

SKAGIT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

2015

ANNUAL REPORT



Sheriff Will Reichardt
600 S Third St.
Mount Vernon, WA 98273



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SKAGIT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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.



SHERIFF WILL REICHARDT

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 solve and provide conflict resolution. I 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.

We face many challenges in the years to come, the most significant being the lack of jail space to house inmates. All too often deputies are forced to release offenders who should be taken into custody due to a lack of room in the jail. This is not just a "law enforcement problem"- this is a community problem. This past year we have made significant progress to resolving this overcrowding issue. Upon approval in 2013 for a property tax increase to fund our new jail, 2014 was filled with permit applications and approvals. This past year saw the completion of design and development for our new jail and it is exciting to see that the fall of 2015 saw groundbreaking at the site and actual construction has begun. As we look to the future open-

ing of our new jail (anticipated June 2017) I am confident that the Sheriff's Office and our community partners are well positioned and committed to meeting these new challenges.

Please review our website (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 organizations and charitable, non-profits. 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.



SHERIFF'S OFFICE BUDGET SUMMARY	
2015 BUDGET EXPENSES	\$8,224,088.00
2015 ACTUAL EXPENSES	\$8,111,869.64
2015 BUDGETED REVENUE	\$1,321,580.00
2015 ACTUAL REVENUE	\$1,296,111.00

2014 STAFFED 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	7
Patrol Deputies	39
Detectives	6
Animal Control Officer	1
Corrections Deputies	37
Accountant	2
RSO Coordinator	1
Civil Assistant	2
Evidence Technician	1
Support Services Technician	8
TOTAL	119



INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

Chief Deputy Tom Molitor

The Investigations Division is headed by the 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 Interlocal Drug Enforcement Unit. The day to day review of detective reports and assignment of resources is the responsibility of the Detective Sergeant. The Detective Sergeant, Sergeant Keith Brown, also supervises the Registered Sex Offender Coordinator and the Evidence Technician. Sergeant Brown completed five years of service in the unit in December 2015, and will be replaced by Sergeant Sheahan-Lee in 2016.

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. They have significant experience in conducting major crimes investigations, conducting interviews and conducting specialized and complex investigations.

The detectives work to identify and apprehend violators 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.

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

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.

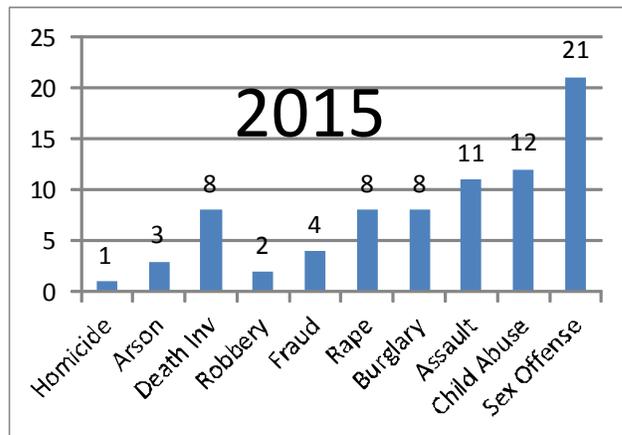


Detectives were responsible for a number of assignments in 2015 that included original investigations, charges and convictions. In 2015, a total of 112 cases were assigned to the detective unit. Detectives were responsible for clearing 40 of these cases by arrest.

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 2015 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 com-

prised of detective sergeants from the Mount



prised of detective sergeants from the 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 323 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.

Location of Sex Offenders Living in Skagit County:

SWINOMISH	8
ANACORTES	20
SEDRO WOOLLEY	26
BURLINGTON	24
MOUNT VERNON	65
COUNTY	180



Skagit County Interlocal Drug Enforcement Unit

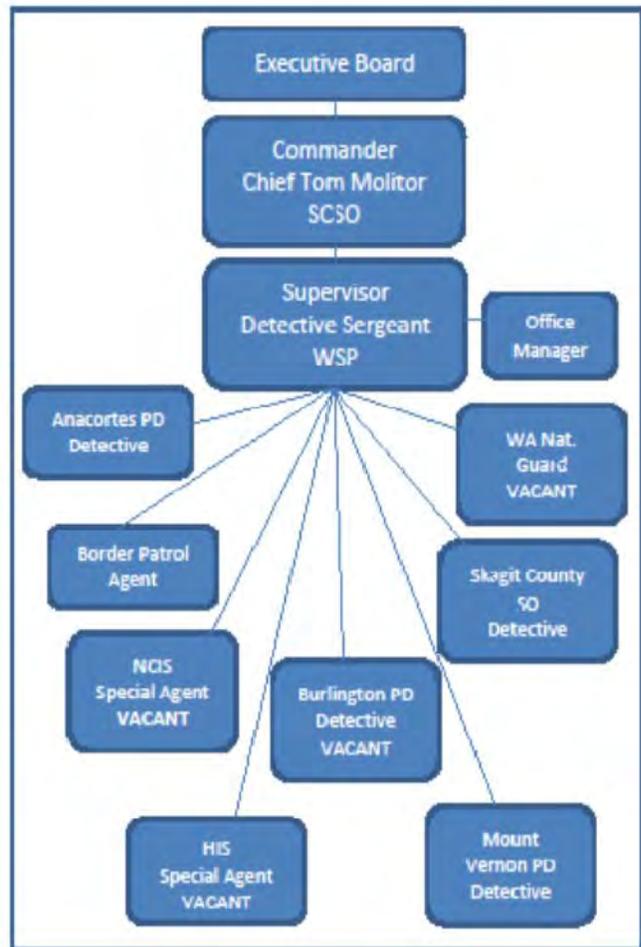
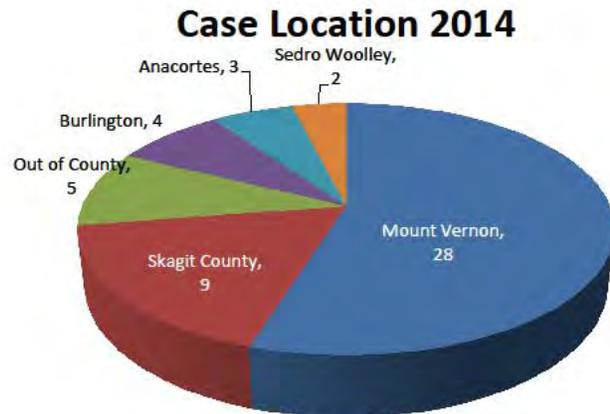
Chief Deputy Tom Molitor

