

SKAGIT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

2014



ANNUAL REPORT



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



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Sheriff's letter	1
Introduction	2
Investigations	3
Skagit County Interlocal Drug Enforcement Unit	6
Patrol	8
Traffic Unit	9
East Detachment	10
LaConner Detachment	11
High Risk Team.....	13
K-9 Unit.....	14
Animal Control Unit	15
Marine Patrol Unit.....	16
Search & Rescue Unit.....	18
Administrative Services	20
Corrections	21
Jail Alternatives	24
2014 Accomplishments	26
Organizational Chart.....	Appendix

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 solving and 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 has been filled with permit applications and approvals, as well as a negotiated plan with the Department of Ecology for site clean-up. Also design and development was begun in earnest and continues on into 2015. As we look to the future of this project 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	
2014 BUDGET EXPENSES	\$8,135,178.00
2014 ACTUAL EXPENSES	\$7,916,954.07
2014 BUDGETED REVENUE	\$1,139,000.00
2014 ACTUAL REVENUE	\$1,122,001.74

2014 STAFFED POSITIONS	
Sheriff (Elected)	1.0
Undersheriff (appointed)	1.0
Chief Criminal Deputy (appointed)	1.0
Chief Field Services (appointed)	1.0
Chief of Corrections (appointed)	1.0
Chief of Admin Services (appointed)	1.0
Corrections Lieutenant	1.0
Patrol Sergeants	7.0
Detective Sergeant	1.0
Corrections Sergeants	5.0
Patrol Deputies	35.0
Detectives	6.0
Task Force Office Manager	1.0
Animal Control Officer	1.0
Corrections Deputies	35.0
Accountant	2.0
RSO Coordinator	1.0
Civil Assistant	2.0
Records Technician II	1.0
Evidence Technician	1.0
Support Services Technician	6.0
TOTAL	111.0



INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

Chief Don McDermott

The Investigations Division is headed by the Chief Criminal Deputy, currently filled by Chief Don McDermott. The Chief Criminal Deputy is also the office public information officer, conducts most internal investigations, and oversees the evidence 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 Position and the Evidence Technician.

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

The Investigations Division is responsible for the most complex criminal investigations. Detectives are promoted from the ranks of the Patrol Division. Our Detectives are highly trained and receive many hours of specialized training each year. They have significant experience in major crime investigations, conducting interviews and managing 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 evi-

dence relating to criminal violations.

The Detectives investigate reports of both physical and sexual abuse involving children. Investigations of this nature involve a cooperative effort between the detective 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 specialists 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 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 tech and the registered sex offender coordinator are a vital part of the investigations team, as well.

In 2014 a total of 167 cases were assigned to the detective unit. Detectives were responsible for clearing

58 of these cases by arrest.

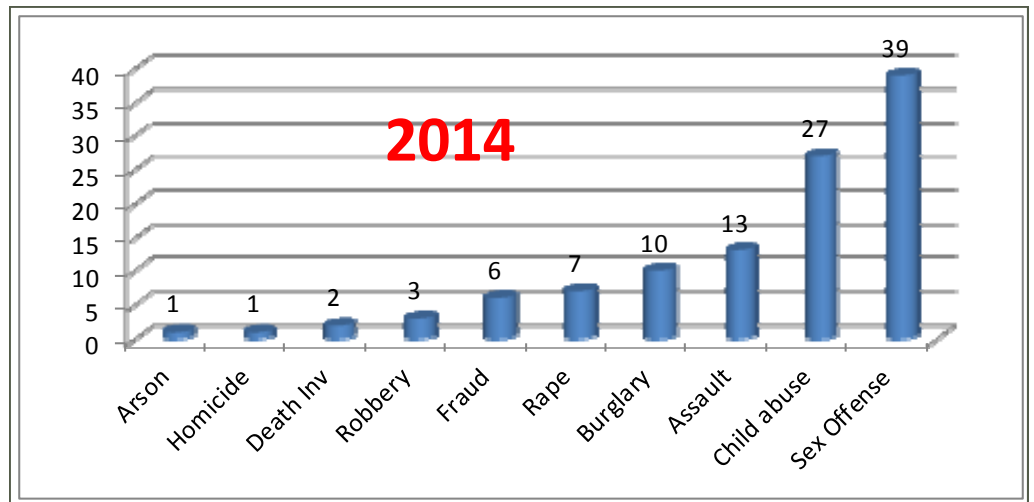
Detectives worked with multiple agencies throughout the year in order to accomplish the mission of the Investigations Division: Prosecutor's Office, Coroner's Office, Washington State Patrol, Mount Vernon PD, Burlington PD, Sedro Woolley PD, Anacortes PD, Whatcom County SO, Snohomish County SO, Immigration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

In 2013 the detectives of the Skagit County Sheriff's Office joined with other local law enforcement agency detectives within the County to form 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 an officer or when a significant criminal event occurs that has or is likely to exhaust the venue agency's investigative resources. SMART is commanded by administrative staff from the Mount Vernon Police Department and the Skagit County Sheriff's Office. Lead Investigative Supervisors are comprised of detective sergeants from the Mount Vernon Police Department, the Burlington Police Department and the Washington State Patrol. The entire group of SMART personnel, bring a diverse amount of experience and skills to this team.

In 2014 the Skagit County Multi-Agency Response Team had the first team callout in January. An officer with the Mount Vernon Police Department was involved in a deadly force shooting incident. The team supervisors, lead investigators and detectives worked very well together in processing the scene that included obtaining search warrants and handling evidence. The detectives

conducted interviews of witnesses, the involved officer and suspect. The team completed an investigation in a timely manner resulting in the exoneration of the officer and multiple charges against the suspect.

