

# SKAGIT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE 2020 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.”*



# 2020-THE PANDEMIC YEAR

The challenges we faced in 2020 forced the Sheriff's Office to look at our processes and adapt them to our surroundings. As we started to see COVID-19 approaching



our county we recognized the only way to confront this virus was through a collaborative effort. Skagit County, time and again had proven to be resilient in the face of disaster. We come together. During the Coronavirus pandemic our ability to work together has made our strategic response to the virus successful. The SCSO worked as part of a unified team along with all of our first

responder partners, to include Skagit 911, the Department of Emergency Medical Services, and the Department of Emergency Management. Our local elected officials helped to guide this process, providing tremendous leadership during this time of crisis. We have been a constant partner with other county agencies and organizations that offer support, services, and supplies to those in need due to the pandemic.

There are many other agencies and individuals who deserve recognition for their dedicated public service:

## **Skagit County Public Health**

The tireless efforts of the employees of the Skagit County Public Health Department have made a significant impact that has benefited the citizens of Skagit County and well beyond the northwest region. Public Health has provided strong leadership, critical knowledge and guidance from the very beginning.

## **Skagit County Public Works**

Public Works has been a foundation block for Skagit County regarding emergency preparedness. At the onset of the COVID-19 response, Public Health provided several well trained employees to staff the Emergency Operations Center. They provided the much needed expertise to help Skagit County to organize and develop a successful operations plan against the virus. In late April, we recognized the need for mass testing and the Skagit Valley College was selected as the Test Site. Public Works was instrumental in the set up and continued support of

the site. The leadership from Public Works continues to be a difference maker in our continued efforts against COVID-19.

## **Skagit County Prosecutor's Office**

The Prosecutor's Office worked diligently behind the scenes on numerous important projects. They worked with law enforcement to develop the strategy and talking points to help educate the public in regards to the Governor's proclamation and how we would best serve our communities. Staff wrote several agreements and contracts for various vendors to supply equipment and ser-



VICES. The Prosecutor's Office also developed the isolation and quarantine orders in the event it became necessary to enforce the Public Health Officer's Order. The Prosecutor and his team have made a positive contribution to the strategic operations from the very

beginning of the pandemic and continue to provide leadership, guidance and support.

## **Volunteers**

We have been inspired by the devotion of our volunteers both within Skagit County and beyond. They have come together to help in our fight against the coronavirus. Volunteers have been instrumental in the staffing of the test and vaccination sites. They have served as call takers to assist with those in need. They have transported supplies to the elderly and infirm, helping to keep them safe. They have helped to acquire personal protective equipment. Volunteers have been a positive influence and a valued force multiplier during this long term pandemic.

We of the Skagit County Sheriff's Office are honored to be able to stand alongside all who have given so much in service of others.

Decisions made during the initial stages set our county up for success with some of the issues we would

face in the future, including helping our first responders continue providing crucial services to our county during the height of the pandemic. First responders developed a contingency plan to continue to provide public service in the event any agency or agencies were dramatically impacted by the coronavirus. We worked within a unified command structure to acquire and share personal protective equipment. We developed a law enforcement response that prioritized education and engagement before enforcement as part of our mission to serve. First responders from fire, medical and law contributed personnel and resources to the test and vaccination sites. Early processes put into place by Corrections leadership staff helped to reduce the number of arrestees coming to the Community Justice Center, as well as put a quarantine process in place for arrestees who did come to the jail. The plan that was implement-

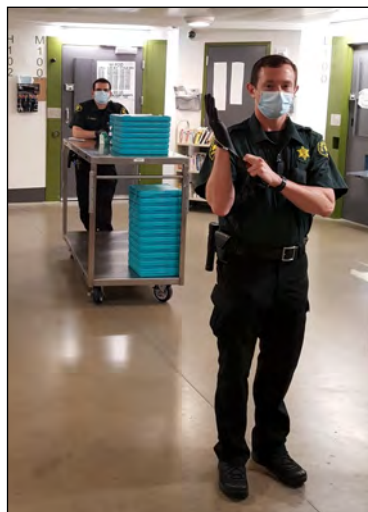


ed and carried through by the corrections staff has successfully mitigated the coronavirus that has significantly impacted prisons and jails through the United States. We also recognize the collaborative work with the entire Skagit County Law and Justice Community. Without our partnership and shared

vision, we would not have been able to accomplish the minimal impact of the pandemic at the SCCJC.

Several county employees from various county agencies prioritized two significant projects related to operational adjustments due to the coronavirus. The County Courthouse created a court room from existing hearing rooms. The radio reception within the area was a safety concern and had to be addressed. In short order, members of Skagit 911, assisted SCSO personnel in the acquisition and installation of equipment that solved the problem. County staff, to include Information Services worked to bring a new body scanner to the SCCJC. The body scanner effectively allows inmates and corrections staff to

maintain distance to avoid the potential spread of the virus. Credit for the approval and streamlined process goes to our County Administrative personnel who without



their support, these projects could not have happened. In addition, Our Support Services Bureau implemented some changes that allowed us to continue to provide concealed carry permits and conduct background checks in a safe manner and worked with local municipalities to aid in their efforts to provide this service.

While 2020 was challenging, it allowed us an opportunity to look at

our processes and evaluate how we can continue to provide quality service even in times of uncertainty.

The Skagit County Sheriff's Office recognized the need to help develop and operate the Test Site that was approved to begin at the Skagit Valley College in late April. Several SCSO members contributed several hundreds of hours to the site that included planning, design, logistics, traffic, security



and site management. Staff came from the administrative, corrections, patrol and support bureaus. To allow for these employees to be a part of the test site our co-workers contributed by taking on additional assignments in their absence. The employees of the Skagit County Sheriff's Office recognized the value the test site offered and we worked together so that we could provide the assistance it would take to maintain the test site for several months.

# SHERIFF'S MESSAGE

**SHERIFF DON McDERMOTT**

Each year, the Skagit County Sheriff's Office authors an Annual Report to describe our accomplishments and highlights of law enforcement in Skagit County, and to share the efforts of the sworn and non-sworn personnel as they continue to provide the most professional services and quality law enforcement available to our citizens. Additionally, this report provides an overview of each bureau and their sub-units.

As your Sheriff, I am proud of the men and women of the Skagit County Sheriff's Office and the service they provide to the citizens of Skagit County. Each of these employees exemplifies professionalism and dedication to their jobs. Great things happen when so many, who are dedicated to the mission and dedicated to the Sheriff's Office, work hard to see projects through to their fruition and for that, I thank each and every member of the Sheriff's Office. Just as importantly, I need to thank our public safety partners, elected leaders and community members. When we work together, positive results are the result! I look forward to working with everyone in 2021 as we continue to move our Office forward in service to our Skagit County Community!

Sincerely,



Don McDermott



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

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

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

| 2020 BUDGETED POSITIONS                      |            |
|--|------------|
| Sheriff (Elected)                            | 1          |
| Undersheriff (appointed)                     | 1          |
| Chief Criminal Deputy (appointed)            | 1          |
| Chief Field Operations                       | 1          |
| Chief of Corrections (appointed)             | 1          |
| Chief of Administrative Services (appointed) | 1          |
| Corrections Lieutenant                       | 2          |
| Patrol Sergeant                              | 6          |
| Detective Sergeant                           | 2          |
| Corrections Sergeant                         | 8          |
| Patrol Deputy                                | 39         |
| Detective                                    | 8          |
| Animal Control Officer                       | 1          |
| Corrections Deputy                           | 58         |
| Accountant                                   | 2          |
| RSO Coordinator                              | 1          |
| Civil Assistant                              | 1          |
| Evidence Technician                          | 1          |
| Support Services Technician                  | 11         |
| Case Expeditor                               | 1          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                 | <b>147</b> |

| 2020 BUDGET SUMMARY UPDATE     |                         |  |                         |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|--|-------------------------|
| SKAGIT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE |                         | SKAGIT COUNTY COMMUNITY JUSTICE CENTER |                         |
| <b>Budget Expenses</b>         | <b>\$ 12,777,800.00</b> | <b>Budget Expenses</b>                 | <b>\$ 18,966,301.00</b> |
| <b>Actual Expenses</b>         | <b>\$ 11,907,035.89</b> | <b>Actual Expenses</b>                 | <b>\$ 16,043,986.02</b> |
| <b>Budgeted Revenue</b>        | <b>\$ 2,219,620.00</b>  | <b>Budgeted Revenue</b>                | <b>\$ 16,435,961.00</b> |
| <b>Actual Revenue</b>          | <b>\$ 1,671,293.84</b>  | <b>Actual Revenue</b>                  | <b>\$ 17,325,391.64</b> |

# INVESTIGATIONS BUREAU

## CHIEF TOBIN MEYER

The Investigations Bureau of the Skagit County Sheriff's Office is overseen by Chief Criminal Deputy Tobin



Meyer and two supervisors, Detective Sergeant Jenny Sheahan-Lee and Detective Sergeant Chris Kading. The Investigations Bureau oversees criminal investigations detectives, task force detectives, pro active policing detectives, internal affairs, and the evidence unit.

