time later, Skagit 911 advised of a hit and run crash involving a vehicle that matched the description of the stolen Mercedes. The victim in the crash was following the Mercedes to the area of the Country Club where it was last seen turning into a residential area. Deputies began setting up a perimeter and searching for the

vehicle while K9 responded.

The Mercedes was located unoccupied at the end of a street where Deputy Moses deployed K9 Espo to find the driver. K9 Espo tracked through the woods and brush before coming into a fenced in backyard. The gate was partially open and K9 Espo was indicating the track went this direction. Upon entry, Deputies found a swimming pool and in-ground hot tub. K9 Espo showed increased interest that the suspect was close and while running towards an exit gate he failed to see the hot tub and completely submerged before being pulled out.

After the quick dip, K9 Espo tracked through multiple backyards locating a cell phone, clothing, a Mercedes owners manual and credit cards with the suspect's name. K9 Espo then located the suspect hiding in thick bushes and grabbed onto the backpack he was wearing. The suspect was able to slip the backpack and ran down a steep cliff onto the roadway below where he was unable to run from deputies on perimeter.



# UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLES (UAV)

SGT BEN HAGGLUND

The Skagit County Sheriff's Office began operations in early 2018 with Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS). SCSO maintains a UAS section primarily for search and rescue incidents, locating missing persons or fleeing suspects, and public demonstrations. The UAS section exists to further the Sheriff's Office mission of public safety.

Pilots are commissioned patrol deputies that receive initial training from the UAS section and complete



testing and pilot licensing with the FAA. After initial training, pilots are evaluated individually on each aircraft the unit maintains. The Sheriff's Office currently has six licensed pilots, including three deputies, two detectives, and one sergeant. The section works toward 24x7 availability, and call out as needed.

In 2021, the UAS section completed 65 flights, at least one per week. Training missions include night operations, familiarization, maintenance, and competency. Active missions include search and rescue, assisting K9, and other events such as flood survey. SCSO regularly assists allied agencies including state and local police, as well as the Town of Lyman, Search and Rescue, and Skagit County Public Works.

In September, a UAS pilot was able to deliver a flotation device to a subject who had been stranded in the Skagit River for an extended amount of time. She was rescued a short time later by Burlington Fire Department, and brought safely to shore by the SCSO Marine unit.



Pilots flew various mission to survey the landslide near Big Lake in November, as well as major flooding in the region.

**The UAS section maintains multiple aircraft for a wide range of missions and uses:**

- DJI Spark allows for interior and tactical operations, as well as Hazmat.
- Matrice M210 carries thermal and zoom cameras. It can fly day or night.
- Inspire 1 can also fly day or night, and can easily deliver a payload such as a life jacket.
- Phantom model is flown in daytime flights with quick launch and longer flight times.



# ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES BUREAU

## CHIEF ANNETTE LINDQUIST

The Administrative Services Division is supervised by Chief Annette Lindquist. There are 16 full time positions in the division: including one Accountant, one full time Civil Assistant one ½ time Civil Assistant, 11.5 Support Services Technicians, one Registered Sex Offender Coordinator and one Court Expeditor.

2021 saw the addition of two new positions: one Evidence Tech and one Support Services Technician. The positions were approved to support the new body worn camera system purchased by the Sheriff's Office. We anticipate an increase in public disclosure requests and a high volume of evidence processing when the body camera program goes live.

Records staff has been working tirelessly in the background training in the redaction and processing of body worn camera footage, public disclosure request handling and Axon software platform.

We implemented an online program to process

concealed carry permits and fingerprinting. With the new software we can process faster and allow citizens to complete most of their requirements via the online portal. The new system allows us to print hard id type permit cards, a feature that citizens really like.



We applied for and received a grant for a full major case print unit, capable of taking palm prints, to update registered sex offenders in the state data base. Our Registered Sex Offender Coordinator manages approximately 300 RSOs in our county.