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.

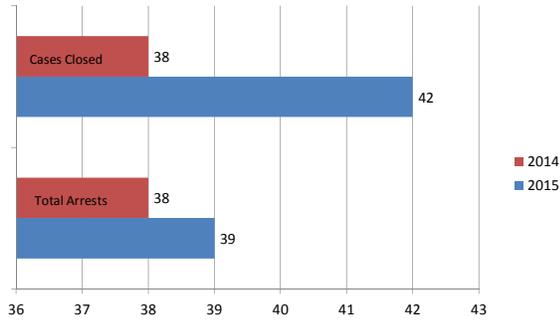
In addition to the core agencies, the Skagit County Inter-local Drug Enforcement Unit conducts complex joint investigations with surrounding county and city jurisdictional agencies as well as state and federal agencies to include the Federal Drug Enforcement Agency and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

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.

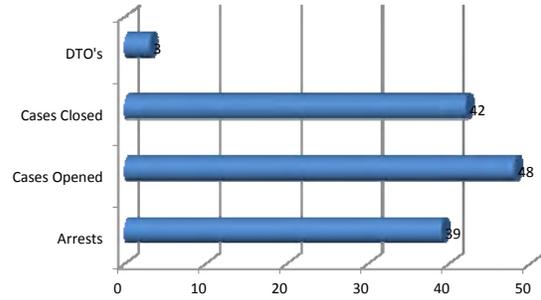


MISSION — The Skagit County Inter-local Drug Enforcement Unit (SCIDEU) is created to disrupt, dismantle, and effectively prosecute criminal organizations such as gangs, drug traffickers and other high to mid-level criminal elements anywhere within Skagit County. SCIDEU will also work closely with other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

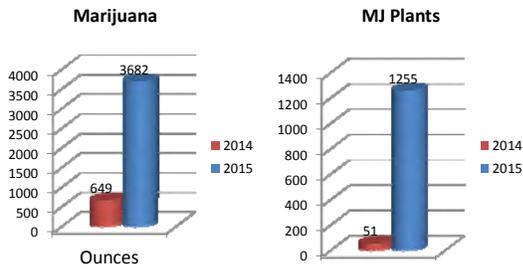
2014/ 2015 Results



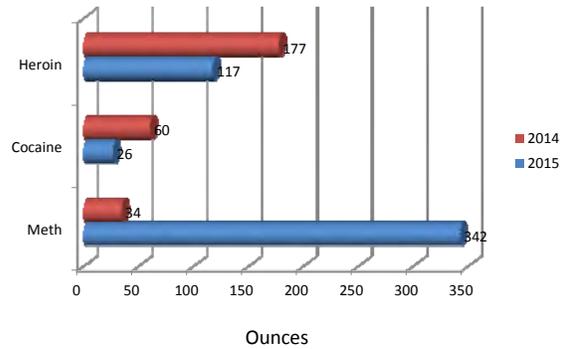
2015 Cases



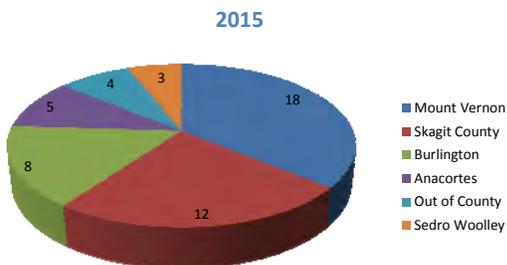
Drug Types Seized



Drug Types Seized



Case Location





PATROL DIVISION

Chief Chad Clark

The patrol division of the Skagit County Sheriff's Office is the largest division within the office. Chad Clark is the patrol division's Chief of Patrol Operation.

The patrol division is responsible for calls for service, responding to more than 19,000 calls in 2015. To accomplish the goals of actively handling the calls and seeking out criminals the patrol division is broken into a squad system. There are 4 primary patrol squads that consist of 5 deputies and a sergeant. They rotate from day shift to night shift every two months. Each deputy is assigned to a specific zone within the county to help stay organized and provide the most efficient coverage throughout the county. In 2015 the patrol squads worked a hybrid shift that allowed an overlap of all 4 squads every other Thursday. This overlap day is a tremendous help to have training for each deputy and sergeant. The State requires each law enforcement agency to train each deputy a minimum of 24 hours per year.

