

# SKAGIT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE 2019 ANNUAL REPORT



SHERIFF DON McDERMOTT  
MOUNT VERNON, WA



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## Mission Statement

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

## Vision

*“Safety through courage and professionalism.”*



# SHERIFF'S MESSAGE

## SHERIFF DON McDERMOTT

The MISSION of the Skagit County Sheriff's Office is to enforce the laws of the State of Washington and Skagit County, to safeguard life and property, to prevent and detect crime, to preserve the peace, to serve as an arm of the courts and the custodial keeper of those who break the law. We protect the rights of all citizens. We will serve all citizens with fairness, integrity, respect and compassion without discrimination of any persons or groups. This must be done with honor and integrity, conducting ourselves with the highest ethical standards to maintain public confidence.

Thank you in advance for reading the 2019 Annual Report of the Skagit County Sheriff's Office. This report is the official record of our activities and accomplishments for 2019 and provides an overview of the Sheriff's Office organization and operations for the year.

Progress and success require hard work and dedication. I appreciate the men and women of the Sheriff's Office who display these attributes each and every day. Their continued commitment to public safety, tireless efforts, and respect for the oath they uphold, gives me great confidence in our future. It is an honor and a privilege to serve alongside some of the most dedicated law enforcement professionals in the business of serving and protecting. I encourage you to visit the Skagit County Sheriff's Office website at <https://www.skagitcounty.net/Departments/Sheriff/main.htm>

As I reflect on 2019, I take pride in the Skagit County Sheriff's Office and in the community we serve. Our alliance with our community and the success we achieve together gives me great confidence in our future as we look forward to 2020 and I commit to you that we will continue our mission to provide the highest quality law enforcement services in the coming year. Thank you for your trust and support.

Sincerely,



Don McDermott



*(L-R) Chief of Field Operations Chris Baldwin; Chief Criminal Deputy Tobin Meyer; Undersheriff Chad Clark; Chief Corrections Deputy Don Marlow; Sheriff Don McDermott; Chief of Administrative Services Annette Lindquist.*



*All employees of the Skagit County Sheriff's Office and Highway Patrol circa 1929. We've come a long way in 90 Years.*

*Back Row: Paul Pawlinski, Charles Woodard, C.R. "Tip" Conn, Tom Vercoe, E. Gage*

*Front Row: Bert Conn, Charles Fleming, Jess Willard (Roger's Grandfather), R.G. Rowley and Al Sear's dog.*

# INTRODUCTION

The Skagit County Sheriff's Office is the largest law enforcement agency in Skagit County. We are responsible for a population of approximately **129,205**. The unincorporated population is approximately **52,565** and is spread out over a geographical area measuring approximately 1,735 square miles. The county also has over 850 miles of county roads.

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

The Sheriff's Office is comprised of four Major Divisions: Patrol, Corrections, Support, and Investigations, as depicted on our new Challenge coin.



2019 BUDGETED POSITIONS	
Sheriff (Elected)	1
Undersheriff (appointed)	1
Chief Criminal Deputy (appointed)	1
Chief Field Services (appointed)	1
Chief of Corrections (appointed)	1
Chief of Admin Services (appointed)	1
Corrections Lieutenant	1
Patrol Sergeants	6
Detective Sergeant	2
Corrections Sergeants	10
Patrol Deputies	35
Detectives	10
Animal Control Officer	1
Corrections Deputies	57
Accountant	2
RSO Coordinator	1
Civil Assistant	2
Evidence Technician	1
Support Services Technician	10
Case Expeditor	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>145</b>

2019 BUDGET SUMMARY			
SKAGIT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE		SKAGIT COUNTY COMMUNITY JUSTICE CENTER	
<b>Budget Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 9,741,220.00</b>	<b>Budget Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 18,170,727.00</b>
<b>Actual Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 9,588,258.84</b>	<b>Actual Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 16,578,551.91</b>
<b>Budgeted Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 1,131,504.00</b>	<b>Budgeted Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 14,760,451.00</b>
<b>Actual Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 1,174,261.27</b>	<b>Actual Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 15,582,960.99</b>

# INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

## CHIEF TOBIN MEYER

2019 started with a change in command for the Investigations Division with Chief Tobin Meyer taking over for Chief Tom Molitor who retired in late 2018. The Chief Criminal Deputy is responsible for overseeing the investigations division of the Skagit County Sheriff's Office that includes criminal investigations detectives, internal affairs, and the evidence unit. Additionally, the Chief Criminal Deputy supervises the Skagit County Inter-local Drug Task Force and serves as assistant commander for the Skagit Multi-Agency Response Team charged with conducting independent investigations involving officer deadly use of force and other large scale investigations.

The criminal investigations unit currently consists of one detective sergeant, five detectives, and one evidence technician.

The day-to-day review of detective reports and assignment of resources is the responsibility of the Detective Sergeant, Sergeant Jennifer Sheahan-Lee, who also supervises the Evidence Technician.

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

The Investigations Division is responsible for the most complex criminal investigations focusing primarily on felony level offenses. Detectives are promoted from the ranks of the Patrol Division. Our Detectives are highly trained receiving many hours of specialized training each year.

As part of our regular processes, detectives often re-evaluate cold cases to consider new forensic techniques and whether they might be applicable to our evidence from those cases. In 2019, the investigations division, working with Snohomish County cold case detectives, became the first investigative team in the world to utilize familial DNA to obtain a conviction on a 1987 double homicide. Skagit County detectives 30 years earlier collected evidence not knowing the progress that would occur forensically.



*SGT Dave Willard instructs SAR Deputy Mark Sonnabend, along with others working the 1987 homicide case.*

Detectives worked with multiple agencies throughout the year in order to accomplish the mission of the Investigations Division. These included the 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, Immigra-

### **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

tion and Customs Enforcement, Social Security Administration, ATF, and FBI.

In 2019 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 independent investigative resources when an officer use of force results in serious injury or death or in cases where a significant criminal act is alleged toward the officer or when a significant criminal event occurs that has or is likely to exhaust the venue agency's investigative resources. SMART is commanded by administrative staff from the Mount Vernon Police Department and the Skagit County Sheriff's Office. Lead Investigative Supervisors are comprised of detective sergeants from the Skagit County Sheriff's Office, Mount Vernon Police Department and the Washington State Patrol. The

entire group of SMART personnel bring a diverse amount of experience and skills to this team. 2019 saw the passage of Initiative 940 that will bring additional levels of oversight and independence to these investigations.



2019 Investigations Division Case Management

Crime	# of cases	Active	Closed	Unfounded	Transferred	Closed w/Arrest
Total	219	60	109	8	13	25
Homicide/Death Inv.	9	5	2	1	0	1
Assault	16	5	4	0	0	7
Kidnapping	2	0	1	0	1	0
Sex Offense	74	28	28	3	4	7
Child Abuse/Neglect	54	16	30	2	3	3
Harassment	6	0	5	0	0	1
Vio of Court Order	1	0	0	0	0	1
Agency Assist	9	1	4	0	4	0
Fraud	18	2	15	1	0	0
Property Crimes	10	1	5	0	1	3
Robbery	3	0	1	0	0	2
Arson	3	2	0	1	0	0
Warrant	1	0	1	0	0	0
General Inv.	13	0	13	0	0	0

# SKAGIT COUNTY INTER-LOCAL DRUG TASK FORCE

CHIEF TOBIN MEYER



**MISSION** — The Skagit County Inter-local Drug Enforcement Unit (SCIDEU) was created to disrupt, dismantle, and effectively prosecute criminal organizations such as gangs, drug traffickers and other high to mid-level criminal elements anywhere

within Skagit County. SCIDEU will also work closely with other agencies and units in surrounding counties with similar responsibilities in an effort to support enforcement activities.

The Skagit County 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 agencies along with Federal agencies. In addition to the core agencies, SCIDEU conducts complex joint investigations with surrounding county and city agencies as well as state and federal agencies to include the federal Drug Enforcement Agency and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. This unit achieves their goals through undercover surveillance, undercover buys, and with in-depth investigations based on intelligence information gained from the community. They could not be effective without help provided by the community.

2019 was a year of change for the Skagit County Inter-local Drug Enforcement Unit starting with a change in command. Chief Tobin Meyer was assigned as the new unit commander. Chief Meyer has begun work with the unit executive board to more closely align the needs of the board and the community with the operational output of the unit. Initial work included closely aligning proactive policing units from the Sheriff's Office and the Mount Vernon Police Department with the Task Force. This move was taken to improve real-time intelligence sharing between the units and improve coordination and efficiency related to frequent investigative overlap. This action has resulted in far greater operational output, almost doubling the prior year's output, with improved unit efficiency while continuing to accomplish the broader

goals and missions of the proactive policing units and the drug task force.

Additionally, the Drug Task Force has taken a more predominant role with addressing controlled substance homicides. Fentanyl, an all-too often lethal drug, continues to gain a foothold in Skagit County resulting in an exponential increase in controlled substance overdose deaths. The Drug Task Force, in coordination with the Prosecuting Attorney's Office, continue to take an aggressive stance identifying and charging dealers with Controlled Substance Homicide, in particular when fentanyl is involved.

Nationally and locally, law enforcement is fighting an opioid epidemic. In 2019 the Sheriff's Office continued to see an increase in drug overdose deaths, specifically related to fentanyl. The Washington State crime lab identified double the amount of Fentanyl between 2018 and 2019.