Statistically for 2021, 5853 cases were purged under Washington state records retention rules. 1797 Prosecutor document transactions and 2144 public disclosure requests were completed. Data Entry transcribed 13,691 reports. The Warrant Unit processed 15,621 entries to include court orders, warrants missing persons and stolen items along with multiple other types of transactions.

The Civil Assistant facilitated the service of 485 documents by deputies. She also processed 74 sales, writs, restitutions, and evictions.

We continue to update our processes using the latest technology and work flow review to provide the citizens of Skagit County with the best product available.

# COMMUNITY JUSTICE CENTER

CHIEF DON MARLOW

2021 held many of the same COVID related challenges for the Skagit County Community Justice Center as did the year 2020. We have had a reduction in overall services due to the courts being suspended, the inability to have group activities such as classroom teaching and limited face to face visits with outside services. Because of our strict COVID protocols which are



still in place, we have been able to keep the pandemic virus from spreading within the facility and creating further hardship on the employees and inmates. We were not able to implement the Department Of Justice grant/ study on recidivism as our

population was reduced by 50% and the subjects in custody did not appear to have the proper criteria.

Our daily population average for 2021 was 141. The high daily population was 172 in December. This is in comparison to 165 from 2020 and 259 from 2019 (pre-pandemic). Many things have played into the reduction of inmates: COVID protocols, reduction in trials, inmates not being held as long, and a new item, the Blake decision, which made simple possession of narcotics such as methamphetamine and heroin non-criminal the first two times a subject has been caught. Although there currently is not a statistic readily available, all past simple possession warrants have been recalled. That, coupled with the lack of arrests, have also impacted the number of inmates in our facility.

In coordination with the court administrations and Information Services, we were able to go live with video court. This allows us to reduce the number of

transports of inmates to offsite court rooms. This also allows the inmates access to some civil hearings and mental health evaluations. This has greatly reduced covid exposure to our population.

In conjunction with public health, we hosted 2 clinics to vaccinate first responders, court personnel, prosecutors, and public defenders. 489 personnel were vaccinated at our facility.

Some services that affect our operations have resumed which are: our courts which have started to host limited trials and our work release program that has resumed on a limited basis, which will be discussed later in this report. The cooperative shuttle which transports inmates to and from other facilities has also returned to full service.

## Staffing

The Justice Center was allotted 54 deputies and 8 Sergeants for 2021. As with current trends in law enforcement, we were not up to staff most of the year and were not able to meet these staffing numbers. We faced the following challenges:

**2** deputies were on military leave, **6** deputies on maternity leave (up to **4** at the same time), **12** employees left employment, (**1** for cause, **7** to other jails or law enforcement, **4** left the industry and **1** retired). We did hire **12** employees to replace, however because of training and academy time, they were not able to be fully utilized. The outlook for 2022 appears to be similar as we have scheduled retirements and deputies looking to either move on to patrol or leave the industry. Because it takes approximately **3** months for the hiring process, **2.5** months in the Academy and **3** months for the Field Training Program, **8.5** months elapses from start of hire until we have a deputy that has completed just the basic training requirements. This is an enormous impact on our operation and greatly affects the function of the facility. We also held a promotional Sergeant test and promoted **1** deputy to this rank as the previous Sergeant retired.

## Classification

The Classification Team is allotted 1 Sergeant and 6 Deputies. Due to staff shortages, the team had 1 vacancy for the whole year and went several months with 2 more vacancies due to leave and a promotion. The team is tasked with fielding inmate kites, (inmate written requests ), handling of Pro-Se inmates and classifying in-

mates to ensure they get safe and proper housing based on gang affiliation, crime, sex, and mental health needs.

The Classification Unit continued our relationship with the Hillcrest Church and 4 Imprint, who supply backpacks for inmates needing some basic living supplies upon release.