In September and October of 2014, SMART conducted an on-line child exploitation investigation. The operation focused on the sexual solicitation from adults both inside and outside Skagit County via the internet. The goals of the operation were to demonstrate that Skagit County is not a place where predatory behavior or sexual exploitation of children will



go undetected, create community awareness of the problem, hold individuals accountable and exercise the capabilities of SMART. In summary the operation was a success, with the arrest of many adult males who reside in Skagit County and jurisdictions both north and south of Skagit County.

CASES OF NOTE:

On September 24th 2014, the Skagit County Sheriff's Office investigated a case, in which a two year old child was forcibly taken by his father from a residence and the father made threats to harm both the mother and child. The possible destination for the suspect was within the City of Shoreline. As the investigation continued the deputies and detectives working the case quickly realized that the young boy was in jeopardy and that an Amber Alert would be critically important. Patrol, Investigations, volunteers and the 911 Center Staff worked as a team to bring

REGISTERED SEX OFFENDERS LIVING IN SKAGIT COUNTY 2014

this critical incident to a successful resolution. Detectives followed up on the case with the Shoreline Police Department and received high praise for their investigative skills.

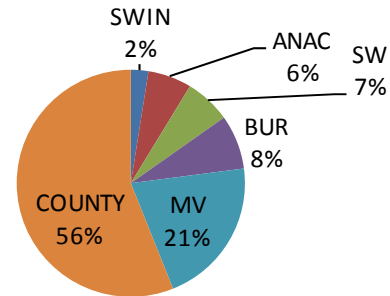
In February, the SCSO received a report of the child molestation of a six year old child. The detective assigned to this case worked with the family and the child forensics interview specialist to confirm the information of the crime committed and in the course of the follow up, the detective was able to charge the suspect with 2 counts of child molestation in the first degree.

In May, a detective was assigned the follow up of multiple burglaries and thefts involving a possible suspect identified by the good police work from patrol deputies. The detective was able to put together a case against the suspect with a vast criminal history and compelled the suspect to take a plea deal.

In the early part of 2013, the detectives investigated a homicide case that involved multiple search warrants, numerous crime scenes, interviews and a creative approach to link the suspects to the homicide victim. In 2014, the case came to a conclusion ultimately with the pleas and conviction of the three suspects involved.

REGISTERED SEX OFFENDER PROGRAM

RSO (Registered Sex Offender) coordinator, Laurie Jarolimek, continues to manage registration and address verification for over 319 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 of the local agencies to ensure that registered sex offenders in Skagit County are contacted and are in compliance with their registration requirements.



EVIDENCE UNIT

The evidence room is staffed by one full time evidence technician, supported by the volunteer service of retired Sheriff's Office Sergeant Dave Willard. Dave has contributed greatly with his expertise in the forensic analysis of evidence, freeing up deputies and detectives from these tasks. Evidence Technician Dan Luvera and Sgt. Willard have also undertaken a project to re-organize and condense our evidence storage system, increasing efficiency and freeing up space.

At the end of 2014 there were 13,161 different items housed in the evidence room. In 2013, there were a total of 18,138 total items in evidence. Evidence Technician, Dan Luvera and Sergeant Dave Willard reduced the number of items in evidence by 27%, freeing up much needed space in the property room. In 2014, there were a total of 102 items considered illegal drugs, down from 516 in 2013. In 2014 the total number of firearms, were reduced to 58 from a total of 474 in 2013. In 2014 a total of 2,432 items were booked into evidence, down from 2,806 in 2013. The project to clear the property room of items that remained in evidence was very successful. 3,056 items were released, destroyed or otherwise disposed of.

The Investigations Division remains committed to our core values of professionalism, enthusiasm and integrity. We are dedicated to maintaining the highest law enforcement standards, and committed to providing consistently caring service to the citizens and visitors of Skagit County.



Skagit County Interlocal Drug Enforcement Unit

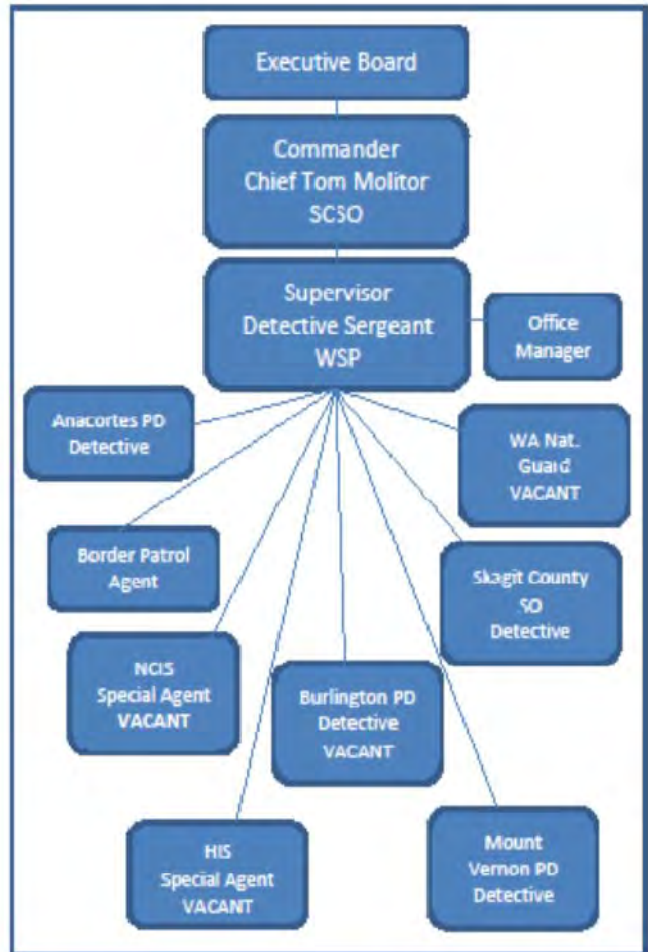
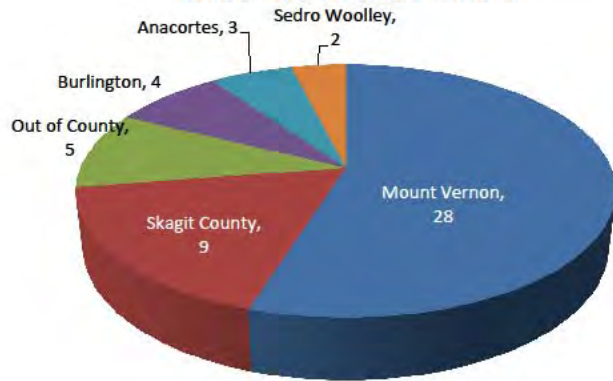
Chief Tom Molitor