## 2019 TASK FORCE STATS

- **2019 Cases Opened - 116 (47% increase from 2018)**
- **350 Ounces of methamphetamine seized**
- **200 Ounces of heroin seized**
- **40 Ounces of cocaine seized**
- **2838 illicit pills seized (Generally include fentanyl. Street value \$85,140)**
- **31 Firearms seized**
- **Cash seized - \$88,282**
- **Cash forfeited - \$70,372**
- **Assets seized - \$50,000**
- **Assets forfeited - \$2,000**
- **25% of cases involved known street gang members.**

# FIELD OPERATIONS DIVISION

CHIEF CHRIS BALDWIN

Chief Chris Baldwin oversees the Field Operations Division. In 2019 The Skagit County Sheriff's Office responded to over 18,600 calls for service. The types of calls for service vary from crimes against persons, property crimes, traffic-related issues, civil disputes, community caretaking issues, and animal problems.

The Field Operations Division is organized into a squad system and provides 24/7 law enforcement coverage throughout Skagit County. There are four primary patrol squads that provide law enforcement coverage to the central and western geographical areas of Skagit County. Each patrol squad has a sergeant and five deputies assigned. The East Detachment provides law enforcement coverage to the eastern geographical area of Skagit County. The East Detachment has a sergeant and six deputies assigned. The Field Operations Division features several specialty programs and assignments, to include the Traffic Unit, K9 Team, Skagit Regional Response Tactical Team (SRRT), Marine Patrol,



mixed mode simulcast system. This upgrade will vastly improve radio coverage throughout Skagit County which will make citizens and first responders safer.

The Sheriff's Office was at the forefront in implementing a countywide Active Threat/Scenes of Violence Protocol. The protocol will allow police and fire to work together to enter scenes quicker to provide lifesaving treatment to victims.



Search and Rescue, and Animal Control. The Town of Concrete and Town of La Conner contract with the Sheriff's Office to provide law enforcement services.

In 2019 the Sheriff's Office was awarded a matching legislative grant in the amount of one million dollars to improve and expand emergency radio communications infrastructure in Skagit County. The Sheriff's Office current system has six repeater sites. The grant money will allow the Sheriff's Office to expand to a thirteen site



# TRAFFIC UNIT

## SGT JEFF WILLARD

The Traffic unit, made up of a Patrol Sergeant and five deputies, is responsible for around the clock traffic enforcement and collision investigation on over 850 miles of Skagit County roads. Their mission is to reduce collisions that result in injuries and property damage to the citizens of Skagit County and the people who visit our community.



The Traffic Unit leads the traffic safety effort in the county and is committed to the Target Zero effort. Emphasis patrols during high traffic volume events, such as Tulip Festival, Big Lake Fireworks, Oyster Run, and Holidays are another important part of providing traffic safety to our community. The Traffic Sergeant is the Region 11

Law Enforcement Liaison to the Washington State Traffic Safety Commission and is responsible for other county-wide emphasis patrols funded by the Washington Traffic Safety Commission such as "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over", Distracted Driving, Click it or Ticket campaigns and Motorcycle Safety Enforcement.

In 2019 Sergeant Jeff Willard was appointed to the position of Traffic Sergeant. Sergeant Willard brings with him over 20 years of traffic experience as a traffic deputy and is a police motorcycle instructor. In 2019 the traffic unit identified a problem with removing and disposing of "junk RV's" in the county. The SCSO worked together with Skagit County Public Works to establish a partnership and process to dispose of "junk RV's" on Skagit County right of ways. The Traffic unit also hosted an Advanced Roadside Impairment Driving Enforcement training class. This 16 hour instruction in Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE) is intended to assist law enforcement officers to enhance proficiency in detecting, apprehending, testing and prosecuting impaired drivers.

Working collaboratively with Skagit County Public Works on education, enforcement, and engineering issues, the Traffic Unit assists public works with enforcement while the chip seal process is occurring on county

roads. This is an important step in reducing speeds which keep people safe and reduce damage to private property and the road surface

The Traffic Unit has three Harley Davidson Electra Glide Police Motorcycles that are used for traffic enforcement and community events, such as assisting the United States Secret Service and other Motor Units in the Puget Sound region with escorting dignitaries during their visits.

TRAFFIC STATISTICS	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Traffic Related Calls for Service	3546	3461	3529	3144	2779
Traffic Stops	13685	11767	11092	9727	9997
Criminal Traffic	1094	834	857	794	878
Criminal Non-Traffic	588	491	451	436	556
Traffic Infractions	5086	3849	3095	2548	1943
Collisions Reportable	462	405	427	359	305
Collisions Non-Reportable	367	496	457	379	398
DUI	103	103	140	125	139
Written Warnings-Traffic	36	5	1	0	0

# LACONNER DETACHMENT

## SGT JEFF WILLARD

Situated on the delta near the mouth of the Skagit River, along the Swinomish Channel, LaConner was founded in 1867 and is Skagit County's oldest community. The town was first settled by non-natives just after the Civil War, and named after the town founder's wife, Louisa A. Conner. At the turn of the century the population was over 1000 residents. LaConner was briefly the county seat before Mount Vernon and had the first courthouse north of Seattle. In the late 1800's, the town briefly dis-incorporated, apparently to avoid anti-temperance



laws enacted by the city council which would have closed the saloons.

Today, LaConner is a thriving tourist destination with a full time population of approximately 800 persons. This popular tourist location hosts many

large events such as the Skagit Valley Tulip Festival, Smelt Derby, Daffodil Festival, bicycle, running and kayak events, art festivals, etc. LaConner is a destination location as the town's population grows exponentially for many tourist events.

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

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

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

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

The LaConner Detachment accounts for an average of approximately 650 calls for service annually. The most frequent calls for service continue to typically be suspicious calls, alcohol violations, traffic issues and citizen assists. In 2019 Sergeant Jeff Willard took over as the LaConner Detachment Sergeant from Chief Tobin Meyer. Sergeant Willard attends the monthly city council meetings and reviews the security checklists for all events in La Conner. Sergeant Willard is the liaison between the Skagit County Sheriff's Office and the city of LaConner.

The LaConner Detachment was involved in several community functions and school activities, including Sound Rowers, the Smelt Derby, Daffodil Festival, Tulip Festival Parade, July 4th Independence Day Parade, the Halloween Parade, Turkey Trot, and Christmas Tree Lighting, which included a lighted boat parade.

The Sheriff's deputies can routinely be found patrolling the school zones before and after classes start and throughout the day. Additionally, deputies continue to work with the school to improve safe travels to and from school and attending special events. In 2019 the Skagit County Sheriff's Office and the LaConner School District funded a pilot program for a school resource deputy to have a presence in the LaConner schools.

Looking ahead to 2020 the Skagit County Sheriff's Office is looking forward to renewing its contract with the city of LaConner for law enforcement services and continuing its relationship with the LaConner School District.

Calls for service	
Year	Calls
2019	564
2018	594
2017	643
2016	608
2015	760
2014	606
2013	588
2012	641
2011	606
2010	669
2009	669
2008	701
2007	624
2006	611
2005	763
2004	722

# UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLES (UAV)

SGT BEN HAGGLUND

The Skagit County Sheriff's Office completed its first full year of operations in 2019 with Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV). The SCSO added more pilots this year,



flew more missions, and received an additional aircraft. The SCSO maintains a UAV section primarily for search and rescue incidents, locating fleeing suspects, and public demonstrations.

The UAV section added six new pilots in 2019. Pilots are commissioned patrol deputies that receive initial training from the UAV section and complete testing

and pilot licensing with the FAA. After initial training, pilots are evaluated individually on each aircraft the unit maintains. The Sheriff's Office currently has nine licensed pilots, including six deputies, two detectives, and one sergeant. The current staffing allows for nearly 24x7 availability.

In 2019, the UAV section flew 126 missions, almost 50% more than in 2018. Training missions include night operations, familiarization, maintenance, and competency. Active missions include assisting in searches for lost children, missing adults, and fleeing suspects. SCSO assisted Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife by searching for bears in urban areas. The unit assisted the SCSO Investigations Division with aerial photography of crime scenes. SCSO participated in an oil spill exercise at Marathon Refinery with the UAV section and Marine Patrol. SCSO also conducted joint operations with agencies including Swinomish Police Department, Department of Homeland Security, and Washington State Patrol. Finally, SCSO assisted Fire District 14 with locating a brush fire in rough terrain and Skagit County Public Works with rural flooding and Tulip Festival traffic flow planning.

The UAV section received a DJI Matrice M210 quad copter in May 2019 through a generous local grant. The aircraft cost approximately \$27,000 and allows for night operations with FLIR as well as flights in rain and wind conditions. The aircraft is heavier than the other UAVs and allows pilots to deliver a payload such as a flotation device in a rescue situation. The unit continues to field one Inspire 1 aircraft for day and night operations, in addition to two Phantom aircraft for daytime flights. The next addition to the fleet is a DJI Spark for indoor flights in tactical situations, which will improve safety for deputies and the public.

# EAST DETACHMENT

## SGT GREG ADAMS

The Sheriff's Office established the East Detachment in 1996. The detachment is the primary law enforcement unit in eastern Skagit County.