The criminal investigations unit within the bureau 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.

The Investigation Bureau provides professional and expert criminal investigative support to Skagit County by conducting timely, credible, and thorough criminal investigations. The bureau is responsible for completing complex criminal investigations with a primary focus on serious felony level offenses. Detectives are selected from the ranks of the Patrol Bureau. Every detective within the Investigations Bureau attends advanced training relevant to their assignment annually, to ensure they are current with their knowledge, training, and tactics to further their effectiveness in the field. SCSO Detectives recognize their responsibility 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.

Detectives worked with multiple agencies throughout the year to aid in accomplishing our collective mission including the Prosecutor's Office, Coroner's Office, Washington State Patrol, Mount Vernon Police Department, Burlington Police Department, Sedro Wool-

ley Police Department, Anacortes Police Department, Whatcom County Sheriff's Office, Snohomish County Sheriff's Office, Island County Sheriff's Office, Social Security Administration, ATF, and the FBI among other agencies throughout the region and State.

During 2020, staff from all levels of the SCSO Investigations Bureau continued to participate in the independent investigative team known as the Skagit and Island County Multi-Agency Response Team (SMART). Chief Tobin Meyer serves as the assistant commander to SMART. Detective Sergeant Jenny Sheahan-Lee serves as one of three appointed supervisors. Each Sheriff's Office criminal investigations detective are also vetted SMART investigators.

The mission of SMART is to provide independent investigative resources when an officer's use of force re-

### 2020 Criminal Investigation Bureau Accomplishment Highlights

- **Developed Standardized Prison Rape Elimination Act Investigation Protocols**
- **SCSO Detectives assisted in providing homicide investigation training for the Washington Homicide Investigators Association virtual training series.**
- **SCSO Evidence Unit developed a new photo drop system to allow for patrol efficiency improvements**
- **SCSO Procured an updated interview recording system replacing a twelve year old system that was due for replacement.**
- **Hired a new evidence technician to replace the vacant position from a recent retirement.**
- **Internal affairs process updated and further standardized**
- **Selected a new detective to fill a vacancy from a recent retirement.**
- **Conducted multiple major assault and homicide investigations**

sults 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 appointed 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 the team. Recently passed State Initiative 940 has brought additional levels of oversight and independence to these investigations and independent investigation teams. Many hundreds of hours of planning, training, and implementation went into bringing SMART into full compliance with the intent of Initiative 940 and the related WAC 139.12 in 2020. This effort included bringing on a team of six non-law enforcement community representatives to serve as an oversight body to monitor active investigations and related team activities. Additionally,

the team has added updated procedures, training and tools to ensure investigations into officer involved deadly use of force incidents remain independent, credible, and transparent.

SMART conducted one investigation in 2020 for Whatcom County law enforcement agencies involved in a deadly force incident.

| 2020 Criminal Investigation Statistical Highlights |       |        |        |
|--|-------|--------|--------|
|  | Total | Arrest | Closed |
| Death Inv Homicide & Attempted                     | 9     | 3      | 6      |
| Assault - Felony                                   | 4     | 1      | 0      |
| Abuse - Child                                      | 35    | 1      | 34     |
| Abuse - Adult                                      | 9     | 0      | 9      |
| Sex offense  | 83    | 18     | 34     |
| Fraud  | 10    | 0      | 6      |
| Property   | 4     | 3      | 1      |
| Other  | 25    | 5      | 16     |





# 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 personnel from Skagit County law enforcement 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, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Naval Criminal Investigative Services. Several detectives hold collateral duties as Task Force Officers with the FBI, allowing them the to work cases into the federal justice system.

This unit achieves their goals through covert surveillance, undercover buys, and in-depth investigations based on intelligence information gained from the community. They could not be effective without help provided by the community.

2020 was a challenging year for much of the community. The Skagit County Interlocal Drug Enforcement Unit continued its mission and remained focused on

working cooperatively with our partners during the pandemic. Social distancing and safe case handling tactics were applied which allowed us to increase our caseload in 2020 to 138 cases.

Through an ongoing effort with our partner agencies, we’ve aligned the needs of the agencies and the communities we work in with the operational output of the unit. SCIDEU has evolved and proven to be much more than just illicit drug investigations providing assistance in requests for personal and property crimes up to and including homicide investigations, kidnappings, and fugitive apprehensions.

The Task Force is closely aligned with the proactive policing unit of the Sheriff’s Office. This move began in 2019 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 with improved unit efficiency while continuing to accomplish the broader goals and missions of the proactive policing unit and the Drug Task Force.

The Drug Task Force continues to work with local investigators in overdose deaths and addressing controlled substance homicides. Fentanyl, an all-to-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 Homicides.

## 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
- 2,838 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.

## 2020 TASK FORCE STATS

- 2020 Cases Opened – 138
- 52,396 grams of Methamphetamine seized
- 46,333 grams of heroin seized
- 2,901.2 grams of cocaine seized
- 388.3 grams of fentanyl pill seized
- 45,532 dosage units of fentanyl seized
- 372 du of various pills seized
- 1 meth lab dismantled
- 81 Firearms seized
- Cash seized – \$226,122
- Cash forfeited – \$133,148
- Assets seized – \$110,438
- Assets forfeited – \$41,367

# FIELD OPERATIONS BUREAU

CHIEF CHRIS BALDWIN

The Field Operations Bureau is the second largest bureau in the Skagit County Sheriff's Office, and is overseen by Chief Chris Baldwin. In 2020 The Skagit County Sheriff's Office responded to over 18,378 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 Bureau is organized into a squad system and provides 24/7 law enforcement coverage throughout Skagit County. There are four primary patrol squads that provide law enforcement coverage to the central and western geographical areas of Skagit County. Each of these patrol squads has a sergeant and five deputies assigned. The East Precinct comprised of a sergeant and six deputies, provides law enforcement coverage to the eastern geographical area of Skagit County. The Field Operations Bureau features several specialty programs and assignments, to include the Traffic Unit, K9 Team, Skagit Regional Response Tactical Team (SRRT), Marine Patrol, UAV, Search and Rescue, and Animal Control. In addition, the Town of Concrete and Town of La Conner each contract with the Sheriff's Office to provide law enforcement services.

In 2020 the Sheriff's Office was granted two additional deputies to respond to mental health calls for service more effectively. The Sheriff's Office entered an MOU with Compass Health to embed two mental health clinicians with the deputies. The pro-

gram is now known as Integrated **Model of Police And Crisis Teams (IMPACT TEAM)**. The deputies and clinicians ride in the same patrol vehicle and respond to calls for service that have a mental health component to them.

The IMPACT Team will determine the appropriate course of action on each call. The IMPACT Team will provide valuable resources and follow-up to clients that are experiencing a mental health crisis. In the 2021 budget cycle the commissioners approved two additional IMPACT deputies for 2021. The Sheriff's Office also received a Washington Association Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) grant to pay for two additional clinicians for 2021. In 2021 IMPACT will be assigned to the four patrol squads which will vastly improve service and coverage hours.

In 2020 the Sheriff's Office continued the build out of their emergency radio communications infrastructure from the legislative grant and county dollars we received in 2019. The Sheriff's Office has completed 17 of the 19 repeater sites. The last two sites will be completed in spring of 2021. This upgrade has vastly improved radio coverage throughout Skagit County making citizens and first responders safer.



# 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

In addition to four standard police vehicles, the Traffic Unit also has three Harley Davidson Electra Glide Police Motorcycles that are used for traffic enforcement, community events and assisting the United States Secret Service and other Motor Units in the Puget Sound region with escorting dignitaries during their visits.