We handed out over 83 of the backpacks. The unit also coordinated the food handler permit program where 32 inmates were able to achieve their permits. In cooperation with Skagit Valley College, the Underground writing program also continued under this unit's supervision.

#### Gang Members Identified

SURENOS	98
NORTENOS	42
WHITE SUPREMACY	6
CRIPS	2
INSANE CLOWN POSSE	1
JUGGALO	2
BANDITOS	2
BROWN PRIDE	1

#### Inmate Kites Processed

GENERAL KITES (Inmate Request)	6425
DIET KITES (Inmate request)	283
GRIEVANCE KITES (Inmate Complaints)	1090

#### Training

The training team ensures training of new hires in the Field Training Officers Program, recertification of existing employees, and ensuring contracted employees receive mandatory trainings. The Corrections Field Training Officer Program consists of 10 FTO's who trained 11 new employees in 2021 for a total of 3,640 hours of training ranging from how to set up a uniform for duty to the complex control room board to defensive tactics. Of those 11 new employees, 5 attended the Washington State Corrections Officers 4 Week Academy for a total of 800 hours. 2 of the new employees attended the 10-week Corrections Officers Academy. This totaled 800 hours of training. This new longer academy has given new employees more training ranging from taser certification, to dealing with mentally ill persons, to communication skills.

In 2021, we placed a major focus on providing training to our deputies. We joined with our Patrol Bureau and outside local law enforcement agencies and formed a cooperative CJTC Certified Defensive Tactics Training program. We were able to certify 2 instructors who cooperatively train our Correction deputies and area law enforcement. We have also provided simunition training to deputies in both court room tactics and proficiency aspects. This is provided along with annual mandatory ongoing trainings and certifications. Most all training is currently held on an overtime basis as operational needs do not allow for it to occur during shift.



### Medical Unit

Our medical unit continues to be contracted by NaphCare. They supply a medical supervisor, office manager, mental health and nursing services. This unit is overseen by a Public Health Nurse. This unique structure has ensured that inmates are getting proper care and the medical contract is being followed.

In March 2021, we became one of 5 jails in the state to be approved to have the vaccine delivered directly to our medical department. We have COVID vaccinated approximately 168 inmates who voluntarily accepted our offer.

### 2021 Annual Medical Data

First Responder vaccines	489
IM COVID vaccines	168
IM COVID Tests	1534
IM Positive COVID	22
Drug and Alcohol assessments	52
MH Transition services	
New Clients	40
Initial assistance	35/mo
IM calls for resource info	10/day
Detox patients	641
Detox screenings	6781
Physicals/receiving screenings	2164
Suicidal patients	200
Special medical observation	337
Medical appointments	1026
Nursing appointments	1111
Mental Health appointments	1855
Chart review/referrals	1417
Total Medications administered	216,262
Offsite visits	69
ER visits	216

### Transport Unit

The Transport Team is responsible for bringing inmates to both Superior and District court trials and hearings. As a result of the COVID pandemic, video court hearings have increased dramatically and have become a standard for our facility when appropriate. As we emerge from this pandemic, this efficient process will continue as a way of business. The team has also been able to conduct zoom civil hearings and some zoom mental health hearings when appropriate.

#### SCCJC COURT TOTALS: January 2021-December 2021

Municipal Court	<b>404</b>
Superior Court	<b>2,537</b>
Misd Rights	<b>1,500</b>
Felony Rights	<b>905</b>
District Court	<b>319</b>
Zoom Court (Other)	<b>134</b>
<u>Note: Zoom Court includes Out of County, Dependency, Child/Civil, Criminal, Drug Court, Various Other Hearings.</u>	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5,799</b>

This is the total number of inmates we have taken to court for the courts that are held at the Justice Center. This means we moved **5,799** people through the video court area just for court.