Currently, one Sergeant and six deputies provide coverage for the largest geographical area in the Sheriff's Office. For much of the 2019 year, the East Detachment

worked with only five deputies due to staffing issues within the Sheriff's Office.

The East Detachment covers almost half the county, from just east of Sedro Woolley all the way to the eastern county line at the top of the North Cascade Pass. They also provide law enforcement services to the towns of Lyman, Hamilton, Concrete, Rockport, and Marblemount.

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

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

This year, 2019, the East Detachment handled 4637 complaints an approximate increase of 10%. The East Detachment handled 657 calls for service within the Town of Concrete.

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

The East Detachment is a unique unit within the Sheriff's Office. The detachment is responsible for all elements of law enforcement in eastern Skagit communities. Deputies work independently, and are expected to attend community meetings along with working cooperatively with community groups to solve issues and decrease crime.

In 2019, the East Detachment deputies continued to work with United General Hospital and other partners on underage "Party Intervention Patrols", which focuses



on underage youth drinking in the eastern portion of the county. This program, led by Deputy Paul Wolfe is directed at first time offenders, to keep them out of the criminal justice system.

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

# K-9 UNIT

## SGT STEVE DILLS

The Skagit County Sheriff's Office K-9 unit has been very active in 2019. Deputy Moses and K9 Espo have been deployed over 131 times and have been working very well as a team. They deployed for 43 patrol deployments and 88 narcotics deployments. They accredited as a Master K9 handler team through the Washington State Police Canine Association (WSPCA). They have done several community demonstrations and have been active in working



***K-9 Espo and handler Deputy Jason Moses are always up for a challenge, and any type of vehicle.***



with our pro-act team, task force units and local schools. We have also been able to utilize our K9 team to work in tandem with our UAV program pilots to locate and apprehend suspects. K9 Espo experienced some medical issues this year but I'm happy to report that with a new treatment and the assistance of Deputy Moses, he is recovering and gaining full mobility in his legs and hips.

# MARINE PATROL UNIT

## SGT BRIAN MORGAN

The Skagit County Sheriff's Office Marine Patrol Unit is supervised by Sergeant Brian Morgan who has been a unit member since 2007 and appointed supervisor in 2017.

Skagit County Sheriff's Office Marine Patrol continues to work with our partner agencies to provide effective rescue and maritime law enforcement capabilities. In 2019 we responded to multiple water rescue missions and worked in partnership with the United States Coast Guard, United States Navy, Washington State Parks, Island County Sheriff's Office, Swinomish Tribal Police Department, and Conway Fire Department. We also worked with our marine volunteer Search and Rescue groups including East County Water Rescue, Technical Water Rescue, and Skagit Bay Search and Rescue. We are fortunate to have broad rescue capabilities in our area.

Our boating Deputies participated in multiple training sessions on Skagit County waters in 2019. We trained on the Skagit River, Big Lake, Lake Cavanaugh, and throughout the saltwater areas within Skagit County.

In 2019 we sent two new boating deputies to the Basic Marine Law Enforcement course. They both attended an advanced training course for Boating Under the Influence (BUI) detection and enforcement.

Derelict vessels are a growing problem throughout Puget Sound. We had several of these on Skagit County waters in 2019. Removal of a junk vessel is ultimately the



owner's responsibility. Vessel insurance will generally recover salvage costs. Washington State Department of Natural Resources has a program to assist derelict vessel owners who are unable to afford disposal fees.

<https://www.dnr.wa.gov/programs-and-services/aquatics/derelict-vessels/vessel-turn-program>

In 2019 Marine Patrol acquired an auto-inflating rescue device we can quickly deploy from the air with a drone. This provides enough emergency flotation for 3 people. This is an immediate lifesaving device to use while waiting for rescue vessels to arrive on scene.



### Other 2019 Accomplishments:

- 249 Boat patrol hours
- 88 hours at community events
- 104 written Boat Safety Inspections
- 362 Hours of in-service training
- Assisted or Rescued 10 People

# SEARCH AND RESCUE

## SGT GREG ADAMS

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

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

Sergeant Brian Morgan, the Sheriff's Office Marine Patrol Unit supervisor, assists Sergeant Greg Adams. Sergeant Morgan works with the marine-based SAR units. Six deputies currently assigned to the East Detachment also 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 supervision of actual SAR missions. Each deputy is assigned a SAR unit, acting as liaison between the SAR group and SCSO.

Tina Bobbitt is the SAR Volunteer Coordinator. She is tasked with creating and implementing new administrative procedures, implementing the new state Core Training Standards, manages County-owned SAR equipment, coordinates with the SAR Council and member groups, coordinates with State DEM, and helps coordinate SAR training and missions.

The Skagit County Search and Rescue Council provides guidance to the SAR groups. In 2019, the Skagit County Search and Rescue Council continued to implement the Core Training Standards that were mandated by the state to maintain accountability and standardized training for all state SAR units. Each group specializes in a certain discipline, but works cooperatively during missions.

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

Water-based assets include Skagit Bay Search and Rescue, Skagit Technical Water Rescue, and the East County Water Rescue called "River Dogs".

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

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

The Skagit County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue Program handled 35 missions in 2019 in addition to many hours of training each month. On October 18 the Sheriff's Office received a report of a missing hiker near Hidden Lake, in eastern Skagit County, just outside the National Park Boundary. With assistance from the National Park Service and SAR groups from Skagit, Chelan, King, Kittitas, Whatcom, Snohomish, Pierce and Kitsap Counties, 147 SAR volunteers, dedicated nearly 2000 man hours in searching for the lost hiker.

In 2020, the Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue will strive to continue to be one of the leading teams in the State of Washington.



# ANIMAL CONTROL

## ACO EMILY DIAZ

The Skagit County Sheriff's Office Animal Control Officer, Emily Diaz, responds to calls for service regarding a wide variety of animal related complaints, throughout



the entire county. These include reports of animal cruelty, welfare checks, dangerous dogs, nuisance problems, injured animals, traffic hazards, abandoned animals, barking dogs, illegal kennels, cockfighting, weapon offenses, and neglect. On average, the Sheriff's Office receives more than 1,300 animal problem complaints each year.

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

In the summer of 2019, Officer Diaz responded to a report of a three foot long lizard. Thankfully, Officer Diaz has experience with

reptiles. When she arrived she recognized the lizard as a Tegu. She was able to secure the animal, and obtain appropriate housing for it while the owner was located. Officer Diaz was able to reunite the Tegu with its owner a couple of days later.



In 2019 our ACO seized 2 horses from a woman who had abandoned them. One of the horses died a day later, the other has been rehabbed and is now looking for a home. This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> time horses have been seized from this same owner. Charges have been filed for Felony Animal Cruelty.

During the year the Sheriff's Office seized 96 dogs, 5 cats, 5 horses, 1 goose, 1 goat, and a Tegu lizard.

Another part of the Animal Control job is the responsibility for declaring aggressive dogs as Potentially Dangerous (9) and Dangerous (2). Animal Control then follows up to monitor these dogs to ensure the owners are in compliance with the laws.



TYPE OF CALL	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Animal Problem-Total Calls for Service	1529	1522	1408	1555	1381	1436
Lost or Found Animals	323	321	286	306	241	250
Traffic Hazard (Animal Related)	279	307	197	310	130	21
Animal Cruelty or Neglect Calls for Service	180	259	226	195	236	102

# SKAGIT REGIONAL RESPONSE TEAM

## SGT KEVIN SIGMAN

The Skagit Regional Response Team (SRRT), formerly known as the Skagit County Sheriff's Office (SCSO) High Risk Team, is a multi-jurisdictional team which is commanded by the Sheriff's Office. SRRT is comprised of SCSO Deputies and Officers from the Burlington Police Department, Sedro-Woolley Police Department, and the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife. In 2019, the name was changed to better reflect the multi-jurisdictional makeup of the team. SRRT is certified in Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) through the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission. SRRT is a member of both the National and Washington State Tactical Officers Associations.

SRRT utilizes highly trained and skilled operators, specialized equipment, and advanced tactics to create optimal solutions to rapidly evolving tactical situations. The use of SRRT will enhance the safety of the citizens of Skagit County, de-escalate tactical situations, and provide for the best outcome for all parties involved in the incident. Operators regularly serve as patrol deputies/officers, detectives, Sergeants, and traffic enforcement deputies/officers in their full time assignments. SRRT operators respond to calls during their shifts and often utilize tactics and/or equipment to resolve situations prior to a full team callout. SRRT operators are subject to callouts to respond to SWAT calls 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

SRRT trains every month on special tactics designed to effectively and safely resolve tactically challenging incidents. SRRT's tactical training includes active threat response, high risk warrant service, hostage rescue, building searches, barricaded subjects, linear bus entries, boat interdiction techniques, and helicopter insertions, among other specialized tactics. SRRT is also responsible for providing tactical training to patrol deputies.

In order to accomplish its demanding mission, SRRT utilizes many pieces of specialized equipment that includes but is not limited to a Mine Resistant Ambush Protection (MRAP) vehicle, an AVATAR III tactical robot, eye ball remote cameras, a cell phone disrupter, night vision goggles, a thermal imager, and a combination of gas/less lethal munitions.