Specific traffic emphasis patrols during high volume events, such as Tulip Festival, Big Lake Fireworks, Oyster Run, and Holidays, as well as enforcement of campaigns such as “Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over”, Distracted Driving, Click it or Ticket and Motorcycle Safety Enforcement, are additional ways the unit provides traffic safety to our community.

Even though the “Oyster Run” was officially canceled in 2020, the Traffic unit, funded by the Washington State Traffic Safety Commission, spearheaded a “Motorcycle Safety Emphasis” over

the Oyster Run weekend. This included a motorcycle speed emphasis during the day and a DUI emphasis during the night. Agencies from all over Skagit County and the Whatcom County Sheriff motorcycle unit participated. This high visibility emphasis yielded a large amount of motorcycle contacts with no motorcycle collisions or fatalities reported on county roadways during the emphasis.

Working with the community’s help, in October of 2020, the Sheriff’s office received several complaints, through the “Nextdoor” neighborhood online App, of excessive speeding on Bayview Road. Reports were very specific on location and times of day that the vehicles were traveling well in excess of the posted speed limit. Armed with this information, traffic deputies worked a targeted enforcement emphasis and were able to catch and cite vehicles, going up to 60 MPH in a 35 MPH zone.

In 2020 the traffic unit also continued to streamline and improve the partnership with Skagit County Public Works in several areas. The processing and disposing of “junk” RV’s and motorhomes on Skagit County right of ways is one such area. This ongoing project has yielded great results for the citizens of Skagit County. Further collaboration on education, enforcement, and engineering issues, enables the Traffic Unit to continue to assist public works with enforcement during the summer chip seal process on county roads. This is another important step in reducing speeds, therefore keeping people safe while reducing damage to private property and road surfaces.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions in 2020, the Traffic Unit saw a drastic reduction of self-initiated traffic enforcement. This was an intentional effort to reduce deputies’ exposure to the motoring public and reduce the likelihood of coming into contact with COVID infected citizens.

| TRAFFIC STATISTICS                | 2016   | 2017   | 2018  | 2019  | 2020  |
|-----------------------------------|--------|--------|-------|-------|-------|
| Traffic Related Calls for Service | 3,461  | 3,529  | 3,144 | 2,779 | 2,268 |
| Traffic Stops                     | 11,767 | 11,092 | 9,727 | 9,997 | 9,568 |
| Criminal Traffic                  | 834    | 857    | 794   | 878   | 538   |
| Criminal Non-Traffic              | 491    | 451    | 436   | 556   | 413   |
| Traffic Infractions               | 3,849  | 3,095  | 2,548 | 1,943 | 1,156 |
| Collisions Reportable             | 405    | 427    | 359   | 305   | 315   |
| Collisions Non-Reportable         | 496    | 457    | 379   | 398   | 499   |
| DUI                               | 103    | 140    | 125   | 139   | 134   |
| Written Warnings-Traffic          | 5      | 1      | 0     | 0     | 0     |

# LA CONNER DETACHMENT

## SGT JEFF WILLARD

Situated on the delta near the mouth of the Skagit River, along the Swinomish Channel, La Conner was founded in 1867 and is Skagit County's oldest community. The town was first settled by non-natives just after the Civil War, and named after the town founder's wife, Louisa A. Conner. At the turn of the century the population was over 1000 residents. La Conner was briefly the county seat before Mount Vernon

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

Today, La Conner is a thriving tourist destination with a full time population of approximately 950 persons. This popular tourist location hosts many large events such as the Skagit Valley Tulip Festival, Daffodil Festival, Lighted Boat Parade, bicycle, running and kayak events, art festivals, etc. La Conner 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 La Conner Precinct is a division of the Skagit County Sheriff's Office.

Beginning in 2017, the Town of La Conner requested a change to their contract with the Sheriff's Office. The new contract took the Detachment from a Sergeant and two full time deputies assigned to the town and changed it to request the Sheriff's Office provide 80 hours of patrol services within a 10 minute response area of town limits. Law enforcement services to the Town are now provided by the Sheriff's Office general patrol division, providing 24 hour police protection to the community. Day to day administrative needs are covered by the assigned precinct sergeant.

The La Conner 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 La Conner Detachment Sergeant from Chief Tobin Meyer. Sergeant Willard attends the monthly city council meetings, department head meetings and reviews the security checklists for all events in La Conner. Sergeant Willard is the liaison between the Skagit County Sheriff's Office and the city of La Conner.

The La Conner Precinct was involved in several community functions and school activities, including Sound Rowers, The LC Smelt Run, Daffodil Festival, Tulip Festival, July 4th Independence Day, 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 La Conner School District funded a pilot program for a school resource deputy to have a presence in the La Conner schools. Due to the COVID pandemic, this program was temporarily suspended in 2020.

| Calls for service |       |
|-------------------|-------|
| Year              | Calls |
| 2020              | 569   |
| 2019              | 564   |
| 2018              | 594   |
| 2017              | 643   |
| 2016              | 608   |
| 2015              | 760   |
| 2014              | 606   |
| 2013              | 588   |
| 2012              | 641   |
| 2011              | 606   |
| 2010              | 669   |

Looking ahead to 2021 the Skagit County Sheriff's Office is looking forward to continuing to fulfill its contract with the city of La Conner for police services and continuing its relationship with the La Conner School District.

# EAST DETACHMENT

**SGT GREG ADAMS**

The Skagit County Sheriff's Office East Detachment, represents one patrol sergeant and six deputies out of the patrol division. Deputies are tasked will patrol operations in the most rural part of the county, including an area of responsibility totaling nearly 1,250 miles.



Since 2004, The Sheriff's Office has contracted with the town of Concrete for law enforcement services. In addition to Concrete, the East Detachment provides law enforcement services to the towns of Lyman, Hamilton, Concrete, Rockport, Marblemount, Day Creek and all unincorporated areas east of Sedro-Woolley to the North Cascade National Park. Although a rural assignment in contrast to Mount Vernon, historically, the East Detachment has remained as the second busiest area in patrol based on call load.

In 2020, the East Detachment has responded to 4,567 calls for service. This represents just over a 10% increase from 2019. Calls within the town limits of Concrete totaled 550. This represented a slight decrease of about 6%.

The East Detachment office is supervised by Sergeant Greg Adams. Sergeant Adams oversees patrol operations and attends town council meetings. Patrol deputies assigned to the East Detachment are heavily involved in town activities which include, a presence in the schools, business checks, and community events such as Concrete Youth Activity Day. Deputies working out of the East Detachment are cross trained in Search and Rescue as a collateral assignment. Due to the proximity to the National

Park, Skagit County Search and Rescue remains as one of the most capable teams in the state. Over the past year, the Sheriff's Office managed 33 Search and Rescue Incidents.

While many town and East County events were put on pause during the pandemic, the East Detachment was able to accomplish much.

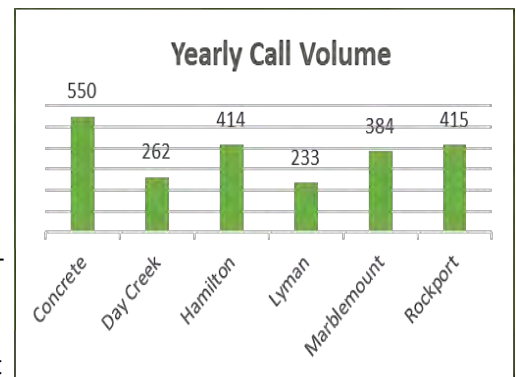
Working in conjunction with the Mount Baker Presbyterian Church, the East Detachment assisted the opening of a cold weather shelter in town. A law enforcement piece, written by Deputy Paul Wolfe has been published as a public service educating community members on topics such as, burglary prevention, mail theft, and civil disputes. This article runs on a monthly basis through the local newspaper. Office hours were established at the East Detachment office. Providing office hours in Concrete removed the burden for some citizens to get services in town typically only available at the Mount Vernon Office.

The East Detachment is always looking for ways to work with East County Partners to decrease crime and offer resources to those in needs. Over the past year, Eastern Skagit County residents have benefitted from the embedded mental health professionals working with the East Detachment Deputies. Other partners of the community include, the Town of Concrete, Concrete Resource Coalition, East County Resource Center, Boys and Girls Club, and the Concrete School District to name a few.

The Education Citation Program, a program that originated out of the East Detachment

continues to this day. The program continues to be a success, being adopted county-wide amongst all municipalities in 2018. This program was recognized nationally in 2020, as Deputy Paul Wolfe of the East Detachment spoke at the National Prevention Conference in Washington DC.