Traffic Enforcement-The patrol division provides a traffic enforcement squad that consists of 5 deputies and 1 sergeant. They are responsible for all collisions that occur on county roads unless the severities of the injuries are of a life threatening nature in which the Washington State Patrol handles. They are responsible for issuing citations for a variety of traffic related issues, which the bulk of those are for speeding.

High Risk Team (HRT) is the Sheriff's Office SWAT team that handles all tactical situations.

The tactical team is comprised of Sheriff's Office deputies, a Sedro-Woolley police officer and a Burlington police officer. The team trains on various tactics once a month to stay proficient in the tactics and special weapons that they are assigned.



La Conner Precinct-The Sheriff's Office contracts with the Towns of Concrete and La Conner. The La Conner Detachment is responsible for the town and is comprised of 2 deputies and 1 sergeant. The sergeant is recognized as La Conner's police chief and is responsible for communicating with the mayor and attending council meetings.

Marine Division-Our marine division has a fleet of 5 boats and is responsible for enforcing boating laws and ensures the safety of recreational boaters on all lakes, rivers, and Puget Sound within our County's boundaries. The marine division is comprised of specially trained deputies and a sergeant that oversees the marine budget and all activities of the marine deputies. Throughout the entire summer the marine division is out on various bodies of waters every weekend and some evenings throughout the week.

Animal Control-Officer Emily Diaz is our lone animal control officer that answers at least 1,000

calls a year ranging from barking and dangerous dogs to loose cattle. A large portion of calls are for animal neglect that she investigates and often impounds animals for their safety.

K-9-The Sheriff's office has a tracking dog that is handled by Deputy Jason Moses. K-9 Espo was purchased in early 2014 and has quickly become a great team member. Deputy Moses and Espo train together every Wednesday in Bellingham.

With 38 deputies and 7 sergeants the patrol division is a very proud division of the sheriff's of-

fice. Many of our deputies and sergeants are not only community members, but are also heavily involved in various clubs and are coaches for local schools. We take great pride in promoting community involvement for the deputies and staying in touch with the communities we proudly serve.





PATROL DIVISION

TRAFFIC

Sergeant 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 reduces 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.

TRAFFIC STATISTICS	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Traffic Related Calls for Service	3468	2886	3133	3508	3290	3546
Traffic Stops	14694	13245	12175	15816	13607	13685
Criminal Traffic	1247	999	1181	1203	1011	1094
Criminal Non-Traffic	720	647	566	478	406	588
Traffic Infractions	5519	4528	4486	6054	5709	5086
Collisions Reportable	279	275	284	286	254	462
Collisions Non-Reportable	284	246	285	248	244	367
DUI	157	104	162	130	139	103
Written Warnings-Traffic	58	6	17	49	5	36



PATROL DIVISION EAST DETACHMENT

Sergeant Chris Kading

The Sheriff's Office established the East Detachment in 1996. This detachment has been the primary law enforcement agency in eastern Skagit County for over **19** years. In 2004, the Sheriff's Office started contracting with the Town of Concrete to provide law enforcement services. The East Detachment office is located in the Concrete Town Hall building on Main Street. Deputies provide small town police services including business checks, foot patrols and school security services.

1 Sergeant and 6 East Detachment deputies provide coverage for the large geographical area east of Sedro Woolley including the towns of Lyman, Hamilton, Concrete, Rockport, and Marblemount. The East Detachment Sergeant also supervises the Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue program.

In 2015 the East Detachment handled 3639 complaints, 716 of those calls were within the Town of Concrete. Deputies routinely patrol the unincorporated areas of eastern Skagit County. These deputies work cooperatively with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and US Forest Service to provide law enforcement service 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 office is re-

sponsible for all elements of law enforcement. Some of the calls deputies respond to include, assaults, traffic enforcement, forest patrol and animal complaints, along with conducting felony level criminal investigations.

Many deputies attend Community Neighborhood Watch programs and work cooperatively with citizens groups to curtail crime in their neighborhoods. All East Detachment deputies are qualified as



Search and Rescue (SAR) Deputies. Each deputy is assigned an individual SAR group and is the liaison between volunteers and the SCSO. Deputies assigned to the East Detachment work in some of the most remote areas of Skagit County and are assigned four-wheel drive vehicles.



PATROL DIVISION

LA CONNER PRECINCT

Sergeant Jenny Sheahan-Lee

The year of 2015 has wrapped up and so has my service in La Conner. I had the privilege to serve the La Conner Community for the last three years. La Conner has the benefit of being served by deputies continuously assigned to their community. Deputy Craig Mullen and Deputy Steve Wade were serving before I arrived and will continue through the next year. The La Conner Deputies get to know the citizens and business owners and therefore provide a community oriented policing atmosphere.

In the past year deputies have been able to take non-criminal problems and assist in coming up with a solution that either mediates or resolves the issue(s). We do this partially by working closely with other town services to assure that our guest's experiences and citizens' living environments are comfortable. La Conner employees serve as a team, and the Sheriff's Office is proud to be part of that team.