#### SCCJC PROFESSIONAL VISIT TOTALS:

##### January 2021-December 2021

Jan	<b>244</b>	July	<b>335</b>
Feb	<b>285</b>	Aug	<b>316</b>
Mar	<b>401</b>	Sept	<b>342</b>
Apr	<b>381</b>	Oct	<b>394</b>
May	<b>376</b>	Nov	<b>441</b>
June	<b>422</b>	Dec	<b>454</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,391</b>		

This is the total number of professional visits we have had in the video court area (attorney, probation, investigators etc.) This does NOT include any professional visits in the booking/intake or classroom area. This means we moved **4,391** through the video court area just for professional visits.

\*\*adding the court totals/professional visit totals, we have moved **over 10,000** people through the video court area with a total assigned staff of 5 transport personnel (4 deputies, 1 Sgt.)

**TRANSPORTS TO SUPERIOR COURT:**

January 2021-December 2021

Jan*	1	July	11
Feb*	3	Aug*	4
Mar*	4	Sept*	1
Apr	10	Oct*	1
May	7	Nov*	2
June	8	Dec	6

Note: The \* notates that due to Covid-19, Superior Court delayed in-person trials during various weeks.

**TOTAL 58**

This is the total number of inmates we have transported by vehicle to Superior Court. This encompasses all variations of transports, trial, dependency, criminal, child support, drug court, etc.

**OUT OF FACILITY TRANSPORTS:**

January 2021-December 2021

Medical	81
Other Facility	47

**TOTAL 128**

Medical-Total number of scheduled medical appointments (Through Naphcare) that transport deputies have performed.  
Other Facility- Total number of other facility transports including Yakima, other jails, DOC etc.



**JAIL ALTERNATIVES**

The varied duties of the personnel in the Alternatives Section include Inmate Work and Treatment Programs, Courthouse Security, Trial Security Planning, Therapeutic Court Liaison, Criminal Records and Fugitive Extradition. 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. Authorized staffing for this section in 2021 consisted of 1 Sergeant, 1 Court Deputy, 3 Alternatives Deputies. Due to staffing shortage, only 2 Deputies were assigned, and 1 Criminal Justice Coordinator.



2021 was a year of changes and challenges for the Alternatives Section, for reasons ranging from employee changes and retirements, redistribution of workload due to physical location needs and driven by COVID-19 considerations in the court system and the jail. The Alternatives Section has also been tasked with 2 additional projects: Spillman quality control (jail booking database) and the ongoing effort to enhance the Criminal History system. During 2021, the backlog of Spillman quality control was cleared up and the ongoing effort is to ensure that a backlog does not develop again. The Criminal History enhancement project involves research and coordination with several local and state agencies. SCSO applied for a grant from WSP to assist with staff hours in this project and we were awarded approximately \$50,000 for 2021 toward the project.

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. Alternative 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. Due to COVID-19, the Skagit County court system was

largely inactive for several months, so few commitments were issued between March and November. **Alternatives staff processed 1119 court commitments, conducted 435 interviews and 308 bookings. Total bookings for the Skagit County Jail in 2021 were 4885.**

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. Due to COVID-19, a significant number of inmates were released from jail to finish serving their sentences at a safer time. The Alternatives Section is responsible for tracking these individuals and setting up their return to custody. As of Dec 31, 2021, 121 inmates are being tracked while they wait for their incarceration to begin or resume. **49 referrals were submitted for failure to comply with Superior Court orders or commits, 90 failure to comply cases were resolved (25 were directly through the Blake decision), resulting in defendants spending an additional 15 jail days more than their original sentences.**

#### **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. All instances of leaving the premises must be approved by Alternatives Staff. 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. **147 defendants participated on EHM, serving 5586 days. 2 defendants participated on the GPS Pre-Trial Monitoring program, for a total of 374 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. **20 defendants were authorized to participate in other agency programs.**

#### **One Day Offender Program**

(Due to COVID-19 considerations, only 3 sessions of the ODO were held, with limited space available to maintain standards.)