The East Detachment remains as an integral part of the Sheriff's office and strives to offer quality law enforcement contacts to the citizens we serve.



# ANIMAL CONTROL UNIT

## ACO EMILY DIAZ

The Skagit County Sheriff’s Office Animal Control Officer, Emily Diaz, responds to calls for service regarding a wide variety of animal related complaints, throughout the entire county. These include reports of animal cruelty, welfare checks, dangerous dogs, nuisance problems, injured animals, traffic hazards, abandoned animals, barking dogs, illegal kennels, cockfighting, weapon offenses, 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 early Spring ACO Diaz responded to a report of a very skinny injured or sick dog hiding at a farm in Mount Vernon. She located an emaciated German Shepherd hiding in a lean-to. The dog was missing a large amount of hair, its skin was scabbed and pussing. Diaz brought the dog to the vet where it was diagnosed with multiple infections on its skin, eyes, and other areas of her body. This dog was placed into foster care. The owner was located, and the vet history obtained. The dog was diagnosed with various skin issues years earlier. The owner decided not to get medical care as she felt embarrassed. ACO DIAZ charged the owner with Animal Cruelty 2<sup>nd</sup> degree for failing to provide medical attention. The owner plead guilty.

In late winter of 2020 ACO applied for and received a search warrant to remove a horse that was reported to be locked in a dark stall with a severely injured

leg. The horse was examined and diagnosed to have a broken leg. It had suffered for months before it was humanly euthanized by our veterinarian. From this same location ACO Diaz located 13 dogs that were housed in small kennels in standing water. They had no place to lay down, their drinking water was green in color. The owner agreed to let Diaz remove all 13 dogs. All dogs were transported to the Humane Society and placed up for adoption. During the year the Sheriff Office seized 43 dogs, 10 cats, 2 horses, 1 goat, 2 pigs, and 1 sheep.

Another part of the Animal Control job is the responsibility for declaring aggressive dogs as Potentially Dangerous (30) and Dangerous (4). The amount of dogs declared as Potentially Dangerous tripled, and Dangerous Dogs doubled from the year before. Animal Control then follows up to monitor these dogs to ensure the owners are in compliance with the laws.

During the Covid-19 crisis Officer Diaz worked with The Humane Society of Skagit Valley, Skagit Animals In Need, and the Hay Burner Project to provide care for animals who have owners who were unable to care for them due to Covid-19. Animal Control also worked with the same agencies to have food banks available for animal owners who were/are struggling during these times.

With the help of Skagit Animals In Need and Animal Control they created a plan to care for animals directly affected in DV cases to give victims a place to bring their animals if that is what is preventing them from leaving their abusers. This should be put into effect in the next coming months.

| TYPE OF CALL                           | 2014  | 2015  | 2016  | 2017  | 2018  | 2019  | 2020  |
|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Animal Problem-Total Calls for Service | 1,529 | 1,522 | 1,408 | 1,555 | 1,381 | 1,436 | 1,298 |
| Lost or Found Animals                  | 323   | 321   | 286   | 306   | 241   | 250   | 231   |
| Traffic Hazard (Animal Related)        | 279   | 307   | 197   | 310   | 130   | 21    | 74    |
| Animal Cruelty or Neglect Calls        | 180   | 259   | 226   | 195   | 236   | 102   | 209   |

# MARINE PATROL UNIT

## SGT BRIAN MORGAN

The Skagit County Sheriff's Office Marine Patrol unit is currently comprised of 7 deputies and one sergeant. Our boating fleet consists of four vessels including a 33' Safe Boat (saltwater only), 21' Safe boat (lakes and saltwater), and two Koffler riverboats. Boating deputies are primarily responsible for water rescues, education/outreach, and boat safety patrols.

2020 was a busy year for our team. We saw a large increase in folks getting out to enjoy the outdoors following COVID quarantine. Powered vessel and paddle sport equipment sales were up significantly. These factors created a rise in boating problems. Tragically we had two fatalities and one serious injury upon Skagit County waters in 2020. SCSO deputies also responded to numerous other boating accidents and mishaps.

In September, marine deputies were able to successfully rescue a severely hypothermic patient after the boat he was in overturned on the Skagit River.

Boating deputies spent 345 hours on water patrols in 2020, up from 218 hours in 2019. A total of 257



written vessel inspections were completed. A total of 21 citations and warnings were issued.

Our unit sent two deputies to the BMLE (Basic Marine Law Enforcement) course. Unit members received a combined total of 450 hours in marine related training.

SCSO continues working with all of our rescue agency partners to improve response. As an example in 2020 we worked jointly with Conway and Mount Vernon Fire Departments on multiple Skagit River rescues.

Our primary message will continue to be one of boating in a safe and legal manner. Life jackets (PFDs) save lives! We strongly encourage all boaters to wear them. All vessels, including paddleboards, are required to have one PFD per person onboard.



# SEARCH AND RESCUE

## SGT GREG ADAMS

Skagit County Search and Rescue is a volunteer group made up of highly trained members that undergo rigorous training to respond to emergency calls within the county.

The mission of Search and Rescue is to locate, treat, and evacuate, the lost or injured persons outside the capability of conventional rescue services. The bulk of the callout's for Search and Rescue involve injured and lost hikers. Search and Rescue's capabilities stretch much further and include; recovering evidence, flood evacuations, and COVID responders.

Skagit County Search and Rescue consists of nine groups divided between land and water operations. The land operation groups consist of, Ground Search and Rescue (GSAR), Mountain Rescue, K9, 4 Rivers, and Off Road Vehicles (ORV). The Marine operation consists of Skagit Bay, East County, and Skagit Technical Water Rescue. Our communication group is made up of trained radio operators, Ares Races. In total, Skagit County Search and

Rescue is made up of over 117 certified members.

All Search and Rescue members obtain their Washington State Emergency Worker Card allowing them to not only assist in-county but also respond throughout the State of Washington helping counties in need. The Search and Rescue Team works closely with partners including, National Parks, Washington State Parks, US

Coast Guard, and Homeland Security, to name a few.

Skagit County Search and Rescue is managed by Sheriff's Office under the supervision of Sergeant Greg Adams. Currently, Deputy Paul Wolfe oversees land operations and Deputy Brad Holmes oversees the Marine Unit. In addition, all Search and Rescue groups are assigned a deputy liaison who regularly attends meetings with their respective groups. This ensures a close working relationship between the Sheriff's Office and Search and Rescue responders. The Sheriff's Office currently has six deputies assigned to Search and Rescue as a collateral assignment.

Over the past year, much has been accomplished

during this unique time. Although our training hours were drastically scaled back, our mission responses remained consistent.

Search and Rescue responded to 33 missions which represented a 12% decrease from 2019.

During 2020, The Skagit County K9 team certified two dogs for Search and Rescue. BellaRose, an English Shepherd is trained in trailing and human remains detection, (HRD). Daisey Mae, a Beagle is trained in trailing. The K9 team has continued to build off of their momentum and looks forward to being a valuable resource moving forward.

Skagit County Search and Rescue answered the call when help was needed during the pandemic. To date, Search and Rescue members have maintained a regular presence at the COVID-19 testing site. Search and Rescue members did not stop there, they assisted in setting up an information hot-line early during the pandemic and also provided groceries to community members in need.

Since 1966, Skagit County Search and Rescue has been providing an invaluable service to the community. A motto amongst the teams is "We serve, so others may live".

Looking forward, Skagit County Search and Rescue will continue to provide services that make it one of the most capable teams in Washington State. Search and Rescue members along with the Sheriff's Office will look to continue and improve the health and safety of those in need.





# SKAGIT REGIONAL RESPONSE TEAM

## SGT KEVIN SIGMAN

The Skagit Regional Response Team (SRRT) 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 and Sedro-Woolley Police Department. 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 that will enhance the safety of the citizens of Skagit County, de-escalate the situation, and provide for the best outcome for all parties involved in the incident.

SRRT trains every month on special tactics designed to effectively and safely resolve tactically challenging incidents. 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.

In 2020 SRRT responded to 12 calls for service. These calls included the following:

SRRT operators responded to the Mount Vernon area and contacted two stabbing suspects. The suspects were called out from their residence after SRRT arrival and taken into custody without incident.