Alarms responses made up 10% of deputies calls for service in La Conner in 2015. La Conner

had 569 calls for service in 2015, which is up 28% from the previous year. The increase was a mixture of criminal (mostly domestic violence calls, violation of court orders, and malicious mischief) and non-criminal complaints (mostly civil issues, motor vehicle collisions, and 911 hang up calls), however the criminal complaints were significantly less than non-criminal complaints.

Because La Conner is a tourist town, we do get our fair share of lost and found property. It is with great pride that we can return much of what is lost or left behind, sometimes in very creative ways. Yes, you can find deputies occasionally walking through town with someone's key fob trying to find the right car.

The Middle School construction project was mostly completed this last fall. The Sheriff's Office is very happy with the pedestrian traffic changes that have been improved as a result. It is always a concern for law enforcement when we take our least experienced drivers and have them travel the most congested area with increased risks, such as students crossing the roadways.

I am grateful for the opportunities presented to do a little different type of law enforcement here in La Conner. I wish the best to Sergeant Kelly Howell as he takes over the duties and responsibilities in La Conner.



PATROL DIVISION HIGH RISK TEAM Sergeant Chris Baldwin

The Skagit County Sheriff's Office High Risk Team (HRT) is a multi-jurisdictional team which is commanded by the Skagit County Sheriff's Office. HRT is comprised of deputies and officers from the Burlington and Sedro-Woolley Police Departments. HRT is certified in SWAT tactics through the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission and is a member of the National Tactical Officers Association (NTOA) as well as the Washington State Tactical Officers Association (WSTOA).

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, entries, etc. HRT is also responsible for training much of patrol in most of the above tactics.

HRT has two transport vehicles. One of the vehicles utilized is a V-150 armored personnel carrier that is capable of transporting the team into hostile situations where gun fire may be occurring. The team has many pieces of specialized equipment which include an AVATAR III tactical robot, eye ball remote cameras, cell phone disrupter, night vision, thermal imager, etc.

HRT assisted the Skagit County Inter-local Drug Enforcement Unit in serving several high risk drug related search warrants in 2015. For example, HRT was called out to serve a search warrant at an old migrant camp that was used for a large scale illegal marijuana growing operation. HRT conducted a scout of the location and served the search warrant on the property. HRT safely secured the property locating three suspects and valuable evidence which was turned over to detectives.

HRT is responsible for tactical operations in the Skagit County Jail. HRT responded to the jail several times this year for inmates that barricaded themselves in the jail and threatened violence. HRT was able to safely secure the inmates in restraints and move them to isolation cells.

HRT is responsible for the eradication of illegal marijuana growing operations in the county. HRT partners with 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. 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. They maintain a level of physical fitness for any situation that requires their expertise. HRT is state certified and is the most highly trained unit in the Sheriff's Office.



PATROL DIVISION

K-9 UNIT

Sergeant Annette Lindquist

K-9 Handler Deputy Jason Moses and Espo continue to bond as a team. Espo turned three in December and his maturity and understanding of his role improves as he gains more experience. The team attends weekly in-service training with the K-9 training cadre in Bellingham and they have been receiving excellent reviews from lead trainers.

Deputy Moses and K-9 Espo had a total of 78 deployments in 2015. They are available for use by not only the Sheriff's Office but any city in Skagit County may request an assist. On occasion they have even responded to assist Island County.

One of our goals for next year is to work with individual squads and cities within our jurisdiction to run them through a mock K-9 call, demonstrating how to run with the dog, safely set up a proper containment area, and deployment guidelines.





PATROL DIVISION ANIMAL CONTROL UNIT

Animal Control Officer Emily Diaz

The Skagit County Sheriff's Office responds to several 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, cockfighting, and neglect. The Sheriff's Office on average, responds to more than one thousand animal related complaints each year. Animal related complaints amount to approximately six to seven percent of the annual calls for service.

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 Potentially Dangerous and 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	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Animal Problem - Total Calls for Service	1545	1532	1554	1648	1529	1495
Lost or Found Animals	266	298	317	542	323	318
Traffic Hazard (Animal Related)	271	214	174	275	279	282
Collisions (Traffic Hazards resulting in Collisions)	28	34	44	33	53	53
Animal Cruelty or Neglect Calls for Service	205	160	167	191	180	259



PATROL DIVISION

MARINE PATROL

Sergeant Tobin Meyer

The Skagit County Sheriff's Office Marine Patrol Unit has undergone many improvements and overcome many challenges in 2015 beginning with a national accreditation mandate through the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators.

Becoming an accredited agency through NASBLA is a new State requirement for all recreational boating safety units like the SCSO Marine Unit that requires all marine unit deputies to adhere to a national training standard to ensure consistent instruction, safe operations, and interoperability with local, state, and federal law enforcement partners on the water.

SCSO Marine Unit deputies attended the first in a series of NASBLA courses at the 2015 State Law Enforcement Boating Conference for "Enhanced Vessel Operations" that included close quarter slow and high speed maneuvers, tactical boat operations, and boarding techniques. These are the same techniques taught to the United State Coast Guard small boat operators.

The Marine Patrol Unit also sent three additional Marine Unit deputies to Swift Water Rescue Technician training in 2015 and now has seven certified swift water rescue technicians out of the eight member unit.

This swift water rescue certification provides Sheriff's Office Marine Patrol Deputies the capability to safely and knowledgeably self-rescue and conduct rescue operations in swift water like the Skagit River and during flood events. This training taught marine patrol deputies to safely swim in class 3 rapids, negotiate hazards, plan and execute technical rope rescues, and conduct in-water contact rescues.