Minimum security inmates spend their required hours in custody at a location other than the jail. During



At 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, \$4069 was collected. **110 defendants participated in the ODO, serving 128 jail days and completing 944 hours of work at the Skagit County fairgrounds.**

#### **Work Release**

(Due to COVID-19 considerations, Work Release was suspended on March 12, 2020 AND WAS NOT RESTARTED UNTIL November 30, 2021)

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 and help offset the cost of incarceration. **4 inmates participated on Work Release, serving 78 days.**

**In 2021, 283 defendants/inmates served a total of 6166 days on Jail Alternatives.**

**In 2020, 245 defendants/inmates served a total of 5,006 days on Jail Alternatives.**

**In 2019, 413 defendants/inmates served a total of 12,074 days on Jail Alternatives**

#### **Out of Custody Worker Alternatives (not housed in jail):**

**Litter Crew** Joint program with Skagit County Public Works, Sheriff, Health Department, Washington State Department of Corrections, Washington Department of Ecology. Also provides workers to other governmental agencies, including Cities of Mt Vernon and Sedro Woolley; Town of Lyman; Skagit County Departments (Facilities, Sheriff's Office, Law Library, Prosecutor's Office, Parks, Records) **54 defendants participated on the Litter Crew and working for other governmental agencies, completing 7896 hours.**

(Due to COVID-19 considerations, the Litter Crew daily roster has been capped at 5.)

**In-Custody Worker Programs (housed in jail):** Inmate Workers – Kitchen, laundry and cleanup workers for interi-

or jail operations. ***Inmates participating in trustee duties served 52,000 hours.***

<b>In 2021 Jail Worker Programs</b>	<b>59,896 hours</b>
<b>In 2020 Jail Worker Programs</b>	<b>57,648 hours</b>
<b>In 2019 Jail Worker Programs.</b>	<b>75,441 hours</b>



### **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. Due to COVID-19 considerations, there were very few trials. A Covid compliant superior courtroom was established, however, was only used for 4 trials. Due to the location of this room, increased security personnel were required at various times during the year.

### **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. There are 4 checkpoints, one each in the Superior Courthouse, Courtroom #5 (Administration Building), the Public Safety Building and the SCCJC. The PSA personnel also provide security checkpoint control for after-hours activities in the courthouse complex and SCCJC, including Domestic Violence Victim Impact Panels and Small Claims Court.

The Court Deputy patrols 3 buildings, maintaining a uniformed presence in the corridors, outside premises and the 7 courtrooms. 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, fingerprint defendants up-

on conviction, perform DNA sample collections, and arrest 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 19 arrests, fingerprinted 25 defendants and conducted 20 DNA sample collections. 55 defendants were transported from the jail to court appearances in the complex.***

Along with the courts, the campus houses the Clerk's Office, District Court Probation, Office of Assigned Counsel, Family Law Facilitator, Law Library and Public Defender. ***90,107 visitors entered through the security checkpoints and 10 (DV panels, Small Claims court, late jury or hearings) after-hours events requiring security were held. 197 prohibited items were abandoned at the checkpoints. These items included knives, scissors, etc., destroyed by the SCSO Evidence technician .***

### **Therapeutic Court Liaison**

The Alternatives Sergeant is the Sheriff's representative on the Skagit County Drug Court team. This innovative program combines supervision and treatment for offenders whose criminal actions are a result of their dependence on drugs. Once an offender is admitted to Drug 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 Drug Court results in the charges being dismissed.

The team consists of a Superior Court Judge, Court Coordinator, treatment professionals (Phoenix Recovery Services, Pioneer Health Services), 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 the Court, Jail and Sheriff's Office. Other duties include security for the court, arranging transport for any in-custody clients, taking sanctioned clients into custody and reporting on client's behavior while in custody.