The Skagit County Interlocal Drug Enforcement Unit (SCIDEU) is a multi-agency effort 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. Additional staff from the Skagit County Prosecutor's Office and the United States Army National Guard, comprise the SCIDEU team.

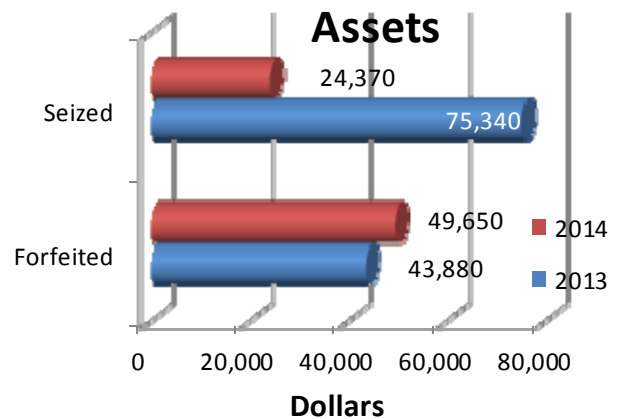
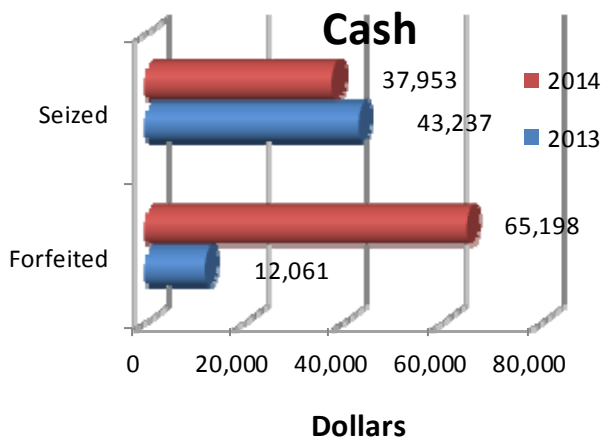
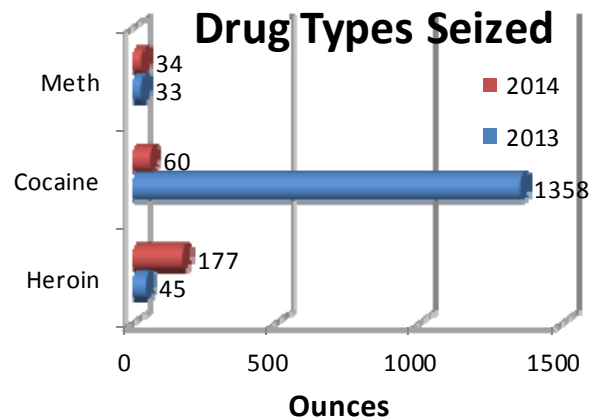
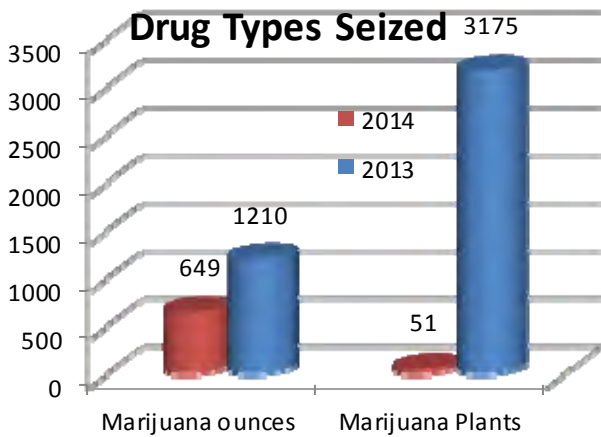
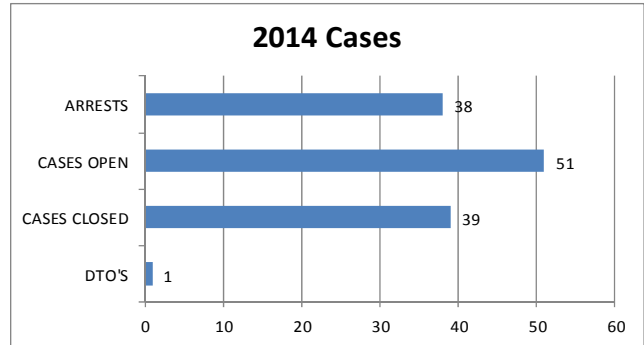
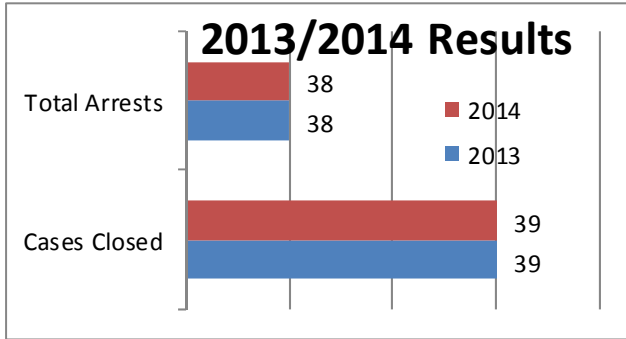
In addition to the core agencies, SCIDEU conducts complex joint investigations with surrounding county and city jurisdictional agencies as well as state and Federal agencies to include the Federal Drug Enforcement Agency and the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms.