SRRT coordinates with other units within the Sheriff's Office and partner agencies, to include, but not limited to, the Skagit County Inter-local Drug Enforcement Unit (SCIDEU), the Crisis Negotiation Team (CNT), the Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) team, K-9, Investigations, Marine Patrol, and other tactical teams to resolve situations safely. SRRT also maintains relationships with federal partners that allow for the use of equipment and resources not available to local agencies.

In 2019 SRRT responded to 12 calls for service. Six of these calls included utilizing either the entire SRRT, or significant portion of this team. The other six calls included utilizing SRRT specific tactics or equipment to resolve the situation prior to a full team callout. These calls included, but are not limited to the following:

A man with a knife was reportedly tearing up a house and had barricaded himself inside after threatening to kill occupants of the home and also threatening to burn down their bedroom door to gain access to them. SRRT responded and set a perimeter around the residence. SRRT operators attempted to negotiate with the man, who hid from operators and would not answer calls for him to come outside. The CNT was called and they also attempted to negotiate with the man. SRRT operators formed a hasty arrest team and began approaching the residence. Upon seeing the approaching team, the man decided to show himself and was taken into custody without further incident.

An inmate in the Skagit County Community Justice Center was assaultive to staff and medical personnel who were trying to assist him with obtaining medical assistance. He was refusing treatment and would not eat or drink anything while in custody. The inmate had an extensive criminal history and violent tendencies. SRRT operators and corrections deputies were summoned to assist in extricating the inmate from his cell and stabilize him for transport to the hospital for medical treatment. SRRT led the planning and preparation for the cell extraction, which occurred without injury to any party and the inmate was removed from the facility and transported for medical treatment.

The Sedro Woolley Police Department requested SRRT assistance in serving a search warrant and arrest for drug offenses in their city. The suspect had a criminal history and was known to possess multiple firearms and

have them available in the residence. SRRT operators served the search warrant and the suspect came out of the residence, offering no resistance. It was later determined by officers from the SWPD that the suspect had weapons at his disposal and it appeared as if he was going to use them on officers until he observed the presence of the SRRT MRAP and operators. At that time the suspect decided to give up peacefully.

The Skagit County Sheriff's Office obtained a search warrant for a residence to locate suspects in a Residential Burglary and Drive-By Shooting. SRRT operators deployed as a small team and served the search warrant by making entry into a residence in which the suspect was hiding and would not reveal his presence. After negotiating for an extended period of time, SRRT operators made entry into the residence and utilized team tactics to locate the suspect and arrest him without incident. SRRT operators responded to a second residence on the same case and served an additional search warrant, locating rifles and ammunition in a bedroom of the residence. All suspects were taken into custody.

An armed robbery was reported where suspects had displayed a firearm at the victims. Attempts to locate the suspects were initially unsuccessful, however, investigative efforts later placed them in the City of Burlington. SRRT was called out to attempt to make arrests on the suspects, who were considered armed and dangerous. SRRT responded and served a search warrant for the residence. One of the suspects was taken into custody without incident. An additional location was obtained where it was believed a co-conspirator was living. SRRT conducted a search of that residence but the suspect was not there at the time.

Burlington Police Department advised of a homicide which occurred in their city. They had a possible location of where suspects had been seen running. They requested SRRT respond to assist with searching for the suspects. Based on the information provided, SRRT operators formed into two teams to search four apartments. They were able to successfully search each apartment with consent provided by the tenants, but the suspects were not located.

SRRT is state certified and is the most trained unit in the Sheriff's Office.



# FIELD TRAINING UNIT

## SGT STEVE DILLS

The Skagit County Sheriff's Office Field Training Unit had a very busy year in 2019. With the promotions of several people within the agency, it allowed us to start a hiring cycle that we have not seen in some time. I'd like to take a moment to thank the command staff for their support of our unit as we teach and train our newest deputies.

We have had nine student officers in our pre-academy program and five of those have completed post-academy training and joined the patrol division with their respective squads. The following Deputies have completed field training this year: Austin Brenner, Richard Eichman, Seiya Kitchens, Darren Arndt and Chris Rogers.

The field training unit has been working hard to make our program one that is looked at by other agencies. In our pre-academy program we have implemented daily physical fitness time for our new deputies. This is followed by a physical abilities test (PAT) once a week to simulate the testing process that student deputies have to go through to gain entry to the Basic Law Enforcement Academy. (BLEA) Student deputies also have various writing assignments and tests that they take to get a better understanding of what they will face throughout their law enforcement careers.

Post-Academy we have implemented an administrative week. This allows student deputies to transition from life at the academy to the life of a patrol deputy. We are able to have them attend a rifle class and get outfitted with any other items they may need to be successful in their journey within our field training program.

Working with Chief Baldwin and Skagit County Information Services we were able to research and put out to bid our new field training software. Agency 360 was awarded the contract and we are in the process of building our program on



the platform with the help of Deputy Mack Brown. This software will streamline our daily observation reports, allow for better communication between field training officer, student deputy and command staff. It allows us to utilize laptops, tablets and phones to complete daily observation reports.

We conducted field training officer oral boards this year and I'm happy to report the following deputies were selected to become training officers with our program.: Deputies Trevor Grant, Mark Walker, Joshua Case and Joshua Murdock. They will be attending field training school in January 2020.

With the close of 2019, we look to continue to strive to provide the best training program that we can. We will continue to look for ways to build on our current program to meet the needs of our student officers, employees and community members. We are projecting to have five more student officers in our post-academy program for 2020.

# ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

## CHIEF ANNETTE LINDQUIST

The Administrative Services Division is supervised by Chief Annette Lindquist. There are 16 full time positions in the division: 2 Accountants, 1 Civil Assistant, 1 Criminal Justice Coordinator, 1 Registered Sex Offender Coordinator and 11 Support Services Technicians.

This has been a challenging year for our Division. There were 15 unfunded mandates from the State that added to the workload of the division in varying degrees. We were tasked with re-assigning staff duties and converted one full time civil assistant position to a support services technician who backfills civil when needed. We are cross training more support service staff to help with backfilling for illness, vacation, and workload.

We added 6 scanners and began the process of going paperless. Case file paperwork is now scanned and added as a digital file attachment in the Spillman system under the respective case number. This eliminated the need for paper files and filing cabinets, opening up space and saving time for all employees as there is no need to file case paperwork.

The warrant unit scanned over 2900 no contact and protection orders into our data base. These were formerly held by dispatch. Deputies can now view the order in the field and take appropriate action bypassing the need for dispatch to try and interpret the order. All warrants are uploaded and available to Law Enforcement in the field.

3,118 reports, referrals and supplemental reports were prepared and sent to the Skagit County Prosecutors Office. There were 2,066 public records requests processed for dissemination.

The data entry unit processed 16,044 case reports and supplemental reports. This is an incredible amount of work completed by a two person unit. Without reports we cannot process disclosure requests or send the



required charging paperwork to the courts.

3,462 old case files were purged in accordance with the Washington State Retention Schedule. This is an ongoing project and we continue to receive assistance from the Registered Sex Offender Coordinator to accomplish this task.

The Registered Sex Offender Coordinator completes registration and monitors sex offenders in Skagit County. Transient offenders have to check in on Mondays at the Sheriff's Office. Deputies check offenders at the registered address on a schedule based on their classification level.

The Chief Accountant processes all accounts payable and receivable, semi-monthly payroll, general ledger entries, and does most of the purchasing for the entire department including the jail. In addition she manages inventory and monitors the budget for the Sheriff's Office. The jail accountant is primarily responsible for all jail billings for housing and medical.

The Civil Assistant carries 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, orders of protection and civil evictions. In 2019 Civil Assistants processed 177 total

writes to include restitutions. Additionally they processed 1,464 protection orders, subpoenas and other miscellaneous papers.

Our Warrant Entry unit entered 6,026 warrants and 2,840 court orders with a total number of entries and queries of 25,211. The electronic warrants process has expedited the retrieval and service of papers. The warrant entry unit is also responsible for entering all stolen guns and property, and they provide criminal history reports to detectives and patrol deputies.

In 2019, we issued 1,847 concealed weapon permits and 2038 pistol transfers. Beginning in July 2019 full background checks are mandated on all pistol transfers. This doubled the amount of time required to process a transfer prior to July.

Statistics from our Traffic Records unit show that there were 9,941 traffic stops conducted and of those stops, 2,963 citations were written. Traffic records is also responsible for tracking motor vehicle accident reports, parking tickets and DUI.

We have three staff members assigned to the Justice Center. Two handle incoming calls and

walk in customers at the Justice Center. The Court Expediter not only assists in coordinating inmates' court proceedings but handles all Justice Center public disclosure requests.

In the beginning of 2019 we identified the need to provide records service in the east county. We were able to purchase a portable fingerprint machine so we can process concealed weapons permits along with other services we provide at the Mount Vernon office. We will start in January 2020 with one day per month at the east office and re-evaluate mid-year.



## 2019 CHALLENGE COIN



In 2019, the Skagit County Sheriff's Office Challenge Coin Committee worked together to come up with a coin that would incorporate the four parts of our organization: Corrections, Investigations, Patrol and Support. We felt that this should be represented on one side of the coin along with our Vision Statement, *Safety through Courage and Professionalism*.