2015 was one of the most productive years

on record for the Sheriff's Office Marine Patrol Unit. One of the unit's key mandates to receive State and Federal funding is to conduct recreational boating safety inspections to ensure compliance with local and state boating laws. In 2014 the Sheriff's Office Marine Unit conducted 408 safety inspections while underway or during random ramp inspections and observed an 84% compliance rate with boating regulations. In 2015 the Sheriff's Office Marine Patrol Unit conducted 615 safety inspections and observed an 89% compliance rate by year end. This is a testament to the dedication of all marine unit deputies to our mission of providing boating safety services to the citizens and visitors of Skagit County waterways.



2015 Accomplishments

In 2015 the Skagit County Sheriff's Office Marine Patrol Unit accomplished 353 patrol hours on Skagit County waterways and participated in 49 additional hours of community outreach and education. Additionally, the Marine Patrol Unit:

- Conducted 615 written safety inspections
- Observed 104 Safety Violations
- Conducted 21 Search and Rescue Cases
- Assisted or Rescued 17 vessels
- Assisted or Rescued 23 People
- Conducted 5 Boating Accident Investigations
- Assisted with 1 Boat Fire and 1 Marine Fire
- Conducted an average of 60 Hours of training per marine unit deputy.



PATROL DIVISION

SEARCH & RESCUE PROGRAM

Sergeant Chris Kading

Skagit County's Search and Rescue (SAR) program is once again considered one of the top SAR groups in the State of Washington. With over 9,834 training hours this year, we are one of the best trained and most capable units in the state. The group not only conducts Search and Rescue missions for Skagit County, but also assists other agencies across our state. All SAR volunteers are assigned a Washington State DEM Emergency Worker Card number and are available to assist other jurisdictions at their request.

Sergeant Chris Kading is the SAR Coordinator based out of the East Detachment Office in Concrete. Sergeant Kading is assisted by Sergeant Tobin Meyer, the Sheriff's Office Marine Unit supervisor. Sergeant Meyer oversees all the marine based SAR units.

Currently, there are six deputies assigned to the East Detachment and they all hold collateral duties as SAR deputies. Several patrol deputies have previously served in SAR and are important to the overall mission. SAR deputies are responsible 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 provides guidance, and acts as a liaison between all SAR groups and the Sheriff's Office. In 2016 the Skagit County Search and Rescue Council is tasked with implementing a new training regimen to ensure across the board accountability for training. Each group specializes in a certain discipline, but works cooperatively during missions.

Skagit County Search and Rescue has 10 active groups consisting of over 100 active members.

Water-based assets include: Skagit Bay Search and Rescue, Skagit Technical Water Rescue, George Larson Marine Rescue, and our newest group, East County Water Rescue.

Land based units include GSAR, the Ground SAR unit, Skagit Mount Rescue Unit, Four Rivers 4-wheel 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 aircrews have proven invaluable in assisting with patient extrication from remote locations. 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 2015 SAR continued implementation of the



Washington State SARVAC (Search And Rescue Volunteer Advisory Council) standards, and updated training to further improve group performance. SAR continues to work cooperatively with local Fire Departments by implementing the ICS model of Unified Command. Together we can provide excellent extrication, treatment and packaging of patients in the field.

Statistics

In 2015 the Skagit County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue Program saw a slight decrease in actual missions, but an increase in hours spent on scene. In 2015 SAR conducted 36 calls resulting in over 401 volunteer hours spent on scene. In 2015 we maintained and completed over 9834 training hours.

Looking into 2016

The Sheriff's Office SAR program has increased its personnel volunteer base with over 50 new candidates. This increase in staffing results in greater turnouts on missions, and an overall boost in search personnel that are available.

SAR has increased its reach with the addition of the East County Water Rescue. ECWR is staffed by volunteer boat operators, who staff a river boat based out of the town of Concrete. These volunteers are familiar with the ever changing river conditions. ECWR is the only water based rescue unit east of Mount Vernon and will greatly assist the upriver community.

The ATV Search and Rescue Team is re-

searching the addition of motorcyclists and side by side ATV's in 2016. In 2015 this team was used many times to conduct search and rescue missions throughout the various trails in Skagit County and was called out to assist in neighboring counties.

In 2016 the Sheriff's Office will continue to work on making strides to make Skagit County Search and Rescue one of the lead teams in the State of Washington.





ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Chief Jackie Brunson

The Administrative Services Division is supervised by Chief Jackie Brunson. There are eleven fulltime positions in the division; 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 habeas corpus and orders of protection. In 2015, the Civil Assistants processed 162 writs of restitution, a 17% decrease from 2014. They also processed 819 protection orders, subpoenas, and other miscellaneous papers. This was a slight decrease from 2014.

The data entry unit processed 12,510 case reports which is a 6% increase from 2014. Our warrant entry unit entered 5,781 warrants and 1,694 orders. 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.

2,846 referrals and supplemental reports were prepared and sent to the Skagit County Prosecutor's Office. This is an 11% decrease over 2014. There were 2,327 public records requests processed for dissemination. It is notable that we only received \$795.85 in revenue for those public records requests, the maximum allowed by law.

Statistics from our Traffic Records show an 11% decrease in the number of traffic citations written. In 2015, 5,119 infractions were written and entered.