SCIDEU achieves these goals through undercover surveillance, undercover buys, and with in-depth investigations based on intelligence information gained from the community. SCIDEU could not be effective without the help provided by the community.

Case Location 2014



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





PATROL DIVISION

Chief Chad Clark

The Skagit County Sheriff's Office largest division is the Patrol Division. The Chief of Field Services Chad Clark is the division's supervisor.

The patrol division staff consists of seven patrol sergeants, 35 patrol deputies and one animal control officer. The division has four squads each supervised by a sergeant that patrol the county divided up into four different patrol zones. The shifts consist of four eleven hour shifts both days and nights on the weekends. During the week the patrol squads work 4-10 hour shifts both days and nights. This was created to allow for a natural overlap day every other Thursday for training purposes. The biggest challenge the patrol division faced was training regularly as we once were able to accomplish working a 4-10 hour shift. This hybrid scheduled which was adopted in early 2014, has allowed the patrol division to train in all aspects of law enforcement. The state requires that every deputy achieve at least 24 hours of training during each calendar year. This schedule enables the patrol division to far exceed those training hours, allowing for valuable training that improves upon our service to the community. It also allowed us to train on duty and not use overtime.

The patrol division also provides a traffic unit, a tactical team (High Risk Team), K-9, marine patrol, search and rescue, animal control and law enforcement services to the towns of La Conner and Concrete. The patrol division prides itself on giving the citizens of Skagit County and its visitors the most professional police service possible.

In 2014 survey cards were randomly sent out to victims of crime and asked that they fill the card out and send it back ranking the deputy in different categories of how they presented themselves. This process has proven to be a crucial element of keeping customer service at a very high level.

The patrol division takes great pride in practicing community oriented policing. We partner with neighborhood watch groups to determine criminal activities and provide them with resources to help combat crime in their neighborhood. This type of policing has been pivotal in locating some of the most active criminals in our county. We have expanded the number of deputies on our neighborhood watch team to ensure the community watch captains have a liaison they can reach out and talk to and get good sound advice on crime prevention.

The Skagit County Sheriff's Office is made up of skilled men and women that take great pride in providing some of the best law enforcement in the State of Washington.



PATROL DIVISION

TRAFFIC UNIT

Sgt. Chris Baldwin

The Traffic Unit consists of one sergeant and five deputies. The Traffic Unit’s regular duties include traffic enforcement and collision investigation covering over 850 miles of Skagit County roads. The Traffic Unit’s mission is reducing collisions that result in injuries and property damage to the citizens of Skagit County and the people who visit our community.

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

The Traffic Unit has three Harley Davidson Road King police motorcycles that are used for enforcement and community events. The Skagit County Sheriff’s Office Motor Unit assisted the United States Secret Service and other Motor Units in the Puget Sound region with escorting President Obama and Vice President Biden during their visits.

The Traffic Unit along with WSP, District Court, and Skagit County Information Services worked collaboratively to develop the electronic search warrant program. The electronic search warrant is a more efficient and effective way of obtaining search warrants.

TRAFFIC STATISTICS	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Traffic Related Calls for Service	4084	3468	2886	3133	3508	3290
Traffic Stops	19144	14694	13245	12175	15816	13607
Criminal Traffic	1543	1247	999	1181	1203	1011
Criminal Non-Traffic	737	720	647	566	478	406
Traffic Infractions	6975	5519	4528	4486	6054	5709
Collisions Reportable	302	279	275	284	286	254
Collisions Non-Reportable	246	284	246	285	248	244
DUI	213	157	104	162	130	139
Written Warnings-Traffic	211	58	6	17	49	5



PATROL DIVISION EAST DETACHMENT

Sgt. 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 **18** years. There is one Sergeant and six East Detachment deputies. The East Detachment serves the towns of Lyman, Hamilton, Concrete, Rockport, and Marblemount.

The Sheriff's Office has contracted with the Town of Concrete to provide police services since 2004. The East Detachment office is located in the Concrete Town Hall building on Main Street. Deputies provide small town police services that include business checks, foot patrols and school security services. Deputies also routinely patrol the unincorporated areas of eastern Skagit County.

In **2014** the East Detachment handled **4302** complaints, **813** of those calls were within the Town of Concrete.

The East Detachment is a unit within the Sheriff's Office. This detachment office is responsible for all elements of law enforcement.

East Detachment deputies assigned here work independently, and may often work with state and federal agencies. Some of the calls deputies respond to include, assaults, traffic enforcement, forest patrol and animal complaints, along with conducting felony level criminal investigations.