SRRT was requested by the Washington State De-

partment of Wildlife to assist them in contacting and taking into custody a person in the Sedro Woolley area who was wanted in connection to poaching. The suspect had previously been violent with law enforcement and was considered armed. SRRT made contact with the individual, who was taken into custody without incident.

SRRT responded to the Burlington area to assist with a narcotics search warrant. The subject of the warrant was not responding to requests to exit the residence. SRRT arrived, took containment positions, and deployed specialty equipment, including the Avatar III robot to clear the residence. The suspect gave up and was taken into custody without incident.

SRRT operators were called out to a Violation of a Court Order and Residential Burglary in the Marblemount area. The suspect was contacted by patrol deputies but advised them that he had a gun and a standoff ensued. SRRT operators deployed and requested additional resources, to include other agency support and a K9. Operators utilized chemical munitions which encouraged the suspect to come out of his vehicle and he gave up at that time without incident.

SRRT operators responded to a Violation of a Court Order which included a Burglary, Unlawful Possession of a Firearm, Harassment, and Unlawful Imprisonment. The victim reported that her boyfriend had come to the residence in violation of a court order and was armed with a shotgun. She had to sneak out of the residence to get away. SRRT conducted a search of the residence and located evidence pertaining to the incident, but the suspect was not located at that time.

Bellevue SWAT requested SRRT assistance in serving a homicide for hire search/arrest warrant near Big Lake. SRRT operators responded and utilized UAS assets and the MRAP to surround the residence and the suspect was taken into custody without incident.

SRRT operators work regular patrol shifts and are distributed evenly among the various patrol squads. HRT operators are often called to high risk calls while on normal patrol. Operators often utilize their HRT training, tools, and experience to resolve these calls before the full team responds. SRRT is subject to callout 24 hours a day 7 days a week. SRRT is state certified and is the most trained unit in the Sheriff's Office.

# K-9 UNIT

## SGT STEVE DILLS

The Skagit County Sheriff's Office K-9 unit had a productive year in 2020. Deputy Moses and K9 Espo have deployed over 80 times and have been working very well as a team. They deployed for 30 patrol deployments and 50 narcotics deployments. They have been active in working with our task force units as well as assisting our patrol bureau in apprehending some of Skagit County's most harmful criminals. Deputy Moses also completed training as a Field Training Officer (FTO) and educates our new deputies on K9 deployments and containment. K9 Espo experienced some medical issues this year but we are happy to report that he is back to full duty and we are looking forward to serving the citizens of Skagit County in 2021.



# FIELD TRAINING UNIT

## SGT STEVE DILLS

The Skagit County Sheriff's Office Field Training Unit had a very busy year in 2020. We are in the midst of a busy hiring cycle that we have not seen in some time. I'd like to take a moment to thank the command staff for their support of our unit as we teach and train our newest deputies.

We had several new officers go through our training program this year. The following Deputies completed field training in 2020, Ruben Ayala, Shaun Dalton, Andrew Mueller, Shawnn Vincent, and Karissa Serna. We have Deputies Darian Willis and Erik Kading currently in our training program. Deputies Deeanna Boonstra and Sande Keyes are awaiting academy dates in 2021.

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. We are also continually looking to improve our training program and look to add a two week traffic week at the beginning to get student officers more repetitions in contacting the public while learning the geography of our county.

With the close of 2020, 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 four more student officers in our post academy program for 2021.



# UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLES (UAV)

SGT BEN HAGGLUND

The Skagit County Sheriff's Office began operations in early 2018 with Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV). The SCSO continues to add pilots, fly more missions, and deploy aircraft best suited to our mission and area. SCSO maintains a UAV section primarily for search and rescue incidents, locating missing persons or fleeing suspects, and public demonstrations.

The UAV section added one additional pilot in 2020. 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 eight

licensed pilots, including five deputies, two detectives, and one sergeant. The current staffing allows for nearly 24/7 availability and call out as needed.

In 2020, the UAV section completed 153 flights, an increase over 2019 (126). 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 allied agencies including Washington State Patrol, Mount Vernon PD, Burlington PD, Sedro Woolley PD, and Anacortes PD. SCSO aircraft also flew in support of the Town of Lyman, Search and Rescue, Seattle City Light, and Skagit County Public Works.

The UAV section received a DJI Spark quad copter in early 2020. This aircraft is especially small and allows for interior and tactical operations, but is durable enough to fly outdoors. Its low cost also makes it replaceable and able to be used in Hazmat applications. The unit continues to field one Matrice M210 and one Inspire 1 aircraft



for day and night operations. Both aircraft allow pilots to deliver a payload such as a flotation device in a rescue situation, or cell phone to a stranded hiker. SCSO also maintains two Phantom aircraft for daytime flights which allow for relatively quick launch and longer flight times.

# ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES BUREAU

## CHIEF ANNETTE LINDQUIST

The Administrative Services Bureau is supervised by Chief Annette Lindquist. There are 16 full time positions in the bureau; two Accountants, One Civil Assistant, One Criminal Justice Coordinator, One Registered Sex Offender Coordinator and 11 Support Services Technicians.

COVID 19 posed some challenges for us all. Our division used office closure time to cross train staff to cover for shortages in other areas of expertise. This allowed us to keep operating while covering the shortfalls in staffing levels. We rigged our portable fingerprint machine to use through a pass through window at the front counter safely allowing us to continue with concealed weapon permits and fingerprinting when most agencies were not due to the COVID restrictions.

In 2020, we issued 1664 concealed weapon permits and 3325 pistol transfers. Beginning in July 2019 full background checks are mandated on all pistol transfers. This doubled the amount of time required to process those requests. Pistol transfers increased by just shy of 1300 applications above 2019 numbers.

Statistics from our Traffic Records Unit show there were 9568 traffic stops made in 2020 with 2268 traffic related calls for service. They processed 1156 infractions, 413 non-criminal citations and 538 criminal traffic citations. There were 134 DUIs with 54 requiring a blood draw.

Our Warrant Entry unit entered 6,339 warrants and 3632 court orders with a total number of entries

and queries of 14,979. The electronic warrants process has expedited the retrieval and service of papers. The warrant entry unit is also responsible for entering all stolen guns, property and provide criminal history reports to detectives and patrol deputies.

2729 reports, referrals and supplemental reports were prepared and sent to the Skagit County Prosecutors Office.

There were 1816 public records requests processed for dissemination. The data entry unit processed 14,877 case reports and supplemental reports. Without reports we cannot process disclosure requests or send the required charging paperwork to the courts.

The Registered Sex Offender Coordinator com-

pletes 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 office in-



cluding 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 2020 the Civil Assistant processed 74 total writs to include restitutions. Additionally they processed 560 protection orders, subpoenas and other miscellaneous papers. Very few evictions were completed this year due to the COVID restrictions.

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 January of 2020 we started our East County

records day at the Concrete Detachment. We provided on site fingerprinting, concealed weapons permit application and a wide range of records services. We were able to schedule a day a month for both January and February before pausing due to COVID restrictions. We are anxiously awaiting



the day when we can re-start this service.

In 2020 we partnered with the US Navy hosting an intern through the SKILLBRIDGE program. The program gives an outgoing serviceman an opportunity to work in the civilian sector gaining new skills and experience for

the last 6 months of their deployment. Chief Lindquist manages our On the Job Training program for veterans coordinating with the VA and the State Approving Agency



for Veterans' Education and Training Washington Student Achievement Council.

Chief Lindquist manages the hiring for the Sheriff's Office. After successful completion of the civil service testing process certified candidate names are given to the Chief. Candidates move through the process completing additional interviews, fingerprinting, polygraph and psychological tests. If successful they move on to a background investigation phase and finally a medical exam prior to an offer of employment. In 2020 eighteen candidates were hired. One evidence tech, two records techs, 6

# COMMUNITY JUSTICE CENTER

CHIEF DON MARLOW

The Skagit County Community justice Center is charged with the holding of pretrial and post-conviction inmates. During their incarceration, we provide an educational environment for those willing to undergo the challenge of behavioral change. Because of the COVID pandemic, we had to vastly reduce entry into our facility by outside sources. This created a shutdown of classroom settings and suspension of educational programming. While we were still engaged with helping inmates connect with outside services, the programs were not as robust as planned for 2020. With the help of Hillcrest



Church and 4 Imprint, we received 100 backpacks for distribution for our less fortunate inmates upon release. These backpacks

contained personal hygiene items, energy bars, sock, and face masks along with a bottle of water.