The other side represents Skagit County by including the mountains, river, and forests that make our county such a great place to live. The Henry Thompson Bridge in Concrete is a detail specific to Skagit County. When it opened in 1918, it was the longest single span cement bridge of its kind in the world. It is now on the National Register of Historical Places.



# COMMUNITY JUSTICE CENTER

## CHIEF DON MARLOW

The Skagit County Community Justice Center is charged with the holding of pretrial and sentenced inmates. We subscribe to the philosophy of providing programs for our inmates while they are incarcerated. This year we were able to add the Second Chance Foundation to our collaboration of community programs. This foundation was started by a former inmate to help other former inmates find success after incarceration. He was heavily influenced by retired Deputy Julie Zorn who initially supervised the Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) program. The Skagit County Deputy Sheriff's Association now provides **2** scholarships to this foundation for both men and women. A ceremony was attended by former inmates and Deputy Zorn's family for the presentation of the scholarships. Deputy Zorn passed away in 2019 and a memorial plaque was placed in her honor at the entrance to the courts at the Justice Center. We also held our first swearing in and promotional ceremonies for both corrections and patrol in the Justice Center Courtroom.

The Skagit County Community Justice Center completed its second year of operation in 2019. During this operational year we were met with various challenges that we had to overcome. The first challenge was staffing. In 2019, we were allotted **4** more deputies to increase our staff to **57** total deputies. We started the year off **11** staff down and lost **7** more deputies and **1** sergeant, most of which went on to street patrol for various law enforcement agencies. Because of the intense competition for law enforcement/corrections candidates nationwide, we had to become very aggressive in our hiring practices. Working with our Chief of Administrative Services, we streamlined our process without sacrificing the quality of candidates. We also brought on a contracted background investigator to expedite that process. As of December 31, we hired **13** new deputies and had **5** vacancies at the end of the 2019 calendar year. We also promoted **1** sergeant and appointed **1** corporal. Because of staffing shortages, there was over **17,000** hours of overtime needed to fill vacant positions.

A Federal Court decision regarding the unshackling of pretrial detainees made courtroom security a challenge as we had to add another deputy to supervise

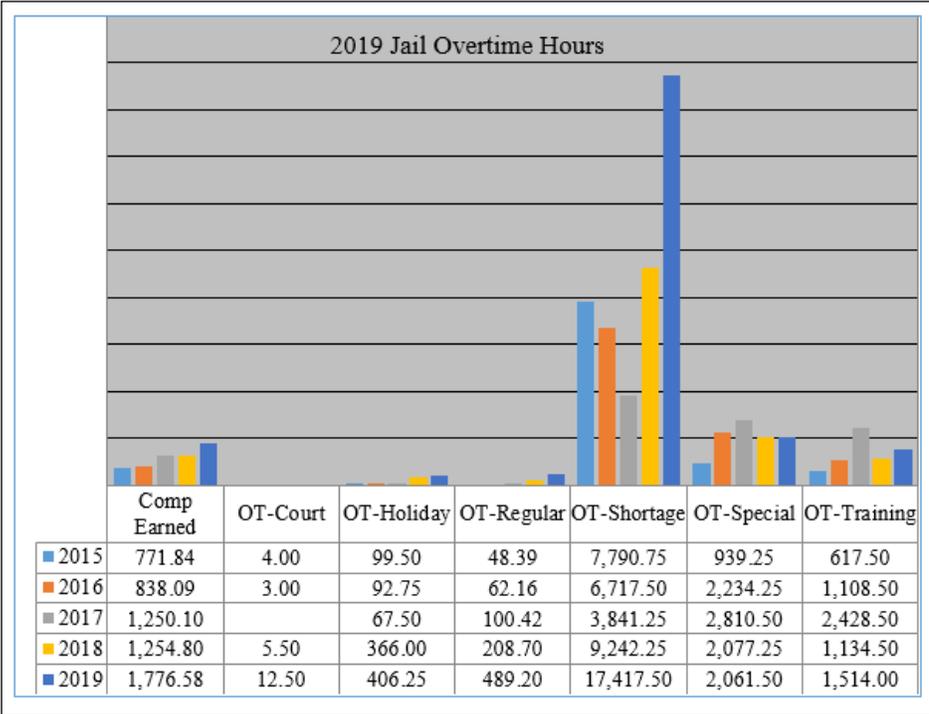
the inmate during court so they would not present an escape or assault risk during their proceedings.

In March, booking restrictions were put into place to reduce inmate population so all of the bunks and cell tables could be retrofitted to withstand abuse. This required each pod to be shut down on a rotating basis so the work could be completed. Because of this and staffing



shortages, the booking restrictions remained in place until October 1. During this time we averaged 255 inmates housed at the jail.

In 2019, we forged a new working relationship with Skagit Valley Hospital. They had a patient who was extremely violent due to mental health issues. This person could not be held in their hospital and clearly needed a more secure holding facility until expedited to Western State Hospital. There was no mechanism in place to care for this individual, however, working with the hospital, Prosecutor's Office, Western State Hospital and our in-house healthcare, we were able to secure an expedited bed at WSH. This was followed up by a contingent of elected local officials and the Jail Chief meeting with the Governor's Office in Olympia to seek solutions for this challenge. We also had Congressional Representatives Suzan DelBene and Rick Larsen tour the Justice Center. During this tour, we were able to discuss our challenges with health care and mental health issues to try and work toward a solution.



Academy which was attended by law enforcement throughout the state.

A major coordination effort took place during the summer months requiring the courts, jail, local law enforcement, facilities and Information Services to work together in order to host a high profile case involving the shooting of an MVPD Officer. This trial lasted 20 days, 16 hours of overtime per day and cost approximately \$13,673 in wages alone.

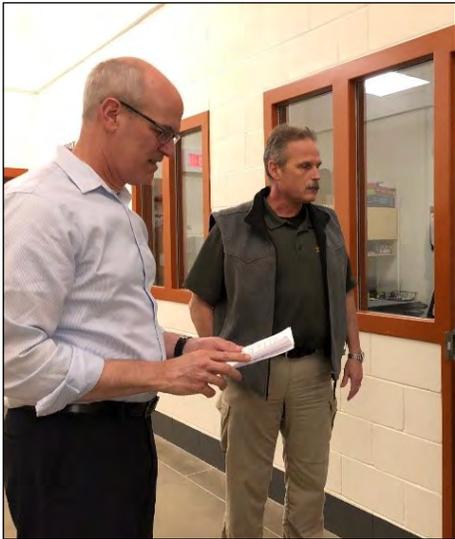
Throughout 2019, our average daily population was **259**. This is in house and does not include our Alternative sentencing.

In 2019, the jail command along with the Chief of Investigations and Detective Sergeant formed an internal investigation unit. The purpose was to ensure proper, thorough and fair investigations were conducted regarding employee misconduct.

In 2019, we created a working relationship with the Department of Corrections and worked toward securing a unique contract which allows for the arrest of DOC felons and our agreement to house them short term. This is a great move forward in making Skagit County a safer place by getting these criminals off the streets. We also secured a contract with San Juan County which secures payment for holding their prisoners while in transit to and from Yakima Jail.

The Community Justice Center booked **6003** inmates into the facility for 2019, this is **262** less than 2018. The average daily population of inmates was 259 with the highest count of 274 which was in June. Booking restrictions due to bunk retrofits and staff shortages appear to have affected our average daily population as we averaged **11** less inmates per day and our peak daily population was **36** less than the prior year. Barring any unforeseen circumstances, 2020 should give us an accurate expectation for forecasting future population numbers.

In April we hosted for the first time, a regional Criminal Justice Training Commission (CJTC) Field Training Officer (FTO)



***During the months of 2019, both Congresswoman Suzan DelBene and Congressman Rick Larsen toured the SCCJC. They were briefed on concerns regarding the state of our mental health system and medical requirements placed upon local jails and their communities.***

## Transport Team

Our Transport team is responsible for the movement of inmates to Court, professional visits, out of facility appointments and transfers. They also act as court liaisons and coordinate with the courts daily schedules. It is comprised of 1 Sergeants, a Corporal and 2 deputies. Our court

movements increased from **10,116 in 2018 to 10,824 in 2019 (708 inmate increase)**. There was a reduction in professional visits from **7113 in 2018 to 6590 in 2019 (523 decrease)**

### SCCJC COURT TOTALS

Municipal Court	1,176
Superior Court	4,017
Misdemeanor Rights	2,530
Felony Rights	1,684
District Court	775
TOTAL= 10,182	
Monthly Average = 848	

Total number of inmates who have had court at the Justice Center. We moved 10,182 people through the video court area for court.