All East Detachment deputies are qualified as



Search and Rescue (SAR) Deputies and each deputy is assigned an individual SAR group and works as a liaison between SAR volunteers and the SCSO.





PATROL DIVISION

LA CONNER DETACHMENT

Sgt. Jenny Sheahan-Lee

The Skagit County Sheriff's Office began another contract cycle with the Town of La Conner in 2014, which we have been serving since 2001 and continue to expect to serve. The current contract has the Sheriff's Office providing 2.5 deputies designated as "La Conner deputies" however in the absence of those deputies, service is provided by other Sheriff's Office on-duty deputies.

CRIME

The Skagit County Sheriff's Office responded to 606 calls for service within the Town of La Conner's boundaries in 2014. The top five calls for service were:

1. Suspicious with 58 calls
 - A report of any suspicious activity that does not fall into a specific category such as a suspicious vehicle driving up and down the street or a subject who is behaving strangely.
2. Alarms with 55 calls
 - One business had 33% of the alarm calls, which appears to be remedied.
 - Two other non-residential alarms accounted for 27%.
 - Downtown businesses accounted for 22%.
 - Only one alarm call was for a residence.
 - No alarms were determined to be caused by criminal activity.
3. Lost or found property with 42 calls
 - All electronic devices that were found were returned to their owners.
4. Disorderly conduct with 36 calls

- An unlawful offense which disturbs the peace and tranquility of the community in general.
 - Ten (27%) of those involved alcohol.
 - Being intoxicated is not an offense.
5. Traffic offenses with 26 calls
 - Ten (38%) of those offenses were due to proactive stops by deputies.

There were 12 burglaries reported, or less than 2% of the calls for service. Of the eight non-residential burglaries, three were found to be forced entry. Of the four residential burglaries, two were forced entry; one shed and one vacant residence. There were no robberies in La Conner as robberies require a suspect to use a level of physical force against the victim, which does not occur during a burglary or theft.

OTHER SERVICES

In early 2014 the transition from the La Conner Middle School to La Conner Elementary School wrapped up. The La Conner Detachment recognized traffic safety could be improved as the School District entered the next phases of construction. In the fall of 2014, the demolition and construction began on the new La Conner Middle School. This major construction project had a significant impact on the school zone. Throughout the summer the town administration, Public Works, construction project participants, and the Sheriff's Office worked together to provide guidelines to insure the safety of the students, staff, and visitors during this period. This has required the patience of parents as changes in the drop off and pick up of students occurred. It also required the cooperation of the construction company to coordinate the delivery and pick up of materials and equipment outside the start and end of the school day.

The Safe Routes to School grant, which was obtained by the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community, is another traffic safety project that the Sheriff's Office is involved in. This grant is designed to improve pedestrian and bicycle routes from the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community through the Town of La Conner in which the La Conner School District resides. The Sheriff's Office has been part of this discussion regarding potential vehicle and pedestrian traffic hazards and engineering suggestions, as deputies are routinely present in the heavily travelled portion of the school zone.

The Armstrong boat, which was moored in La Conner, was auctioned in October 2014. Due to the centrality of La Conner Marina and the fact that La Conner deputies are certified Marine Operators, the Sheriff's Office saw the value in continuing to have a vessel moored in La Conner. The Skagit County

Sheriff's Office Marine program's 33 foot Safe Boat, currently known as Skagit 33 was moved to the Port of Skagit, La Conner Marina from Anacortes. This vessel has fire suppression capabilities which are vital for any waterfront community.

A compliment to Skagit County Sheriff's Office and operated out of La Conner is Skagit Bay Search and Rescue, a branch of Skagit County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue. The La Conner deputies are assigned to work directly with Skagit Bay Search and Rescue in their coordinated efforts.

When needed, the La Conner Detachment provides additional services to the Town from a number of other programs that are facilitated by deputies not directly assigned to the detachment such as: Records, Investigations, Traffic, K-9, Drug Task Force, and High Risk Team.



PATROL DIVISION HIGH RISK TEAM Sgt. Chris Baldwin

The Skagit County Sheriff's Office High Risk Team (HRT) utilizes highly trained and skilled members of the department to help keep the citizens of Skagit County safe. HRT is state certified in SWAT tactics through the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission. HRT utilizes specialized equipment to handle any situation that arises above patrol deputy capabilities. The entry team includes two Sheriff's Office Sergeants, Seven Deputies, a Sedro-Woolley Police Sergeant, and a Burlington Police Officer. HRT also has a Cover Team that consists of a Sergeant, two deputies, and detective. The Cover Team assists HRT on missions and trains with HRT to maintain their level of expertise. HRT trains ten hours per month which includes, firearms, hostage rescue, building searches, barricaded subjects, entries, etc. HRT is also responsible for training patrol deputies in most of the above tactics including active shooter.

HRT has two transport vehicles. One of the vehicles utilized is a V-150 armored personal carrier and is capable of entering the team into hostile situations where gun fire may be occurring. The team has many pieces of equipment in its inventory that it uses on a regular basis to include eye ball remote cameras, cell phone disrupter, night vision, thermal imager, tactical vests and ballistic helmets with ballistic face shields.

In 2014 HRT obtained an AVATAR III tactical robot with the assistance of a Homeland Security Grant. and the Department of Emergency Management. The robot enhances the capabilities of

HRT by allowing them to quickly and safely inspect dangerous situations without putting the team in harm's way.

HRT was called out to assist with a weapons offense case in eastern Skagit County in 2014. HRT conducted a scout of the location and assisted detectives in serving a search warrant on the property. HRT safely secured the location and located valuable evidence which was turned over to detectives. HRT continued to provide surveillance on the location until the suspect was arrested.