In 2015, we issued 1,519 concealed weapons permits, which is 1 less than 2014. Pistol transfers increased by a whopping 15%. In 2015 we processed 1,813 gun transfer checks and 1,580 in 2014. We are seeing a pattern of increased pistol transfer requests after mass shootings.

In 2015, 4,924 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 2015 we were fortunate to receive 455 hours of volunteer labor. 93.50 were attributable to our Chaplain, 104 hours were worked in investigations and evidence, and the remaining 257.50 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 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, jail staff is responsible to ensure that inmates appear in court when needed and are transported to other jurisdictions when necessary. Jail staff is also responsible for security in the Superior Court and District Court courtrooms.

The Skagit County Jail is located on the 2nd floor of the Larry E. Moller Public Safety Building at 600 South 3rd Street, in Mount Vernon, Washington. The jail was built in 1984 and was designed to hold 83 inmates, 11 females and 72 males. Since 1989, the number of beds has been increased by converting most individual cells to two-person cells and converting recreation areas to inmate housing, bringing the total number of beds in the jail to 180 today – 144 male beds and 36 female beds. Due to overcrowding, the jail has, when necessary, added mattresses in "boats" to the floor of some cells. Due to security concerns however, it is often not possible to place three prisoners into cells designed originally for one.

During 2015, significant strides continued to be made to move the County forward in its quest to

replace the current Skagit County Jail. Throughout the first half of 2015, design work on the new jail with the architectural firm DLR continued. On August 25, 2015, bids for the construction of the facility were opened. Of the 5 firms competing for the construction contract, Lydig Corporation emerged as the winning bidder with a total base bid of \$40,145,000. On November 13, 2015 a formal groundbreaking for the construction of the new jail was held, although work had already commenced at the location (the former Truck City truck stop in South Mount Vernon). Significant work associated with environmental clean-up of the



site began in late 2015. Removal of contaminated soil and underground utilities and the demolition of existing structures on the site occurred, as did the addition of clean soil to the construction site. The foundation of the facility was elevated 5 feet to accommodate possible flooding in the area.

Working toward the new jail's opening in approximately mid-2017, the Office selected two sergeants to form the nucleus of a Skagit County Sheriff's Office "Jail Transitions Team." These two sergeants in 2015 began to work on numerous issues re-

lated to the new jail which includes design review, staff hiring and background investigations, operational issues such as the development of revised inmate handbooks, post orders, policies, etc. With the creation of the Transition Team, two deputies in the jail were promoted to sergeants.



The new jail design will accommodate 400 inmates upon opening, and 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 on-going functions of the jail.

The Corrections Division continued to expand medical staff hours during 2015. There are now nurses regularly available in the jail from 6am to 10pm to provide assistance with “Fit for Jails”, medication passes, and extended clinic hours.

In 2015 the Sheriff’s Office instituted a major upgrade of its Offender Information Management System. Significant staff resources were devoted to the upgrade and extensive staff training occurred in order to implement the change. Sergeant Ron Coakley of the Corrections Division played a significant role in preparing for and managing the upgrade.

In 2015, the average daily prisoner population was 205 inmates. An average of 10 inmates were housed out of county in the Chelan County jail, Whatcom County jail, or Western State Hospi-

tal during 2015. This follows the trend over the last ten years of housing more prisoners per day than the design capacity of the jail. The total number of prisoners booked into the jail in 2015 was 4,116. This booking number reflects a slight increase from previous years when the jail imposed booking restrictions due to overcrowding. During this report period, booking restrictions limited bookings to felony violations, DUI charges, Domestic Violence charges, and some local misdemeanor warrants only. The Sheriff’s Office contracts with multiple jurisdictions in Skagit County to provide inmate housing. These include: Anacortes, Burlington, Mount Vernon, Sedro-Woolley, Swinomish, Upper Skagit, Concrete and La Conner. The use by agency was as follows:

2015 Total Bookings	4116
APD	375
BPD	500
DOC	142
MVPD	906
SCSO	1071
SWPD	272
TASK	19
SWIN	138
WSP	497
OTHER COUNTY, CITY & STATE AGENCIES	196

Jail operations have been seriously impacted by overcrowding. Designed for a significantly smaller volume of prisoners, operations which include managing the confined population, bookings and releases, and prisoner transport, all have been negatively impacted by overcrowding. During 2013 and extending into and through 2015, 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.

In 2015, Skagit County prisoners required literally thousands of court appearances, medical appointments, and mental health or chemical dependency evaluations or appointments. All of these interactions necessitated deputy involvement including transport

and supervision of the inmates.

Compounding the challenges facing the jail due to overcrowding were staff issues related to a faltering economy. Staff reductions in 2010 amongst jail deputies (due to budget reductions) placed further strain on jail operations extending through 2015, although with the new jail on the horizon, hiring approval for additional staff commenced and is slated to continue into and beyond 2016. The ultimate goal is to be fully staffed, per the staffing model, for the new facility upon its opening in 2017.