### **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. ***17 out of state fugitive extraditions were arranged.***

**Alternatives Section 2021 Goals**

- 1.Restart Work Release program - accomplished
- 2.Continue Spillman quality control – ongoing
- 3.Successfully manage the WSP CHIR project – meeting award requirements – all but one performance standard met, grant extended into 2022
- 4.Clear up backlog of commitments and defendants waiting to start jail or Alternatives – ongoing
- 5.Continued expansion of the One Day Offender Program – ongoing
- 6.Continued expansion of the Transdermal Alcohol Detection program for sentenced inmates & pre-trial defendants – added some pre-trial
- 7.Continued transfer of filing and records to electronic format, with an emphasis on logs – ongoing
- 8.Successful transition to new security screening contractor in courthouse complex – completed

**Alternatives Section 2022 Goals**

- 1.Expand Work Release program to pre-COVID levels
- 2.Continue Spillman quality control
- 3.Successfully manage the WSP CHIR project – meeting award requirements
- 4.Clear up backlog of commitments and defendants waiting to start jail or Alternatives
- 5.Continued expansion of the One Day Offender Program
- 6.Continued expansion of the Transdermal Alcohol Detection program for sentenced inmates & pre-trial defendants
- 7.Continued transfer of filing and records to electronic format, with an emphasis on logs
- 8.Successful transition to new security screening contractor in courthouse complex

**JAIL ALTERNATIVES FUNDS  
and DISPURSEMENT 2021**

<b>2021 Fund</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Application Fees	\$5673
CSW Day Fees	\$1168
UA Fees	\$1955
Hook Up Fees	\$3726
Address change Fees	\$20
WR Hygiene Pak	\$48
WR Fee	\$2319
EHM Fee	\$91,580
EHM OC Fee	\$6345
Pre-Trial Fee	\$3660
ODO Fee	\$4069
<b>Total Collected</b>	<b>\$120,563</b>
WASPC Pd EHM	<b>\$62,750</b>
UA Tests	<b>\$769</b>
WR Hygiene Pak	<b>\$0</b>
ODO Rental	<b>\$800</b>
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>\$64,319</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$56,244</b>

**2021 SKAGIT COUNTY LITTER CREW**  
**6908 hours of community service**  
**362 miles of county right of way serviced**  
**165 illegal dump sites responded to**  
**74,280 pounds of trash collected**

# 2021 WA LAW ENFORCEMENT MEMORIALS

American writer, Joseph Skagit once said, "A hero is someone who has given his or her life to something bigger than oneself."

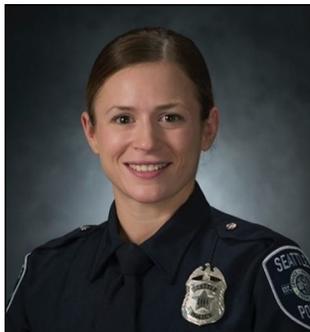
The Skagit County Sheriff's Office, established since 1883, has lost two deputies in the Line of Duty, Deputy Alan Hultgren and Deputy Anne Jackson. While the month of May is set aside to honor their memory, not a day goes by that they are not part of our thoughts. We must keep the light of those who have given the ultimate sacrifice, burning brightly.

## Recognition of the loss of Law Enforcement Officers throughout the State of Washington in 2021:

Sgt. Jeremy Brown  
EOW 7/23/21  
Clark County Sheriff's  
Vancouver, WA  
Gunfire



Officer Alexandra  
Brenneman-Harris  
EOW 6/13/21  
Seattle, WA  
Struck by Vehicle



Deportation Officer  
Bradley Kam  
EOW 10/12/21  
USD Homeland Security  
Tacoma, WA  
COVID 19



Trooper Eric Gunderson  
EOW 9/26/21  
WA State Patrol  
COVID 19



Correctional Officer  
Darryl "Scout" Goodrich, Jr  
EOW 8/20/21  
WA State  
Dept of Corrections  
COVID 19



Correctional Officer  
Gabriel Forrest  
EOW 6/17/21  
WA State  
Dept of Correctons  
COVID 19