HRT assisted the Skagit County Interlocal Drug Enforcement Unit in serving several high risk drug related search warrants in 2014.

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 marijuana growing 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 and eradicating marijuana.

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 and often resolve these calls before the full team responds.

HRT and The Cover Team are 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

Sgt. Annette Lindquist

K-9 ESPO was purchased in January of 2014 with a generous donation from a private citizen. He was 13 months old and had basic obedience and tracking skills. K-9 ESPO was paired with Deputy Jason Moses after a competitive testing process. They began training after a brief bonding period. They completed the state required 400 hours of training and successfully accredited to WAC standards with very high marks. They continue weekly training to keep their skills sharp. They continue to grow as a team. Deputy Moses is beginning to introduce ESPO to working with the high risk team and is developing training for patrol units on how to set up containment and cover the team when deployed.

Deputy Moses and K-9 ESPO have exceeded the expectations of a first year team. They are available for call out to any agency in the County and in addition to SCSO deployments, have been utilized on two occasions for serious crimes in adjoining counties.



Training	607 hours
Deployments	48
Captures	12
Demonstrations	7



PATROL DIVISION ANIMAL CONTROL UNIT

Animal Control Officer Emily Diaz

The Skagit County Sheriff's Office responds to calls for service regarding animal complaints. These range from reports of animal cruelty, welfare checks, dangerous dogs, nuisance problems, injured animals, traffic hazards, abandoned animals, barking dogs, illegal kennels, cockfighting, and neglect. 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 cas-

es. 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. Currently Animal Control monitors and maintains 35 Potentially Dangerous Dogs and 2 Dangerous Dogs.

Type of Call	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Animal Problem - Total Calls for Service	1694	1545	1532	1554	1648	1529
Lost or Found Animals	286	266	298	317	542	323
Traffic Hazard (Animal Related)	121	271	214	174	275	279
Collisions (Traffic Hazards resulting in Collisions)	16	28	34	44	33	53
Animal Cruelty or Neglect Calls for Service	238	205	160	167	191	180



November 2013
Seized by Animal
Control (left)

February 2014
(right)





PATROL DIVISION

MARINE PATROL

Sgt. Tobin Meyer

The Skagit County Sheriff's Office Marine Patrol Unit has undergone many changes and enhancements in 2014 beginning with a new unit supervisor. Sergeant Tobin Meyer has been a member of the Marine Patrol Unit since 2006 and was appointed unit supervisor in early 2014. Sergeant Meyer is committed to maintaining the high standards and expectations placed on the Marine Patrol Unit when it comes to safety and professionalism.

2014 was a year of refocused training effort for the marine patrol unit that included technical and demanding training. The Marine Patrol Unit conducted several joint trainings with the United States Navy Search and Rescue aircraft unit out of Naval Air Station Whidbey Island. This Navy unit is the closest air support unit for SAR cases in Skagit County and is integral to the Sheriff's Office ability to be successful in the dozens of SAR cases the unit responds to annually.

The Marine Patrol Unit also attended Swift Water Rescue training in 2014 and now

has four certified Swift Water Rescue Technicians out of the eight member team. The remaining members will receive Swift Water Rescue training in 2015.

This new 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 flooding events. This training taught marine patrol deputies to safely swim in class 2+ rapids, negotiate



hazards, plan and execute technical rope rescues, and conduct in-water contact rescues.

The Skagit County Sheriff's Office Marine Patrol Unit has also streamlined opera-

tions in 2014 in response to a decreasing budget. The Marine Patrol Unit receives its funding from vessel registration fees that are passed through Washington State Parks to provide safety enforcement patrols, BUI emphasis, boating accident investigations and search and rescue operations.

The Marine Patrol Unit auctioned its 26' marine patrol vessel to decrease operational costs by thousands of dollars annually and relocated its 33' marine patrol vessel in a more central location to ensure continued fast responses to emergencies on the marine waters of Skagit County.

2014 also brought two large marina fires that the Marine Patrol Unit assisted in extinguishing. A large fire in Shelter Bay ended with seven vessels lost to fire but dozens more could have been lost had fire fighting efforts not been



successful. Another fire at the Anacortes Marina also resulted in minimal property damage and just one vessel lost thanks to firefighting efforts. The Marine Unit's 33' patrol vessel is equipped with a fire pump and monitor making it a fire engine on the water. The Marine unit trains



regularly with the Anacortes Fire Department who assist aboard the patrol vessel during fire events.

2014 Accomplishments

In 2014 the Skagit County Sheriff's Office Marine Safety Program accomplished 270 patrol hours on Skagit County waterways and participated in 55 Hours of community outreach and education. Within those hours marine patrol deputies conducted:

- **282 visual safety spot inspections**
- **490 written safety inspections**
- **Noted 108 Safety Violations**
- **32 Search and Rescue Cases**
- **Assisted or Rescued 29 vessels**
- **Assisted or Rescued 31 People**
- **Conducted 4 Boating Accident**

Investigations



PATROL DIVISION SEARCH & RESCUE UNIT Sgt. 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 **16,091** training hours this year, we are one of the best trained and most capable units in the state. In addition to conducting search and rescue missions for Skagit County, SAR also assists other units across the state. All SAR volunteers are assigned a Washington State DEM Emergency Worker Card number in order to assist other jurisdictions at their request.

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 Dive Rescue, George Larson Marine Rescue, and our newest group, East County Water Rescue. Land based units include



Explorer Search and Rescue, Skagit Mountain Rescue Unit, Four Rivers 4WD group, Skagit ATV, ARES/RACES amateur radio group, and the North Cascades K-9 unit.