### SCCJC PROFESSIONAL VISIT TOTALS

Jan-654	June-550	Nov-438
Feb-586	July-542	Dec-460
Mar-568	Aug-495	
Apr-565	Sept-491	
May-607	Oct-634	
TOTAL=6,590		
Monthly Average= 549		

Total number of professional visits we have had IN the video court area (attorney, probation, investigators etc.) This does NOT include any professional visits in the booking/intake or classroom area. We moved 6,590 through the video court area just for professional visits.  
\*\*adding the court totals/professional visit totals, we have moved over 16,000 people through the video court area with a total assigned staff of 5 transport personal (4 deputies, 1 Sgt)\*\*

### TRANSPORTS TO SUPERIOR COURT

Jan-47	June-21	Nov-15
Feb-31	July-34	Dec-18
Mar-35	Aug-30	
Apr-40	Sept-15	
May-34	Oct-26	
TOTAL=342		

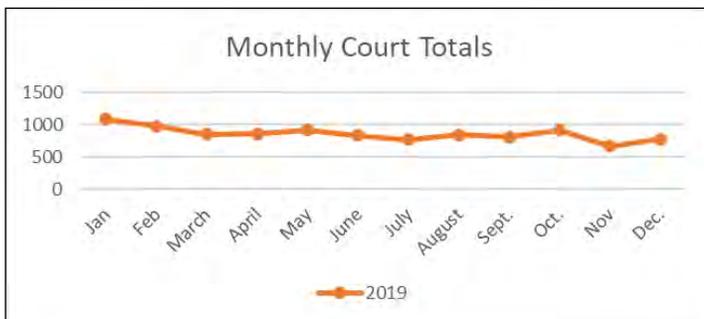
Total number of inmates we have transported to superior court. This encompasses all variations of transports, trial, dependency, criminal, child support, drug court etc.

### OUT OF FACILITY TRANSPORTS

1/1/19-10/28/19

Medical-61
Other Facility-8

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



## Training Team

The corrections division consists of almost 70 employees. The division receives training throughout the year ranging from mandatory annual training to specialty training. The training sergeant oversees all training for the division. This entails everything from the training of new hires in the Field Training Officers Program, recertification of existing employees, to ensuring



contracted employees receive mandatory trainings. The Corrections Field Training Officer Program consists of 10 FTO's who trained 14 new employees in 2019 for a total of 4,634 hours of training ranging from how to set up a uniform for duty to the complex control room board. Of those 14 new employees, 12 attended the Washington State Corrections Officers Academy for a total of 1,920 hours. 1 of the new employees was a lateral hire from the Washington State Department of Corrections. That employee attended the Corrections Equivalency Academy for 32 hours.

In 2019, the corrections division received updating on mandated trainings including first aid CPR, harassment, Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA), firearms, Taser, use of force, transportation of inmates, and restraint systems.

## Medical

Naphcare is our contracted provider for our medical department. In November an accreditation audit was performed for the facility to ensure we were conducting medical care to national standards. This reduces liability and maintains our expectation of proper care to the inmate. The auditors

were very impressed with our systems and infrastructure. They commented that our cooperation and communication between medical and jail staff was exemplary. Naphcare achieved accreditation with verification, an unusual accomplishment on the first National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCCHC) accreditation audit. The auditors explained that many times a second audit is needed for the first accreditation of a facility. The verification will be to demonstrate corrections to a couple of minor areas needing adjustments to meet patient care requirements and training documentation. The corrections were made while the auditors were here and we will show ongoing use of the implemented systems over a 60 day time period. Accreditation ensures we are meeting the basic required healthcare and that we are not practicing with negligence or deliberate indifference. Attaining accreditation has been found to greatly reduce liability.

Our Medically Assisted Treatment (MAT) programming has been fully implemented including continuation and implementation. Naphcare and Public Health have built strong relationships with MAT community providers and provide warm handoffs at release. All MAT participants are provided Behavioral Health Counseling as need indicates and encouraged to continue their care at release using Motivational Interviewing, an evidence based technique. Education is provided on MAT services, community resources, and the increased risk of overdose post release.



## Programming

One of the main focuses of the SCCJC is the aspect of programs for the inmates to help them understand and

### **A GLIMPSE OF THE AVERAGE MONTH....**

Daily population	259
Individuals coming through jail in a month	626
Average Monthly Screenings/Physicals completed	391
Inmates requiring CIWA (alcohol withdrawal monitoring)	22
Inmates requiring COWS (opioid withdrawal monitoring)	98
Inmates on Suicide watch	18
Infirmery housing (requiring 15 – 30 min. checks)	28
Medications ordered	2214
Daily average Inmates taking medications	164
Daily average Inmates taking Mental Health Meds	79
Nurse Practitioner visits	59
Nurse visits	175
Mental Health counselor visits	99
Mental Health Nurse Practitioner visits	50
Dental visits	22
Emergency Room Visits (4 via ambulance)	10

prevent destructive behaviors and to reintegrate them back into our community. We offer the following programs towards that end.

#### **RSAT – Residential Substance Abuse Treatment**

RSAT targets offenders with a history of substance abuse as a crime-producing behavior leading to incarceration. The program is based on the Therapeutic Community Model and lasts anywhere from 8 -12 weeks.

The number of inmates in the men’s class vary from 8-12 at a time. The number of inmates in the men’s class has up to 6 at a time.

At SCCJC, we focus on using the MRT\* workbook on Mondays and Fridays and hold class on Wednesdays that focuses on life-skills , providing tools and information to help overcome criminal behaviors and habits. Other subjects covered are Anger Management, Job Readiness, Character Development, Self-management and Relapse Prevention.

\*Moral Recognition Therapy (MRT) is a systematic treatment strategy that seeks to decrease recidivism among juvenile and adult criminal offenders by increasing moral reasoning. It combines a variety of psychological traditions to progressively address ego, social, moral, and positive behavioral growth. MRT takes the form of group and individual counseling, group exercises and homework assignments. The MRT workbook focuses on seven basic issues: confrontation of beliefs, attitudes, and behaviors; assessment of current relationships; reinforcement of positive behavior and habits; positive identity formation; enhancement of self-concept; decrease in hedonism and development of frustration tolerance; and development of higher stages of moral reasoning.

### **Worksource / Goodwill Class**

These two organizations are collaborating in a program at SCCJC to inform inmates about resources available in the community pertaining to job searches, interview skills, employment applications and other skills. The representatives from these organizations also explain the process for follow up assistance after the individual is released. This class involves 10-15 inmates per session.

### **Life Transitions Class**

The **Life Transitions Class** includes career exploration and job search techniques. The class provides resources, guidance, and support for those seeking new opportunities and needing to make important decisions in their lives. The class goals are to increase self-esteem, develop new communication skills, design personal realistic goals, and increase personal self-awareness. The program

helps them to establish new directions and make personal connections with needed resources. This class is taught by instructors from the Skagit Valley Community College.

### **Underground Writing**

This is a literature-based creative writing program serving migrant, incarcerated, recovery,



**4000 used tires collected.**

and other at-risk communities in Northern Washington through literary engagement and personal restoration.

“Honoring the transforming power of the word, we believe that attentive reading leads to attentive writing, and that attentive writing has the power to assist in the restoration of communities, the imagination, and individual lives.” \*This class involves 10-15 inmates per session and inmates can go to multiple sessions.

### **Jail Alternatives**

The varied duties of the personnel in the Alternatives Section include Inmate Work and Treatment Programs, Courthouse Security, Trial Security Planning, Therapeutic Court Liaison and Fugitive Extradition. The Alternatives Section encompasses numerous diverse programs, including inmates that are employed and continue to work during their sentence, those who do community service, jail internal operations work and even substance treatment. Staffing for this section in 2019 consisted of 1 Ser-

geant, 1 Court Deputy and 3 Alternatives Deputies. Due to staffing shortage, only two Deputies were assigned until October.

The Alternatives staff deals with defendants from immediately after their conviction until their sentence has been completed. Each defendant undergoes an initial screening to determine appropriate sentence resolution, followed by a specific program-oriented interview, booking, supervision while completing the sentence and release from control. Alternatives inmates are tested for alcohol and drug use prior to commencement and randomly during their sentence. All Alternatives inmates are “booked in” and are carried on the Skagit County Jail Roster. Alternatives staff processed 2154 court commitments, conducted 1320 interviews and 597 bookings. Total bookings in 2019 were 5107.

The Alternatives staff also maintains the turn-in schedule of those defendants who must serve straight jail time and is responsible for court notification if the defendant fails to report for their sentence. 108 referrals were submitted for failure to comply with Superior Court commits, 112 failure to comply cases were resolved, resulting in defendants spending an additional 277 jail days more than their original sentences.

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

Inmates live at a private residence and wear an electronic ankle that records when they leave and return to the premises. These inmates are allowed to go to their job, treatment appointments, self-help meetings (AA, NA, etc.) and some other limited destinations. All instances of leaving the premises must be approved by Alternatives Staff. These inmates pay a daily fee to participate in this program. We also utilize the Transdermal Alcohol Detection (TAD) program, which is a continuous alcohol detection system in conjunction with the EHM system, sampling alcohol intake from the perspiration of the offender. 212 defendants participated on EHM, serving 8480 days.

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

Some defendants are allowed by the sentencing Judge to serve their sentence in a program administered by agencies other than the Skagit County Jail. These defendants must meet the same screening criteria as Alternatives inmates, to ensure that the basic participation criteria are met, as well as generating the appropriate tracking paperwork so the proper information is submitted to the Courts and State. Legislative changes in July 2015 dramatically affected this program, resulting in a significant decrease. 5 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, \$5378 was collected. 138 defendants participated in the ODO, serving 178 jail days and completing 1296 hours of work at the Skagit County fairgrounds.

#### **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. 58 inmates (53 male, 5 female) participated on Work Release, serving 3416 days.