Officer Cesar Dangaran  
Sibonga  
EOW 2/7/21  
USD Homeland Security  
Lynden, WA  
COVID 19



Officer Jay Hughes  
EOW 1/6/21  
Kalispel Tribal Police  
Spokane, WA  
Heart Attack



Sgt. Joseph Deccio  
EOW 8/3/21  
Yakima Police Dept  
Yakima, WA  
Medical Emergency



Officer Jonathan Gumm  
EOW 7/29/21  
US Dept of Defense  
JBLM Police Dept  
Heart Attack



**DEPUTY ALAN HULTGREN MEMORIAL  
RESOLUTION NO. 739**

**WHEREAS**, Deputy Alan Hultgren was born on July 5, 1951, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. At the age of four, his family moved to Tacoma, Washington. He graduated from Seattle Pacific College, in 1971.



**WHEREAS**, Deputy Hultgren joined the United States Army, in 1974, and was on active duty with the Headquarters Co. 75<sup>th</sup> Infantry Ranger Battalion. Deputy Hultgren remained as a reservist, until honorably discharged, in 1980.

**WHEREAS**, Deputy Hultgren was hired by the Skagit County Sheriffs' Office, in 1978, and he was assigned to the East County, moving to

the town of Concrete and serving as the Resident Deputy.

**WHEREAS**, Deputy Hultgren loved his work and he had great compassion for people. He provided outstanding professional service and he was dedicated to the law enforcement profession. His goal was to become the Sheriff of Skagit County.

**WHEREAS**, On August 7, 1981, while responding to an injury collision, Deputy Hultgren was struck head-on and killed by a drunk driver on State Route 20, just west of the town of Marblemount. Deputy Hultgren lives on in the memory of his family, friends, co-workers, and first responders. He gave the last full measure in service of others.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Washington State Transportation Commission designates the section of State Route 20 from milepost 90 to milepost 105, the "Skagit County Sheriff Deputy Alan Hultgren Memorial Highway."

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Washington State Transportation Commission requests that the Washington State Department of Transportation provide signage reflecting this naming designation, as soon as possible.

**ADOPTED this 17 of June, 2020.**

# SCHOLARSHIPS & RECOGNITION

## 2020 SKAGIT COUNTY SHERIFF'S SCHOLARSHIPS

The **Anne Jackson Memorial Scholarship** is awarded to a High School senior whose parent or grandparent is or was employed by a law enforcement agency in Skagit County. This year's recipient is Cady Systma, daughter of SCSO Corrections Deputy, Michael Systma. Cady will graduate from Ferndale H.S. and plans on attending Whitworth College to study Spanish and Psychology.

The **Erick Valenzuela Memorial Scholarship** is awarded to an outstanding Skagit County High School senior. This year's recipient is Katie Backstrom, daughter of former Deputy Glenn Backstrom. She plans on attending Eastern WA University, to study dental hygiene.

## ROBERT GATES SCHOLARSHIPS

*Scholarships given to children of fully commissioned active duty deputies*

- Kailey Willard- Eastern WA University- Senior
- Kylie Clark- SVCC- Freshman
- Michael Baldwin - Gonzaga - Junior
- Mitchell Baldwin- Vocational School-3rd Yr
- Garrett Craig- WSU – Sophomore
- Elsie Lee- SVCC- Freshman