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. US Navy aircrews also assist the SCSO Marine program and work cooperatively with SAR deputies. Skagit County SAR also relies on SnoHawk and the Helicopter Rescue Team from Snohomish County. Airborne SAR assets are extremely important tools in the vast rugged terrain of Skagit County.



Sergeant Chris Kading is the SAR Coordinator based out of the East Detachment Office in Concrete. Six deputies assigned to the East Detachment are currently assigned as SAR deputies. SAR deputies are responsible for the coordination of training and the supervision of actual SAR missions. Each deputy is currently assigned a group, 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. Each group specializes in a certain discipline, but works cooperatively during missions.

In 2014 SAR continued implementation of Washington State SARVAC standards and updated training to further improve group performance. SAR continues to work cooperatively with local Fire De-

partments by implementing the ICS model of Unified Command. Together we can provide excellent extrication, treatment and packaging of patients in the field.

STATISTICS

In 2014 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. 2014 SAR missions were longer and slightly more difficult in nature. In 2014 SAR conducted **49** calls resulting in over **3175** volunteer hours. In 2014 we increased our training hours by 5,191 which culminated in over 16,091 training hours.

LOOKING INTO 2015

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 researching the addition of motorcyclists and side by side ATV's in 2015. In 2014 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 2015 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, a Records Technician II, and six Support Services Technicians.

The Accountant processes all accounts payable and accounts receivable, 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 newest position in this division is the jail accountant. She 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 2014, the Civil Assistants processed 196 writs of restitution, a 11% increase from 2013. They also processed 874 protection orders, subpoenas, and other miscellaneous papers. This was a slight decrease from 2013.

The data entry unit processed 11,815 case reports which is a 6% decrease from 2013. Our warrant entry unit entered 6,047 warrants and

1,627 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.

3,202 referrals and supplemental reports were prepared and sent to the Skagit County Prosecutor's Office. This is an 18% increase over 2013. There were 1,690 public records requests processed for dissemination. It is notable that we only received \$1,056.90 in revenue for those 1,690 public records requests, the maximum allowed by law.

Statistics from our Traffic Records show a decrease in the number of traffic citations written. In 2014, 5,749 infractions were written and entered.

In 2014, we issued 1,520 concealed weapons permits resulting in a 12% decrease from an all time high in 2013. Pistol transfers decreased slightly in 2014. In 2014 we processed 1,580 gun transfer checks and 1,730 in 2013.

In 2014, 5,077 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 2014 we were fortunate to receive 407 hours of volunteer labor. 132 were attributable to our Chaplain, 174 hours were worked in investigations and evidence, and the remaining 101 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 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 that inmates are transported to other jurisdictions

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 2014, significant strides continued to be made to move the County forward in its quest to replace the current Skagit County Jail. The site for the new Skagit County Jail was definitively identified at the location of the former Truck City truck stop in South Mount Vernon. The Sheriff's Office, with the

Preliminary New Jail Design



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

County and its partners, began work in earnest to design the replacement Skagit County Jail, working with project manager Marc Estvold and the architectural firm DLR. Numerous meetings were held during the year between the Sheriff and the Corrections Division, Skagit County, and the design team to create a replacement jail. A jail “Finance Committee” was formed of the County and its municipal partners

to provide oversight of the budgetary items significantly affecting the new jail's design and operation. This group began to meet regularly during 2014 to decide design dimensions such as heating/cooling systems, etc.

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.

Also in 2014, the Corrections Division added, for the first time in the Sheriff's Office, the

increased use of nursing staff to perform medical assessments at intake.

In 2014, the average daily prisoner population was 235 inmates with roughly 193 inmates housed in the jail and an average of approximately 14 inmates housed out of county in the Chelan County jail, Whatcom County jail, or Western State Hospital. This follows the trend of over the last ten years of housing more than 100 prisoners per day over the design capacity of the jail. The total number of prisoners booked into the jail in 2014 was 4,092. This booking number reflects a decrease 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,

position of Lieutenant. This position was filled in January of 2014, and during the 2014 calendar year the new Lieutenant and Jail Commander worked on identifying the particular duties of the position. The new Lieutenant has participated in jail design activities, as well as taking on many of the day to day operational activities of the jail.

The Corrections Division also expanded medical staffing serving the jail during 2014. The full-time position of Correctional Nurse Lead was created, and the nursing staff was expanded to, in addition to the Correctional Nurse Lead, 3 other full time nursing positions. This has allowed deputies to turn over 2 of the 3 medication passes in the jail to trained medical personnel, and has facilitated in-

Swinomish, Upper Skagit, Concrete and La Conner. The use by agency was as follows:

The Skagit County Sheriff's Office itself recorded 1,064 bookings in 2014. Amongst other entities also contributing to jail bookings in 2014 was the State Patrol, State Department of Corrections, and Drug Task Force.

Jail operations have been seriously impacted by overcrowding. Designed for a significantly smaller volume of prisoners, operations which include managing the confined population, managing bookings and releases, and managing prisoner transport all have been negatively impacted by overcrowding. During 2013 and extending into and through 2014, there were multiple instances where the jail was com-

pelled to stop accepting prisoners for up to four hours and 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 2014, 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 2014.

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

Agency	Bookings	Average Daily Population
Anacortes	401	20.3
Burlington	720	36.4
Mount Vernon	1,195	66.4
Sedro Woolley	381	19.1
Swinomish and Upper Skagit Tribes	162	7
Total	2859	149.2

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 Skagit County's inmate popu-

lation and after looking at a number of outsourcing options, Skagit County entered into a contractual agreement with Chelan County to hold Skagit's inmates. Chelan County has agreed to hold up to 25 inmates at any time for Skagit County. The average daily population has been less than that due to conflicts with the jail's outsourced pre-trial population and scheduled court appearances.