In 2008, due to overcrowding, the jail implemented a program of housing inmates in the Okanogan County and Snohomish County jails, per contractual agreements. Due to cost, in 2010 the jail ceased housing inmates out of county. Starting again in August of 2011, the jail once again housed a number of prisoners outside Skagit County through a contractual agreement with Snohomish County. This was due to increased population pressure in the medium and close custody areas of the jail. During 2014, the Snohomish County Jail entirely stopped accepting out of county inmates. This necessitated Skagit County turning to other jurisdictions to help manage our inmate population. After looking at a number of outsourcing options, Skagit County entered into a contractual agreement with Chelan County to hold our overflow inmates. Chelan County has agreed to hold up to 25 inmates at any time for Skagit County. During 2015 Skagit County worked solely with the Chelan County Jail for contracted bed space. The average daily population of Skagit County inmates in the Chelan County Jail has continued to be less than the contracted agreement due to conflicts with the jail's outsourced pre-trial population, scheduled court appearances, and classification issues. Further, some Skagit inmates are poor candidates for placement in Chelan County due to available bed space in Chelan County that takes into account risk factors. Skagit County continued to work collaboratively through 2015 with the Snohomish County Jail and the Whatcom County Jail for "Courtesy Holds", a reciprocal agreement whereby we house each other's

inmates when placement in a particular jail for specific inmates is problematic.

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



istered 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 2015 and continues to provide treatment intervention for inmates experiencing chemical dependency problems. In December 2012, RSAT was granted additional Federal funding and became the only jail based chemical dependency treatment program in Washington State to receive federal funding. In 2015, 68 inmates participated in the RSAT program utilizing Federal funding, with an additional 98 inmates participating utilizing .1% sales tax funding, for a total RSAT participation of 166 inmates.



CORRECTIONS DIVISION

JAIL ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM

Sergeant Ron Coakley

The varied duties of the personnel in the Alternative Programs Section include Inmate Work and Treatment Programs, Courthouse Security, Trial Security Planning, Therapeutic Court Liaison, Fugitive Extradition and monetary obligation collections. The Programs 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 2015 consisted of 1 Sergeant, 1 Court Deputy, 2 Program Deputies, 1 RSAT Deputy and 1 civilian Court Coordinator.

In November 2015, the New Jail Transition Team was activated, incorporating 2 Sergeants, including the Programs Sergeant into that role. The Transition Team will participate in all aspects of the transition into the new jail; including planning, construction, training and finally occupation.

The Programs 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. Programs inmates are tested for alcohol and drug use prior to commencement and randomly during their sentence. All Programs inmates are “booked in” and are carried on the Skagit County Jail Roster. Programs staff processed 2010 court commitments and conducted 324 interviews.

The Programs 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. 82 referrals were submitted for failure to comply with commits, 81 failure to comply cases were resolved, resulting in defendants spending an additional 212 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 Programs data collection and analysis, and a study of felony sentence compliance. The Court Coordinator worked with 280 inmates with a total of 915 criminal cases.

Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Pro-

gram (RSAT) is a comprehensive Intensive Outpatient Treatment Program, run inside the jail, with a goal of reducing offender recidivism. In 2012, a competitive process was used to determine which RSAT program in Washington would continue to receive the federal funding. Skagit County was selected to continue receiving this money, based upon the spectacular results that Skagit County has had with the RSAT Program. In 2013, the RSAT Deputy also took on the role of assisting inmates with placement into treatment centers outside of the jail. Defense attorneys, prosecutors and treatment professionals all come together to provide treatment opportunities for inmates. 166 inmates participated in the RSAT program and 59 applications for outside treatment were completed in 2015.

Electronic Home Monitoring (EHM) inmates live at a private residence and wear an electronic anklet that records when they leave and re-



turn 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 Programs 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. 48 defendants participated on EHM, serving 5662 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 Programs 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. 22 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. In 2015, \$3810 was collected and 79 defendants participated in the ODO, serving 101 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. 61 inmates (56 male, 5 female) participated on Work Release, serving 2614 days.

In 2015, 310 defendants/inmates served a total of 8377 days on Alternative Programs.

Out of Custody Worker Programs (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. (The Litter Crew was reinstated after a long hiatus, and a new Supervisor was hired. Ramping up to full time required some time, but as of September 2015, the Litter Crew is once again fully operational.) 23 defendants participated on the Litter Crew, serving 856 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) 203 defendants participated in CSW, serving 6448 hours.

In-Custody Worker Programs (housed in jail):

1. Skagit Transit – Contractual compensation agreement to provide workers 6 nights a week. 60 inmates participated on Skagit Transit Crews, serving 6136 hours.
2. Inmate Workers – Kitchen, laundry and clean-up workers for interior jail operations. Inmates participating in trustee duties served 50,000 hours. In 2015, defendants/inmates worked 63,440 hours on Jail Programs.

Trial Security -The Programs 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. Whatcom Security Agency provides personnel who run 2 checkpoints, one each in the Superior Courthouse and the Public Safety Building. The WSA personnel also provide security checkpoint control for after-hours activities in the courthouse complex, including DUI and 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 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, fingerprint defendants upon 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 186 arrests, fingerprinted 447 defendants and conducted 228 DNA sample collections.

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. 178,698 visitors entered the two courthouses through the security checkpoints and 50² after-hours events requiring security were held. 671³ prohibited items were abandoned at the checkpoints.