One of our new ventures was the securing of a \$1million Bureau of Justice Grant for the reduction of recidivism. This was acquired by our Public Health Nurse, Amie Tidrington. As the ground work was being done for implementation, the COVID pandemic interrupted this process and it was put on hold. It's implementation will be delayed approximately 1 year.

In order to reduce the risk of COVID entry into the jail, quarantine pods were developed for all inmates entering the facility. This is a 14 day process prior to them being placed into general population. Arrestees were screened by our medical staff in the arresting officer's vehicles prior to being accepted into the facility. Protocols were placed so that if the arrestee was COVID symptomatic, they would enter the facility through medical access and be placed into quarantine in the medical rooms. We also implemented a robust protocol for sanitizing pods and rooms. Employee testing protocols were instituted to mitigate the introduction of COVID to our facility. Working with the courts and prosecutors office we were able to reduce our population so we could best manage our inmates,

keeping our facility a safe environment. Our population average for **2019 was 259**. For 2020, our population was reduced to an average of **165** inmates incarcerated in the facility. Our population high was February 5<sup>th</sup> @215 and low was May 5<sup>th</sup> @109 inmates housed. As reflected in the 2019 annual report, 2020 was to be our year to supply sound operating numbers to plan the future, with and as we now know, the COVID pandemic has further delayed the foundational statistics. Other ways this pandemic effected daily operations are; the suspension of trials, temporary suspension of the Corrections Academy, inter-local inmate shuttle suspension, suspension of Domestic Violence Impact Panel that was hosted in our court room, limited bookings to name a few. There were no infectious COVID inmate exposed to the general population and only 1 employee who tested positive for COVID. This shows that our in place protocols were proper in not allowing the spread of the disease in our facility.

We started 2020 with 52 of our allotted 58 deputies. It immediately became apparent that due to the re-



duction of population and services that we could operate effectively with less staff. Although we hired 9 deputies, we also lost 8 deputies, 2 of which left for patrol out of state, 1 to SCSO patrol, 1 for Community Court, 1 to be-

come a stay at home mom. 3 others were terminated due to performance. We finished the year with 53 deputies. Recognizing the need for an Operational Lieutenant to help in the efficiency of daily operations, the position was added at minimal cost as the sergeant rank was reduced by 2. By doing so, we were also able to add 1 more deputy position.

One of our main goals coming into 2020 was the reduction of overtime. In 2019, we used 23,677 total hours of overtime. Through schedule analysis and staffing needs, and recognizing the impact of COVID, we were able to reduce our overtime hours to 6067. This is the lowest amount of overtime utilized in at least the past 5 years. The next closest year was 2016 at 11,056 hours.



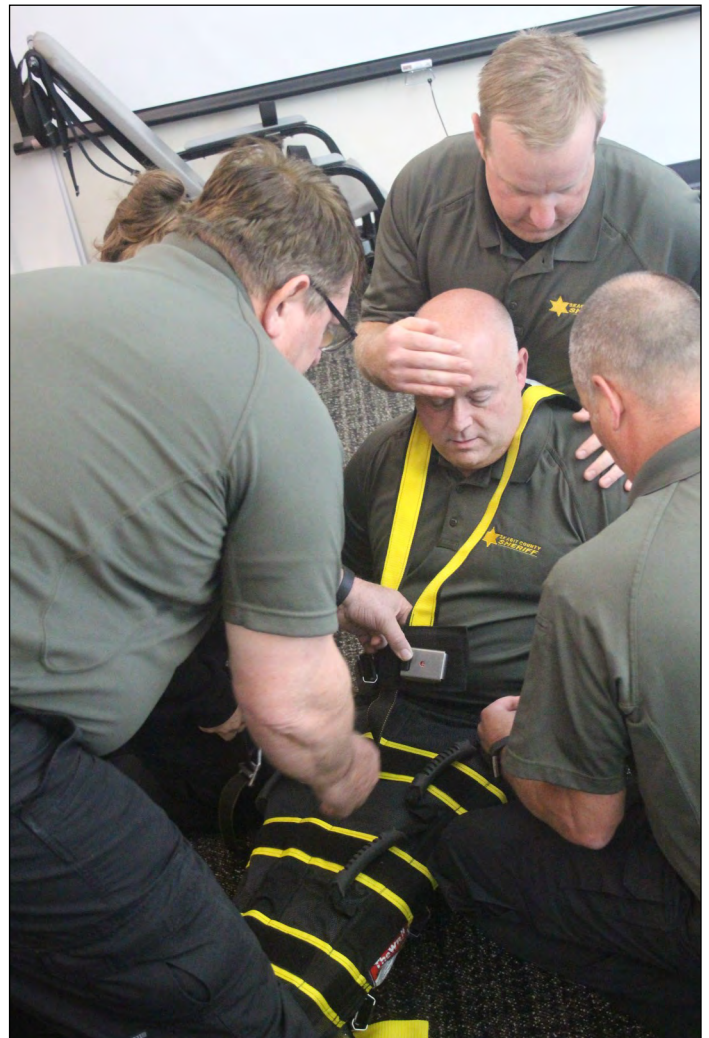
**Training**—Another first for us, and the State of Washington Criminal Justice Training Academy, was the use of the “virtual academy”. The academy facility, which was closed due to COVID, also recognized the need to keep training new recruits and presented a virtual classroom so the recruits could attend via video and obtain the necessary training to become Corrections Deputies. This took place in our classroom area for our recruits after which, they went to the academy for testing purposes. This process evolved over the year to address challenges and to provide the best training possible. We had 10 recruits trained in this fashion. The training sergeant oversees the training program for the corrections division. The Corrections Bureau has nearly 70 members. Nearly all members received mandated training in use of force, harassment, Emergency Response Plan, Electronic Control Device (Taser), First Aid/CPR, restraint systems, and firearms, HIPPA, N95 mask fitting, suicide prevention, monthly policy reviews, and communicable diseases. These mandated trainings ranged from a full 8hr class, to a brief refresher.

Specialty training for the Corrections Bureau included courtroom security, defensive tactics, and chemical agents. Taser instructor, First Line Supervision, and

Instructor development for some members.

To help our employees advance while expanding their knowledge, and to enhance relationships with our fellow agencies, 7 of our employees were participants on assessment promotional boards for other correctional agencies.

To better track and create consistency amongst our field training deputies, Agency 360, a Field Training software was put to use. This software allows all records to be digitalized and viewable for all trainers and administration to view. It ensure that our training is well documented and consistent. Another software that was implemented and installed was the Spartan Inmate Tracking program. This software allows up-to-date inmate tracking and allows for detailed observations of inmates during checks. Another advantage of the software is that the inmate wristbands



can be scanned to ensure the correct inmate is receiving accurate medications, special meals and is appropriately released. Both of these software packages reduce our facility liability and enhance documentation.

The SCCJC is funded by sales tax revenue inputted by both Skagit County and partnering Skagit County cities. The prior funding model was based on usage. In prior years,

billing was assigned to a billing deputy and they were able to process the monthly bills which is a complicated process. Because of future budget impacts, the billing still needed to be processed as a forecasting tool for the cities.



This fell several months behind and the data was not current. To help eliminate this issue, personnel was reassigned to address monthly billing to ensure its accuracy and timeliness. This process has been successful and has made billing accurate and up to date.

Recognizing the need to take some of our local most

harmful offenders off the streets, we coordinated a contract with the Department of Corrections. This contract is unique as it addresses the need for these people to be held accountable for their DOC violations, however, it allows for them to be expeditiously removed from our jail after a very short stay and placed in a DOC facility. This holds the offender accountable with the least amount of impact upon our facility, thus making Skagit County a safer community.

Our fleet was aging and was well beyond its useful service years. In 2020, we replaced our Crown Victoria fleet with newer SUV's. These SUV's are patrol vehicles that were replaced and allows the Corrections Bureau more reliable and updated vehicles for our use.

**Medical**—Our medical department is contracted to medical provider NaphCare. For 2020, they provided the following services: 4633 medical screenings for new inmates, 2873 annual physicals, 1226 Mental Health visits and 1965 nurse visits. 3201 inmates were prescribed 19,636 medications and 199 inmates were placed on suicide watch.

As a requirement of their contract, NaphCare, our inmate medical provider, completed the National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCHC) accreditation process of our medical department. This process re-

quires our medical department to perform at nationally recognized and accepted standards for correctional health. This reduces our liability and ensures our inmate population is properly cared for. The SCCJC attained accreditation on the first try with a few small adjustments that had to be made. This is a very rare accomplishment.