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, administered by Skagit County Community Services and partnering with a local chemical dependency treatment program through a contractual agreement. This comprehensive Intensive Outpatient Treatment Program consists of group treatment for 12-16 weeks and also Moral Reconciliation Therapy, with a goal of reducing offender recidivism. RSAT operated through 2014 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 2014, 60 inmates participated in the RSAT program utilizing Federal funding, with an additional 127 inmates participating utilizing .1% sales tax funding.



CORRECTIONS DIVISION

JAIL ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM

SGT. 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 2014 consisted of 1 Sergeant, 1 Court Deputy, 2 Program Deputies, 1 RSAT Deputy and 1 civilian Court Coordinator.

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 2014 court commitments, conducted 528 interviews and 503 bookings.*** ¹

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. ***140 referrals were submitted for failure to***

comply with commits, 121 failure to comply cases were resolved, resulting in defendants spending an additional 404 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 276 inmates with a total of 991 criminal cases.***

¹Total bookings for the Skagit County Jail in 2014 were 4092

Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Program (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. ***186 inmates participated in the RSAT***

program and 49 applications for outside treatment were completed.

Domestic Violence Education Program (DVEP), a diversion type program that allows participants to attend 8 hours of DV & Anger Management Classes, a DV Victim Impact Panel and then do 8 hours of Community Service Work, instead of going to jail. This program is participant funded and managed in conjunction with Skagit County District Court Probation, Skagit DV and Assault Services, Skagit Recovery Center, Sheriff's Office, Mount Vernon PD and Sedro Woolley PD. Unfortunately, due to a lack of qualified instructors, this program was cancelled. ***17 offenders participated in the DVEP program, completing 136 hours of CSW.***



2014 Accomplishments

Dear Sheriff's Office Employees,

In each of the past 4 years I have sent out a letter to all employees highlighting many of our accomplishments during each particular year, and each year I include a little bit about the goals and priorities for the coming year. However before I get to those accomplishments for 2014, and goals and priorities for 2015, I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to all of you for the dedication and work you all have done during my recently completed first term as Sheriff. As you know, in November of this past year I was re-elected and was fortunate to run unopposed. Running for any office unopposed does not happen often, and I believe that this was due in large part to each of your commitments to providing excellent service to our customers. Whether it was a corrections deputy in the jail remaining professional and compassionate in the face of some very trying working conditions, a records deputy going the extra mile to provide excellent customer service, or a patrol deputy solving a citizen's problem, when at times even your mere presence is unappreciated, it is that commitment to excellent public service that is the hallmark of this office. Each small act, over weeks and months and years, adds up to a large body of work that positively impacts a huge number of people. I believe the vast majority in our community feel safe, and feel as though they have been

and will be treated fairly. Together we have accomplished our mission.

This past year we have made significant strides towards accomplishing some of the goals and priorities we outlined at the start of last year, and in some areas we still have work to do. As our economy continues to improve and we work to meet additional goals for this office we received the good news that we were approved in the upcoming budget for 2 new patrol deputy positions for 2015. These positions will be partially funded by a \$250,000 COPS grant and are earmarked to be part of a "pro-active" patrol unit that we hope to implement as we get closer to being fully staffed. In addition, we were approved to supplement the jail with additional "nursing" hours that should provide better medical care for the inmates, and free up deputy time for other duties. We were not approved for some much needed help with our animal control responsibilities, but adding staff to help address those responsibilities continues to be a priority and a goal for 2015.

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 our efficiency in all divisions. Sometimes it is easy to forget all that was done by getting caught up in the day to day work that we all do. Below is a list, in no particular order, of some of the big and small changes we experienced in 2014. It goes without saying that none of this would have come to fruition without the dedication that all of you exhibit every day to making this office better.

Records Division

- Updated to Spillman 6.2
- Completed paperless discovery project with PA's office

- Full implementation of SECTOR
- Continuation of purging project
- Hired jail accounting position

Patrol Division

- Obtained “COPS” grant for 2 new deputy positions
- Continued progress on simulcast radio system
- Obtained funding and purchased robot to enhance deputy safety
- Implemented collaborative sting operations with WA State Liquor Control
- Completed SOP’s for HRT team
- Implemented use of surface tablets for electronic warrants
- Implemented new shift schedules to enhance coverage and improve training hours

Corrections Division

- Hired Corrections Lieutenant position
- Hired additional nursing staff
- Continued progress on new jail project
- Joint cell extraction training with Whatcom County
- Completed negotiations with hospital for 55% medical billing rate

Administration

- Reclaimed office space from previous Coroner’s office
- Continued work on multi-year plan

- Revoked X-commissions with Swinomish officers to reduce liability
- Continued work on inter-local agreements with Upper Skagit and Sauk-Suiattle
- Continued expansion of crime analysis

In 2014 we once again worked within our budget as set by the Board of County Commissioners, and were able to return a significant amount of money to the general fund. Although a large portion of the money returned was a direct result of our continuing struggle to recruit, hire, and train new employees, I believe being good stewards of the dollars we are budgeted for has paid dividends in being awarded new employee positions.

No doubt 2015 will bring new challenges. I have no doubt that we can and will continue to meet those challenges, not only this coming year but in the years to come. Among the priorities for 2015 is our continued commitment to fill any and all funded positions. We will continue to work to staff our proactive patrol team and continue our relentless journey towards a new jail.

Thanks again for all of your 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