## 2021 MILESTONE ANNIVERSARIES

### 35 YEARS

Chief Don Marlow

### 30 YEARS

Sgt Kevin Sigman

Deputy Ron Vater

Sgt Chris Kading

Undersheriff Chad Clark

### 25 YEARS

Sgt Lecia Kelley

### 20 YEARS

Sgt Ben Hagglund

Det John Hamlin

Deputy Keith Dillaman

Sgt Steve Dills

Sgt Brian Morgan

### 15 YEARS

Deputy Jason Moses

Deputy Eric Moore

### 10 YEARS

C.J. Andersen

### 5 YEARS

Deputy Brad Johnson

Deputy Leland Harlan

Deputy Tyrone Smith

Deputy Michael Sytsma

Deputy Martin Kwant

Deputy Josh Struiksma

Deputy Kylie Lowery

## OFFICE SUPPORT NEW HIRES

Samantha Lewis

Cherice Sage

## PATROL NEW HIRES

DeShawn Halttunen

Andres Ibarra-Mendez

Mitchel Kahns

Mackenzie Brown

Patrick Schreiber

Wesley Kuzminsky

Jamie Pressley

## CORRECTIONS NEW HIRES

Sarah Prielipp

Theodore Dykstra

Brandon VanBoven

Jasmine Goedl

Nathan Jones

Anna Sylvest

David Plotkin

Steven Pitts

Sarah Pohl

Paul Lack

Michael Storrer

## RETIREMENT

Sgt Greg Adams

Sgt Kevin Sigman

Sgt Juanita O'Neil

Dep Marty Steiner

Dep John Hendrickson

Dep Eric Moore

Johannah Deterding

# EMPLOYEE AWARDS & RECOGNITION

## 2021 SHERIFF'S OFFICE AWARDS



*The George Washington Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution awarded Law Enforcement Commendation awards, and Good Citizenship awards*

**LIFE SAVING AWARD:** Awarded to a Sheriff's Office employee who acted in a significant manner to save or prolong another's life or directly assisted in delivery of a child.

- **Det. Duane Neufeld**
- **Dep. Brad Holmes**
- **Sgt. Kevin Sigman (ret)**
- **Corrections Dep. Julio Martinez**
- **Corrections Sgt. Lecia Kelly**
- **Dep. Shawnn Vincent**
- **Corrections Dep. Kylie Lowery**
- **Corrections Dep. David Kruse**
- **Corrections Dep. Nicholas Rothwall**
- **Corrections Dep. Paul Lack**

**SHERIFF'S AWARD:** Demonstrated either through a single event or a prolonged period, exceptional or superior work performance.

### **2021 Jail Classification Unit**

- **Corrections Sgt. Polly Storie**
- **Corrections Sgt. Leland Harlan**
- **Corrections Dep. William Olberg**
- **Corrections Dep. James Dennis**
- **Corrections Dep. David Goeden**
- **Corrections Dep. Josh Meldrum**
- **Corrections Dep. Sherry Kness**

**DEPUTY ANNE JACKSON AWARD:** In remembrance of Dep Jackson's characteristics of teamwork, commitment, thoughtfulness, charity, selflessness, humanity and humor. It serves as a reminder of the powerful impact we as individuals have on those around us.

This award was presented to **Amie Tidrington** for her tireless efforts during the COVID procedures in the Jail.

# COMMUNITY INVOLVMENT

## SKAGIT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION

The Benevolent Association has a membership of 106 at this time. Monthly contributions help make it possible for us to continue to support our employees, their families, and the community at large.

Causes we have supported this year include:

- Coordinate reservations for Annual Anne Jackson picnic
- Erick Valenzuela Scholarship \$1000- given to Katie Backstrom
- Anne Jackson Scholarship \$1500- given to Cady Sytsma
- Sponsored one hole on the golf course (250.00) at the Guns and Hoses Golf Tournament at Avalon Golf Links.
- Bakerview BMX racers of Skagit County \$250.00
- Baby Onesies and Amazon gift cards for our new parents
- Magnetic ribbons for patrol cars for Breast cancer and Prostate cancer awareness, and also for Autism awareness
- Decorative pole for HRT team flag, designed by a Sergeant.
- Bethany Covenant church after school program (250.00) as a thank you for the use of their facilities for our promotional testing
- Children's Hospital donation in Becky Adam's memory



*AJ Picnic Burger Masters*

*Shop With A Hero*



*Cub Scout visitation*



*Picture Day at Edison Elementary*

# FUN TIMES