While looking forward to the 2021 budget, one goal was to purchase a body scanner to eliminate the introduction of contraband into the facility. Because the body scanner helps to greatly reduce hands on body searches preventing the spread of COVID and other diseases, this equipment was able to be purchased with federal COVID funds and saved Skagit County approximately \$185,000. The time line was very aggressive as it had to be purchased and in use in a very short window. In collaboration with County Administration, our Information Services department and vendor, we were able to purchase, install, train staff and go online within a 3 month window. This also allowed us to implement this 1 year ahead of an anticipated schedule.

In 2020, we were able to add all 3 phases of the MAT program. The Mat (Medically Assisted Treatment) identifies those with illegal drug related problems, engages them in a treatment program and connects them with outside services upon release.

**Transport Team**—Our Transport has the responsibility of bring inmates to both Superior and District Court hearings and trials. They also bear responsibility for transport outside of the facility. These include medical appointments and transports from other facilities.

### SCCJC COURT TOTALS

**1/1/20-12/24/20**

Municipal Court Total= 569  
 Superior Court Total= 2082  
 Misd. Rights Total= 1541  
 Felony Rights Total= 1075  
 District Court Total= 387  
**TOTAL= 5664**

This is the total number of inmates we have taken to court for the courts that are held at the Jail. This means we moved 5664 people through the video court area just for court.

### SCCJC PROFESSIONAL VISIT TOTALS

**1/1/20-12/24/20**

Jan- 567                      July- 262  
 Feb- 432                     Aug- 278  
 Mar- 499                    Sept- 18  
 Apr- 200                    Oct- 335  
 May- 229                    Nov- 290  
 June- 296                   Dec- 258  
**TOTAL= 3964**

This does NOT include any professional visits in the booking/intake or classroom area. This means we moved 3964 people through the video court area just for professional visits.

\*\*adding the court totals/ professional visit totals, we have moved over 9,500 people through the video court area with a total assigned staff of 5 transport personal (4 deputies, 1 Sgt)





### JAIL ALTERNATIVES

The varied duties of the personnel in the Alternatives Section include Inmate Work and Treatment Programs, Courthouse Security, Trial Security Planning, Therapeutic Court Liaison, Criminal Records and Fugitive Extradition. The Alternatives Section encompasses numerous diverse programs, including inmates that are employed and continue to work during their sentence, those who do community service, jail internal operations work and even substance treatment. Authorized staffing for this section in 2020 consisted of 1 Sergeant, 1 Court Deputy, 3 Alternatives Deputies and 1 Criminal Justice Coordinator.

2020 was a year of changes and challenges for the Alternatives Section, for reasons ranging from employee changes and retirements, redistribution of workload due to physical location needs and driven by COVID-19 considerations in the court system and the jail. The Alternatives Section has also been tasked with 2 additional projects: Spillman quality control (jail booking database) and the ongoing effort to enhance the Criminal History system. During 2020, the backlog of Spillman quality control was cleared up and the ongoing effort is to ensure that a backlog does not develop again. The Criminal History enhancement project involves research and coordination with several local and state agencies. SCSO applied for a grant from WSP to assist with staff hours in this project and we were awarded approximately \$50,000 for 2021 toward the project.

The Alternatives staff deals with defendants 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. Due to COVID-19, the Skagit County court system was largely inactive for several months, so few commitments were issued between March and November. *Alternatives staff processed 1110 court commitments, conducted 740 interviews and 314 bookings.*

The Alternatives staff also maintains the turn-in schedule of those defendants who must serve straight jail time and is responsible for court notification if the defendant fails to report for their sentence. Due to COVID-19, a significant number of inmates were released from jail to finish serving their sentences at a safer time. The Alternatives Section is responsible for tracking these individuals and setting up their return to

### TRANSPORTS TO SUPERIOR COURT

1/1/20 – 12/24/20

|         |         |
|---------|---------|
| Jan-31  | July- 0 |
| Feb-13  | Aug- 4  |
| Mar- 5  | Sept-5  |
| Apr- 0  | Oct- 3  |
| May- 0  | Nov-0   |
| June- 0 | Dec 2   |

This is the total number of inmates we have taken down the street to superior court. This encompasses all variations of transports, trial, dependency, criminal, child support etc.

**TOTAL= 63**

\*\* Once COVID-19 restrictions started in mid-March, how we held court drastically changed. Video court was utilized much more often and more court was done live in the SCCJC courtroom to reduce movement outside the facility. These changes added 1.5 more “days” of Superior Court being held @ SCCJC.

### OUT OF FACILITY TRANSPORTS

1/1/20 – 12/31/20

|                    |
|--------------------|
| Medical- 28        |
| Other Facility- 29 |

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

\*\* Once COVID-19 restrictions started in mid-March, out of facility medical appoints were drastically restricted. Telemedicine appointments were used when possible.



custody. As of Dec 31, 2020, 108 inmates are being tracked while they wait for their incarceration to begin or resume. *84 referrals were submitted for failure to comply with Superior Court orders or commits, 62 failure to comply cases were resolved, resulting in defendants spending an additional 43 jail days more than their original sentences.*

**Electronic Home Monitoring (EHM)**—Inmates live at a private residence and wear an electronic anklet that records when they leave and return to the premises. These inmates are allowed to go to their job, treatment appointments, self-help meetings (AA, NA, etc.) and some other limited destinations. All instances of leaving the premises must be approved by Alternatives Staff. These inmates pay a daily fee to participate in this program. We also utilize the Transdermal Alcohol Detection (TAD) program, which is a continuous alcohol detection system in conjunction with the EHM system, sampling alcohol intake from the perspiration of the offender. *130 defendants participated on EHM, serving 4352 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 Community Justice Center. 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. *6 defendants were authorized to participate in other agency programs.*

**One Day Offender Program**—(Due to COVID-19 considerations, only 2 sessions of the ODO were held, with limited space available to maintain standards.)

Minimum security inmates spend their required hours in custody at a location other than the jail. During 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, \$3900 was collected. *94 defendants participated in the ODO, serving 115 jail days and completing 752 hours of work at the Skagit County fairgrounds.*

**Work Release** —(Due to COVID-19 considerations, Work Release was suspended on March 12, 2020- there is no projected restart date at this time)

Inmates live in the jail and are released daily to continue to work at their job in the community. These inmates pay a daily fee to participate in the program and help offset the cost of incarceration. *12 male and 3 female inmates participated, serving 539 days. In 2020, 245 defendants/inmates served a total of 5,006*

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

**Out of Custody Worker Alternatives (not housed in the jail):** (Due to COVID-19 considerations, the Litter Crew was suspended on March 12 and resumed limited operations on June 1)

**Litter Crew** – Joint program with Skagit County Public Works, Sheriff, Health Department, Washington



State Department of Corrections, Washington Department of Ecology. Also provides workers to other governmental agencies, including Cities of Mt Vernon and Sedro Woolley; Town of Lyman; Skagit County Departments (Facilities, Sheriff's Office, Law Library, Prosecutor's Office, Parks, Records) *54 defendants participated on the Litter Crew, serving 5296 hours, 2 defendants worked for other agencies, completing 352 hours.*

**2020 Skagit county Litter Crew**

**5296 hours of community service**

**303.5 miles of county right of way serviced**

**164 illegal dump sites responded to**

**52,480 pounds of trash collected**

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

Inmate Workers – Kitchen, laundry and cleanup workers for interior jail operations. *Inmates participating in trustee duties served 52,000 hours.*

**In 2020, defendants/inmates worked 57,648 hours on Jail Worker Programs.**

**In 2019, defendants/inmates worked 75,441 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. Due to COVID-19 considerations, there were very few trials. A COVID compliant superior court-

room was established, however, was only used for 2 trials. Due to the location of this room, increased security personnel were required at various times during the year.

**Courthouse Security**—Security for the courthouse complex is provided in two ways; visitor screening by contract security personnel and uniformed deputies patrolling the complex. Pacific Security Agency provides personnel who run security checkpoints. There are 4 checkpoints, one each in the Superior Courthouse, Courtroom #5 (Administration Building), the Public Safety Building and the SCCJC. The PSA personnel also provide security checkpoint control for after-hours activities in the courthouse complex and SCCJC, including Domestic Violence Victim Impact Panels and Small Claims Court.