**In 2019, 413 defendants/inmates served a total of 12,074 days on Jail Alternatives. In 2018, 455 defendants/inmates served a total of 11,829 days on Jail Alternatives.**



***DOE, Skagit Health, and Jail Alternatives partnered to clear 619 miles of County right of way, 191 illegal dumping locations, and 90,470 pounds of trash from the East County area in 2019.***

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

Litter Crew – Is a joint program with Skagit County Public Works, Sheriff, Health Department, Washington State Department of Corrections, Washington Department of Ecology. The program also provides workers to other governmental agencies, including Cities of Mt Vernon and Sedro Woolley; Town of Lyman; and Skagit County Departments (Facilities, Sheriff’s Office, Law Library, Prosecutor’s Office, Parks, Records). 83 defendants participated on the Litter Crew, serving 14,071 hours; 139 defendants worked

for other agencies, completing 1306 hours.

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

1. Skagit Transit – Contractual compensation agreement to provide workers 6 nights a week. Skagit Transit withdrew from this program in September. 54 inmates participated on Skagit Transit Crews, serving 5064 hours.

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

**In 2019, defendants/inmates worked 75,441 hours on Jail Programs. In 2018, defendants/inmates worked 78,260 hours on Jail Programs.**

#### **Trial Security**

The Alternatives Sergeant is responsible for the planning and staffing of court proceedings which may pose security risks. This includes trials which are high-profile, proceedings having an in-custody defendant or defendants, domestic issues or any other heightened security matters. In 2019, we had several high-security trials including one for attempted murder of several police officers, and an assault on corrections staff and significant damage to the old jail. These trials and several others constituted a huge challenge, as they required significant staffing allocation, at a time when the jail staff was severely depleted. Staffing of these incidents was greatly facilitated by the considerable assistance of the SCSO Patrol Division and the Washington State Department of Corrections.

#### **Courthouse Security**

Security for the courthouse complex is provided in two ways: visitor screening by contract security personnel and uniformed deputies patrolling the complex. Pacific Security Agency provides personnel who run security checkpoints. There are 3 checkpoints, one each in the Superior Courthouse, the Public Safety Building and the SCCJC. The PSA personnel also provide security checkpoint control for after-hours activities in the courthouse complex and SCCJC, including Domestic Violence Victim Impact Panels and Small Claims Court.

The Court Deputy patrols 3 buildings, maintaining a uniformed presence in the corridors, outside premises and the 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, fingerprints defendants upon conviction, performs DNA sample collections and arrests 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 152 arrests, fingerprinted 195 defendants and conducted 165 DNA sample collections. 351 defendants were transported from the jail to court appearances in the complex.

Along with the courts, the campus houses the Clerk's Office, District Court Probation, Office of Assigned Counsel, Family Law Facilitator, Law Library and Public Defender. In 2019, security equipment was added to Hearing Room A, for use when needed during court proceedings there. 181,639 visitors entered through the security checkpoints and 26 after-hours events requiring security were held. (DV panels, Small Claims Court, late jury or hearings.) 442 prohibited items were abandoned at the checkpoints. Prohibited items include knives, scissors, etc. These items are destroyed by the SCSO Evidence technician.

#### **Therapeutic Court Liaison**

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

The team consists of a Superior Court Judge, Court Coordinator, treatment professionals (Phoenix Recovery Services, Pioneer Health Services), legal professionals (Prosecutor, Public Defender) and law enforcement (Mount Vernon Police Department and Sheriff's Office). As the liaison, the Alternatives Sergeant is responsible for ensuring good communication between the Court, Jail and Sheriff's Office. Other duties include security for the court, arranging transport for any in-custody clients, taking sanctioned clients into custody and reporting on client's behavior while in custody. 53 in-custody clients were transported to Drug Court and 77 taken into custody for transport to the Jail.

#### **Fugitive Extradition**

The Alternatives Sergeant is the Sheriff's representative to the Northwest Cooperative Shuttle Prisoner Transport System and also arranges extradition and transport of fugitives to and from Skagit County from around the state and country. 37 out of state fugitive extraditions were arranged.

## Classification Team

The Classification team consists of 1 sergeant and 4 deputies. Their primary responsibility is to classify new inmates into appropriate housing assignments. This can include crime of the accused, mental status, gang affiliation, sexual orientation. They also are responsible for investigating inmate grievances, helping copy camera footage for law enforcement and reviewing classifications to make sure they are up to date given any change in inmate status. In 2019, this unit addressed 16,939 inmate kites and held 348 inmate disciplinary hearings.

### Alternatives Section Goals for 2019

1. Evaluation and revamp of the Court Deputy Position
2. Increased substance testing of Alternative participants, particularly Work Detail and Home Monitoring clients
3. Continued expansion of the One Day Offender Program
4. Continued expansion of the Transdermal Alcohol Detection program for sentenced inmates & pre-trial defendants
5. Continued transfer of filing and records to electronic format, with an emphasis on logs

Fund	Amount
Application Fees	\$9418
CSW Day Fees	\$1556
UA Fees	\$5,163
Hook Up Fees	\$4,646
Address change Fees	\$20
WR Duffle Bags	\$795
WR Hygiene Pak	\$422
WR Fee	\$36,978
EHM Fee	\$128,684
EHM OC Fee	\$12,603
ODO Fee	\$5,378
<b>Total Collected</b>	<b>\$205,663</b>
WASPC Pd EHM	\$84,170
UA Tests	\$4,005
WR Duffle Bags	\$678
WR Hygiene Pak	\$232
ODO Rental	\$800
<b>Total Equip Cost</b>	<b>\$89,885</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$115,778</b>

## 2019 MEMORIAL COIN



In 2019 the Skagit County Sheriff's Office honored our two fallen officers in a special commemorative coin. Deputy Anne Jackson and Deputy Alan Hultgren will be remembered always by their law enforcement family.

On Friday, August 7, 1981, Skagit County Deputy Alan Hultgren was struck head-on by a drunk driver and killed on Highway 20, about four miles west of Marblemount. Deputy Hultgren was responding to an injury collision at the time of the incident. Deputy Hultgren served the Skagit County Sheriff's Office for five years.

On Tuesday, September 2, 2008, Deputy Anne Jackson of the Skagit County Sheriff's Office responded to a disturbance at a home near Alger. A suspect had been reported entering neighbors' homes uninvited all afternoon. Deputy Jackson had previously dealt with the suspect, and was aware of his mental health issues and criminal history. She was shot and killed while attempting to subdue the suspect. She served the Skagit County Sheriff's Office for 6 years.

# AWARDS & RECOGNITION

## PROMOTIONS



**SGT STEVE DILLS**



**SGT BEN HAGGLUND**



**SGT TERESA DORCY**



**CPL JAMIE FREEBURN**

## CORRECTIONS NEW HIRES

Gill, Sunny  
Likhachev, Greg  
Brown, Adam  
McLaughlin, Kevin  
Rosengren, Zach  
Nayyar, Vikas

Mullins, David  
Meldrum, Josh  
Sorensen, Caitlyn  
Smith, Dustin  
Magana, Daniel

## PATROL NEW HIRES

O'Reilly, Connor  
Ayala, Ruben

Mueller, Andrew  
Dalton, Shaun

## RETIREMENT AFTER 10+ YEARS OF SERVICE



**SGT KELLY HOWELL  
34 YEARS OF SERVICE**



**CAROLYN  
VANDENHUEVEL  
16 YEARS OF SERVICE**



## 2019 MILESTONE ANNIVERSARIES

### 30 Years

- SGT Jenny Sheahan-Lee  
30 years 1-11-1989
- SGT Ron Coakley  
30 years 3-15-1989
- Chaplain Bob Weltz  
30 years 4-1-1989
- Gena McDermott  
30 years 9-20-1989

### 25 Years

- DEP Terry Esskew  
25 years 1-1-1994
- SGT Jeff Willard  
25 years 1-18-1994
- CHIEF Chris Baldwin  
25 years 2-1-1994
- DET Duane Neufeld  
25 years 9-1-1994

### 20 Years

- LT Deanna Randall-Secret  
20 years 1-4-1999
- SGT Aaron McIntosh  
20 years 8-16-1999

### 15 Years

- DEP Kyle Wiggins  
15 years 12-1-2014

### 5 Years

- CORR DEP Amber Devine  
5 years 2-1-2014
- Linda Routon  
5 years 4-1-2014
- DEP Mark Walker  
5 years 4-21-2014
- DEP Ken Devero  
5 years 5-16-2014
- CORP Teresa Dorcy  
5 years 6-16-2014
- CORR DEP Sean Otto  
5 years 6-1-2014
- DEP Jason Slack  
5 years 6-1-2014
- Elizabeth Christenson  
5 years 9-22-2014
- DET Anne Weed  
5 years 12-1-2014

# SCHOLARSHIPS & SERVICE

## 2019 SKAGIT COUNTY SHERIFF'S SCHOLARSHIPS

The Anne Jackson Memorial Scholarship is awarded to a High School senior whose parent or grandparent is or was employed by a law enforcement agency in Skagit County. The 2019 award goes to Drew Grimstead. He is the son of Eric and Kristal Grimstead, and grandson of former Sheriff, Rick Grimstead. Alex will graduate from Squalicum High School in June and plans on attending either Purdue University or Washington State University to study Biomedical Engineering.