Therapeutic Court Liaison- The Programs 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, 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 De-

²DUI & DV panels, Small Claims court, late jury or hearings

³Prohibited items include knives, scissors, etc. These items are destroyed by the SCSO Evidence technician.

fender) and law enforcement (Mount Vernon Police Department and Sheriff's Office). As the liaison, the Programs Sergeant is responsible for ensuring good communication between Courts, Jail and Sheriff's Office. Other duties include security for the courts, arranging transport for any in-custody clients, taking sanctioned clients into custody and reporting on client's behavior while in custody. 173 in-custody clients were transported to Therapeutic Courts and 50 taken into custody for transport to the Jail.

Fugitive Extradition- The Programs 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. 33 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 Programs Sergeant and SO Accountant instituted several processes to notify people of their debts and encourage them to pay. These debts include a \$125 court or-

dered 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 \$3700 was actually collected for DUI restitution.

Alternative Programs Section Goals for 2016

1. Increased substance testing of Program 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. Assist in transition of new Litter Crew Supervisor and continuation of that program
5. Expansion of all inmate programs vis a vis new jail agreement, with emphasis on worker programs
6. Continue and increase successful efforts of Case Coordinator
7. Jail Team succession and addition to staffing.



2015 Accomplishments

Dear Sheriff's Office Employees,

In each of the past 5 years I have sent out a letter to all employees highlighting many of our accomplishments during each particular year, as well as touching a little bit about the goals and priorities for the coming year. However before I get to some of what we did in 2015 and goals for 2016, I would like to briefly mention some of the great volunteer work that you all have done both collectively and as individuals that reflect so well on this office and help build a trusting relationship between the Sheriff's Office that we all represent and the community we serve.

- Several employees gave of their time and treasure to support the annual "Christmas family" event that insured a number of low income families had a special holiday season.

- During Thanksgiving two needy families received full meals along with a \$50 fuel card
- On several occasions during the year the Benevolent Association donated money for various charitable causes including: subsidizing needy families rent, supporting SAR, assisting a stranded bicyclist, a Youthnet project and many others.
- Supporting Skagit Animals in Need (SAIN) both with time and money.
- The SCSO traffic unit providing "coffee cards" during the holidays
- Participation with Special Olympics by supporting the Anne Jackson 5K run/Polar Plunge and the Red Robin "tip-a-cop" event
- Outstanding participation of time and money with the annual "shop with a hero" to benefit underprivileged children
- Donating time to support the "If" Project to encourage juveniles to turn around their lives
- Annually the SCSOBA funds the Anne Jackson and Erik Valenzuela scholarships for graduating seniors moving onto college.

This is just a partial list of the involvement and commitment that many of our employees model

every day. Many of you support your own charities outside this office, or are involved in church, civic or social organizations that are a fantastic contribution to the community. I am proud to work with such a great group of people.

This past year we have made significant progress towards



accomplishing the goals and priorities we outlined at the start of last year, and in some areas we still have work to do. In 2015 we were able to add some new corrections deputy positions to begin to address our staffing needs as we start to “transition” to our new jail. These new positions included 2 new jail sergeant positions as well as adding increased nursing staff. The additional nursing hours will allow medical personnel to dispense medications to the inmates as well as increase nursing availability for routine medical issues in the jail. Again we asked for help with animal control staffing and were unfortunately not approved for that just like in 2014. This will continue to be a priority in the coming year.

This past year we continued to make progress in a number of areas by implementing change to existing practices or working on new projects to enhance efficiency in all divisions. Sometimes it is easy to forget all that was done by getting caught up in the day to day work we all do. Below is a list, in no particular order, of some of the big and small changes we experienced in 2015. It goes without saying that none of this would have come to fruition without the dedication that you all exhibit every day to making this office better

Records Division

- Completed Spillman upgrade for the jail
- Completed phone line upgrade for the Bayview detachment
- Completed data entry changes to allow for reports to be sent remotely
- Continued work on COMPSTAT

Investigations Division

- Remodel/renovate the soft interview room
- Continued progress on the text message retention plan
- Begin implementation of the “intelligence led policing” model
- Renovation of hard interview room

Patrol Division

- Continued work on establishing comprehensive neighborhood watch groups
- Continued work on radio simulcast project
- Added new defensive tactics instructor

- Began process for armored vehicle replacement
- Obtained needed radar/lidar equipment through grant
- Transitioned to smart phones to replace cameras and recorders

Corrections Division

- Began construction phase for new Skagit County jail
- Began formation of cell extraction team (CRT)
- Began work with Community Protection and Intervention Team (CPIT) to address mental health
- Purchased and trained personnel with WRAP to address combative inmates
- Continued progress on Corrections Lexipol manual
- Formed new jail “transition team”

In 2015 we once again stayed within our budget as set by the Board of County Commissioners, and were able to return some funds to the general fund. I believe our consistency in being good stewards of the dollars we are budgeted has paid dividends in being awarded new employee positions when many other departments around the county continue to face cuts.

No doubt 2016 will bring new challenges. I believe we are prepared and ready to meet those challenges, not only this year but in years to come. Among the priorities for 2016 is our continued commitment to fill any and all funded positions. Hiring good employees is a challenge but my commitment is to keep our standards high and hire only the very best employees we can. As construction of our new jail marches steadily towards completion, a top priority is to be ready to staff and operate it when the doors open. Radio upgrades on patrol is needed and work on a grant is already underway in hopes of addressing that.

Thanks again for all the hard work and dedication towards making the Skagit County Sheriff’s Office an organization that we and the community can continue to look upon with great pride. I look forward to working with each of you in the coming year.

Will Reichardt, Sheriff