The Court Deputy patrols 3 buildings, maintaining a uniformed presence in the corridors, outside premises and the 7 courtrooms. The Deputy’s primary responsibility is maintaining security and order within the courtrooms. The Deputy also assists with security of inmates being transported to hearings, fingerprint defendants upon conviction, perform DNA sample collections and arrest defendants with outstanding warrants or when ordered by a Judge. The Court Deputy is responsible for preparing and disseminating the weekly Superior Court criminal in-custody calendar. This includes coordinating the transport to court of juveniles charged in adult court but held in Juvenile Detention. *The Court Deputy made 31 arrests, fingerprinted 62 defendants and conducted 44 DNA sample collections. 64 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. *83,022 visitors entered through the security checkpoints and 6 after-hours events requiring security were held. 171 prohibited items were abandoned at the checkpoints.*

**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. *11 in-custody clients were transported to Drug Court and 10 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. *10 out of state fugitive extraditions were arranged.*

| 2020 Fund               | Amount           |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| Application Fees        | \$3,880          |
| CSW Day Fees            | \$745            |
| UA Fees                 | \$2,270          |
| Hook Up Fees            | \$3,109          |
| Address change Fees     | \$0              |
| WR Duffle Bags          | \$165            |
| WR Hygiene Pak          | \$94             |
| WR Fee                  | \$5,934          |
| EHM Fee                 | \$79,583         |
| EHM OC Fee              | \$8,907          |
| ODO Fee                 | \$3,900          |
| <b>Total Collected</b>  | <b>\$108,587</b> |
| WASPC Pd EHM            | \$46,788         |
| UA Tests                | \$820            |
| WR Duffle Bags          | \$15             |
| WR Hygiene Pak          | \$0              |
| ODO Rental              | \$600            |
| <b>Total Equip Cost</b> | <b>\$48,223</b>  |
| <b>Total</b>            | <b>\$60,364</b>  |

- Alternatives Section 2021 Goals**
1. Restart Work Release program
  2. Continue Spillman quality control
  3. Successfully manage the WSP CHIR project – meeting award requirements
  4. Clear up backlog of commitments and defendants waiting to start jail or Alternatives
  5. Continued expansion of the One Day Offender Program
  6. Continued expansion of the Transdermal Alcohol Detection program for sentenced inmates & pre-trial defendants
  7. Continued transfer of filing and records to electronic format, with an emphasis on logs

# SCHOLARSHIPS & RECOGNITION

## 2020 SKAGIT COUNTY SHERIFF'S SCHOLARSHIPS

The **Anne Jackson Memorial Scholarship** is awarded to a High School senior whose parent or grandparent is or was employed by a law enforcement agency in Skagit County.

The 2020 award goes to **Camden Dowhaniuk**. He is the son of Jeff Dowhaniuk and Julie DeYoung. Camden will graduate from Sedro-Woolley high school this June and plans on attending the University of Washington to study computer science in the fall.

The **Erick Valenzuela Memorial Scholarship** is awarded to an outstanding Skagit County High School senior. The 2020 award goes to **Megan Perez**. She is the daughter of William and Bridget Perez. She plans on attending either the University of Washington or the University of California Berkeley to study Spanish and Political Science this fall.

## ROBERT GATES SCHOLARSHIPS

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

Michael Baldwin, Junior, Spokane Falls College

Theresa and Chris Baldwin

Mitchell Baldwin, Vocational School

Theresa and Chris Baldwin

Grant Craig – Senior, Washington State University

Kevin and Lori Sigman

Garrett Craig- Freshman, Washington State University

Kevin and Lori Sigman

Jonathan Sigman- Sophomore, Skagit Valley College

Kevin and Lori Sigman

Kailey Willard- Junior, Eastern WA University

Jeff and Sara Willard

Elsie Lee- Freshman, Skagit Valley College

Jennifer Shehan-Lee and Jeff Lee

## 2020 MILESTONE ANNIVERSARIES

### 30 YEARS

Greg Adams

Kay Walker

### 25 YEARS

Juanita O'Neil

Polly Storie

### 20 YEARS

Michael Warner

John Hendrickson

### 15 YEARS

Emily Diaz

Craig Caulk

Frank Liekhus

Jaime Freeburn

### 5 YEARS

Paul Pacini

Nick Vanholsbeck

Jesse Koback

Joshua Case

Guillermo Garcia

Christopher Loveless

Mark Rinas

Richard Scott

Brian Bonner

Nicholas Johnson

### OFFICE NEW HIRES

Stone, Nanci

Dean, Tami

Walker, Kay

### PATROL NEW HIRES

Erik Kading

Serna, Karissa

Vincent, Shawn

Boonstra, DeeAnna

Keyes, Sande

Willis, Darian

### CORRECTIONS NEW HIRES

Weeks, Nathan

McLoughlin, Treyson

Michels, Jared

Sager, Kevin

Rothwall, Nicholas

Martinez, Julio

Kruse, David

Schork, Katherine

### RETIREMENT AFTER 30 YEARS OF SERVICE

Kay Walker

Dan Luvera

### RETIREMENT AFTER 20 YEARS OF SERVICE

Jim Shuler

Mike Warner

# EMPLOYEE AWARDS & RECOGNITION

## 2020 SHERIFF'S OFFICE AWARDS

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

**PATROL:**

*Deputy Josh Murdock*

*Deputy Ken Devero*

*Sgt. Brian Morgan*

*Deputy Emily Passavoy— 2 awards*

**CORRECTIONS:**

*Deputy Nicholas Rothwall*

*Deputy David Kruse*

*Both of these Deputies had only been on the job for 4 months at the time of the incident.*



**CORRECTIONS DEPUTY OF THE YEAR**  
*Deputy Mike Warner*

**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.

*Christine Nidd SAR and Care Trak Volunteer*

**DEPUTY ALAN HULTGREN MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD:** Awarded to a Sheriff's office employee who demonstrates outstanding performance of duty over an extended period of time.

*Sex Offender Coordinator Laurie Jarolimek*

**HONORARY DEPUTY AWARD:** Made a significant contribution to Sheriff's Office efficiency or effectiveness as demonstrated by a technical innovation or by a method resulting in significant cost savings

*Mary McDermott*

*Skagit County Information Services Tabitha Leer*

*Skagit County Risk Management Sharon Dubois*

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

*Records Technician Jamie Bredstrand*

*Deputy Emily Passovoy*

*Deputy David Anderson*

*Lieutenant Deanna Randall-Secret*

# 2020 WA LAW ENFORCEMENT MEMORIALS

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

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

## Recognition of the loss of Law Enforcement Officers throughout the State of Washington in 2020:

### Christensen, Officer David

12/29/2020

Department of Corrections  
Grays Harbor County



### Melvin, Deputy Jon

12/11/2020

Grant County S.O.  
Grant County



### Cortez, Officer Charlie

11/17/2020

Tulalip Tribal P.D.  
Snohomish County



### Oaks, Officer Dan

08/01/2020

Yakima Department of  
Corrections  
Yakima County



### Shoop, Officer Jonathan

07/13/2020

Bothell P.D.  
King County, Snohomish  
County



### Morse, Correctional Officer Berisford

05/17/2020

Department of Corrections



### Enget, Officer Kurt

04/10/2020

Bainbridge Island P.D.  
Kitsap County



### Schaffer, Trooper Justin R.

03/24/2020

Washington State Patrol  
Lewis County



# COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

## SKAGIT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION

2020, the Pandemic year, made it a challenge for the SCSOBA to get as involved with the public as we normally are. Community events, like our Halloween Party for law enforcement families, had to be cancelled. We continued to carry on behind the scenes as best we could, and are hoping to resume more activities in the coming year. We currently have 97 members who's monthly contributions help make it possible for us to continue to support our employees, their families, and the community at large.



Causes we did manage to support included:

\$3,000 has been donated to law enforcement throughout the year who have incurred exceptional challenges of various types.

\$1,500.00 for the Big Lake Fire Department Auxiliary for the Big Lake Fire station dedication to Robert Gates for his continued community support

\$300.00 for food for the East Community Dinner, which we helped serve as well

\$200.00 Youthnet for Foster child programs

\$250.00 Helping Hands Food bank

\$250.00 East County Community Action for Leadership Skagit Project

We are starting our recruitment early. Sheriff's office onesie's were made and presented to our newest family members.



# SHENANIGANS