The Erick Valenzuela Memorial Scholarship is awarded to an outstanding Skagit County High School senior. The 2019 award goes to Ben Peden. He is the son of Tom and Amy Peden. He will graduate from Sedro-Woolley High School in June and plans on attending Central Washington University to study Actuarial Science.

## ROBERT GATES SCHOLARSHIPS

Drew Adams, Sophomore, Skagit Valley College,  
Greg and Becky Adams

Michael Baldwin, Sophomore, Spokane Falls Community  
College-Chris and Theresa Baldwin

Mitchell Baldwin, Vocational School,  
Chris and Theresa Baldwin

Grant Craig – Junior, Washington State University,  
Kevin and Lori Sigman

Jonathan Sigman- Freshman, Skagit Valley College,  
Kevin and Lori Sigman

Kailey Willard- Sophomore, Eastern WA University,  
Jeff and Sara Willard

Devin Willard- Senior, Washington State University,  
Jeff and Sara Willard

Nathan Dills- Senior, University of Washington,  
Steve and Lisa Dills

Madison Algeo- Junior, WGU online,  
Marty Steiner and Shelley Algeo

Taylor Algeo- Senior, Central WA University,  
Marty Steiner and Shelley Algeo

Karena Esskew- Freshman, Skagit Valley College,  
Terry and Kristin Esskew

## 2019 SHERIFF'S OFFICE AWARDS

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

*Sergeant Polly Storie*

**PURPLE HEART AWARD:** Awarded to Deputy who was seriously injured in the line of duty.

*Deputy Steve Gonzales*

**POLICE MEDAL AWARD:** Awarded to Deputy who displayed courage and bravery while undertaking enforcement action on or off duty.

*Detective Paul Pacini*

*Sergeant Brian Morgan*

*Sergeant Kevin Sigman*

*Deputy Chris Rogers*

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

*Deputy Martin Steiner*

*Deputy Jess Brannon*

*Deputy Josh Struiksma*

*Deputy Josh Case*

*Deputy Bryan Clark*

*Deputy Mark Walker*

### DEPUTY ALAN HULTGREN MERITORIOUS SERVICE

**AWARD:** Awarded to a Sheriff's office employee who demonstrates outstanding performance of duty under unusually complicated or hazardous conditions over an extended period of time.

*Deputy John Hendrickson*

*Administrative Accountant Michele Long*

### CIVILIAN AWARD:

*Correctional Health & Transitions Manager*

*Amie Tidrington*

*Program Coordinator Community Health Out*

*Reach Programs U. G.H. Danika Troupe*

### HONORARY DEPUTY AWARD:

*Sharon Hendrickson*

# EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

Retired Deputy Julie Zorn lost her valiant battle with cancer on March 17, 2019. She was such an important part of our Law Enforcement family. She was a tireless worker and was instrumental in developing the first Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) program. Our jail is the only jail in the State of Washington that was awarded grant funding for this program. Julie's sister says it best, "Julie spread endless joy to every corner of this world. She found the inherent goodness in everyone and we each felt so special, loved, and accepted in her presence. Julie touched the lives of everyone she met." Her passing is a huge loss. She is deeply missed.

This year we were able to add the Second Chance Foundation to our collaboration between the Criminal Justice Center and community programs helping to change inmate recidivism. A private program, The Second Chance Foundation, was started to help others find success after incarceration. The founder was heavily influenced by retired Deputy Julie Zorn who initially supervised the Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) program. The Skagit County Deputy Sheriff's Association now provides a scholarship to this foundation for both men and women thanks in a large part to Deputy Zorn.



## SECOND CHANCE PROJECT

"I wanted to share that this Christmas morning I had the honor of meeting Kyle Von Stroberg (right) and Jason (left) who work for the Second Chance Foundation in Skagit and Snohomish. They both used to be homeless and with the Second Chance Foundation Scholarship through Skagit Valley College they were able to get off the streets and start a new life for themselves. This Christmas at midnight, they began in King County and worked their way to Skagit County giving food, warm beverages, blankets, and clothes to a ton of homeless and wanted to give back to their communities. I was able to tag along part of their journey and they said we can use their foundation as a resource for the homeless." —Deputy Darren Arndt

# 2019 WA LAW ENFORCEMENT MEMORIALS



**COOPER ANDREW DYSON**  
**EOW 12/21/19**

Deputy Sheriff Cooper Dyson, of the Pierce County Sheriff's Office, was killed in a single-vehicle crash while responding to other deputies at a domestic violence incident in Parkland.

The deputies who responded to the initial incident at 3:00 am were immediately attacked by a male subject who engaged them in a violent struggle. The deputies believed that the man was attempting to access a shotgun that was inside of the home and called for backup during the struggle.

Deputy Dyson was responding to their call for assistance when his vehicle left the roadway and struck a commercial building.

Deputy Dyson was a military veteran and had served with the Pierce County Sheriff's Department for two years. He is survived by his expectant wife and 2-year-old child. He was 25 years old .



**MICHAEL FRANKLIN KNAPP**  
**EOW 11/6/19**

Lynden Interim Police Chief Michael Knapp succumbed to injuries sustained the previous evening when he was struck by a pickup truck in the 200 block of Fourth Street.

He was crossing the street to attend a special city council meeting at the city hall introducing the three finalists for the permanent police chief position. The vehicle that struck him had its headlights off after sunset. Chief Knapp was flown to a hospital in Seattle with severe injuries and died the following day.

Chief Knapp had been appointed the interim police chief six months earlier. He was a former Police Officer with the Milpitas, California Police Department and a Deputy Sheriff with the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office. He was the Chief of Police for the City of Medina, Washington between 1998 and 2003, and was appointed Chief of Police for the City of Ferndale, Washington in September 2005 where he served until his retirement in 2016. Chief Knapp also served in the United States Army.

He is survived by his wife. He was 79 years old.



**JUSTIN RICHARD DeROSIER**  
**EOW 4/14/19**

Deputy Sheriff Justin DeRosier of the Cowlitz County Sheriff's Office, was shot and killed after responding to investigate reports of a disabled motor home shortly after 10:00 pm.

After arriving at the scene, he contacted dispatchers with emergency traffic and stated he was being fired at. Members of the Cowlitz County Sheriff's Office and the Kalama Police Department responded to the scene and were able to pull him to safety. He was flown to PeaceHealth Medical Center in Vancouver where he passed away shortly after midnight.

Two suspects were taken into custody near the scene. A third suspect was shot and killed when he was encountered by other officers who were searching for him the following night.

Deputy DeRosier had served with the Cowlitz County Sheriff's Office for three years and had previously served with the Whitman County Sheriff's Office for three years. He is survived by his wife and 5-month-old daughter. He was 29 years old.



**RYAN SHANE THOMPSON**  
**EOW 3/19/19**

Deputy Sheriff Ryan Thompson of the Kittitas Sheriff's Office, was shot and killed in the city of Kittitas following a vehicle pursuit.

He had responded to a traffic complaint involving a road rage incident and attempted to stop the involved vehicle. The driver fled along I-90 and exited the interstate into Kittitas where a city officer joined the pursuit. The vehicle came to a stop and the driver opened fire on the officers, fatally wounding Deputy Thompson and seriously wounding the Kittitas officer. The subject was shot and killed in the ensuing shootout.

Deputy Thompson served in law enforcement for 12 years including time with the Kittitas Sheriff's Office's Correctional Facility and Central Washington University Police before becoming a Kittitas Sheriff's Deputy.

He is survived by his wife and three children, his parents and three brothers. He was 42 years old.

# COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

## SKAGIT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION

- \$500 for the Samish Elementary Playground Shelter fund
- Anne Jackson Scholarship \$1500.00/Erick Valenzuela Scholarship \$1000
- LaConner Braves club (the boys and girls club chapter) - \$250.00
- Animal Control stickers encouraging positive pet ownership
- Skagit Valley college foundation for the Julie Zorn Memorial Scholarship
- Anne Jackson Picnic
- Halloween Party for the children of our employees at Big Lake Fire Hall
- Burlington Edison youth soccer club.
- Starbucks gift cards to hand out to drivers at Deputy's discretion.
- \$250 to Family Christmas Dinner at Central Elementary School in Sedro Woolley.
- Guns and Hoses Charity Golf Tournament raised over \$3300 for the Anne Jackson Scholarship fund.
- Employee Appreciation BBQ sponsored by the BA and put on by the Administrative Staff



GIRL SCOUT FINGERPRINT PROJECT



SHOP WITH A HERO

## CRIME PREVENTION

In 2019 the Sheriff's Office dedicated many hours to holding community meetings and building community relationships throughout Skagit County. Neighborhood Watch concepts were discussed at the meetings with the goal of reducing crime in Skagit County. Members of the Sheriff's Office conducted over 40 of these meetings throughout the year and the response was outstanding.

Deputies have also spent valuable time at our local schools on a regular basis. We know that by spending time with our young school age kids, a positive relationship is gained. The kids are learning that a deputy isn't just someone who comes to school when someone is in trouble. Building that trust at a young age will make that bond stronger as they grow up.

Our crime prevention meetings have resulted in community members knowing when to call law enforcement to report suspicious activity and tips on how to secure their homes and vehicles while away.



LUNCH WITH A DEPUTY