



# Stars and Bars



**Sheriff Steve Pott**

A Quarterly Publication of the Washington County Sheriff's Office

**Winter 2006**

## **Message from the Sheriff**

**By Sheriff Steve Pott**

The last few months have been a very busy time at the Sheriff's Office. We were able to reinstate several of the positions that were eliminated a few years ago when we experienced budget cuts. We also added three new deputy positions in 2006 when we were awarded a COPS Grant for the Oakland Junior High School Resource Deputy, added a full time transport deputy, and returned to the Metro Gang Strike Force. Add in a few retirements and transfers, and we will have hired about 20 new employees since December 1, 2005.

With the exception of the construction of the Law Enforcement Center in the early 1990's, we have three of the biggest construction projects that have occurred during my career, underway also. These projects are taking a significant amount of time for the Command Staff, as well as others directly involved in the projects.

The final report for the implementation of the 800 MHz Radio system for Washington County has been completed. The final price tag will be about \$16 million to convert all public safety and public service radios to the new system. Our patience and persistence has paid off. The system will now serve our needs very well, and we were still able to secure about \$3.7 million in grant money to help with the cost of the system. The completion date of this project will be decided very soon, but the latest completion date will be in conjunction with the opening of the new Communications Center.

Another large project underway is the Mobile Data System project. We have teamed up with Hennepin County and Chisago County, and the three of us will be the first users of the Metro Wide Data System. This system will be the first of its kind in the country and will use the newly available 700 MHz radio frequencies. The equipment in the squad cars will be replaced with laptop computers, and the end result will be a great deal of automation in the cars, compared to our current system. We may even see the return of automated citations.

The last of the big projects, and potentially the most disruptive to those of us primarily working at the LEC, is the 2025 Campus Improvement Project. Three additional floors will be added to the LEC. The floor directly above the existing building will house an in custody arraignment courtroom and a 10,000 square foot Communications Center. Although the driving force behind this project is to expand the area available for the Courts, many aspects of this project directly involve the Sheriff's Office. We provide security for the courts area, and therefore have been and will continue to be directly involved in the design of the new facility.

Along with the large construction projects, we continue to deal with day to day issues as well as other initiatives. Some of those efforts include active shooter response training for deputies, IT strategic planning, communications strategic planning, business continuity planning, emergency preparedness training and planning, CrimNet implementation and planning, and the list goes on.

I appreciate everyone's extra efforts whether you are training new staff, needing to work overtime to fill gaps until staff are trained, working on one of the special projects, or just working hard every day to provide the high quality service that the Washington County Sheriff's Office is known for.

# WCSO History Corner

By Sgt. Pat Olson

As some of you know I am attempting to obtain as much history as possible regarding the Washington County Sheriff's Office, and in the last edition of the Stars and Bars I requested photos and patches. I would like to thank all that sent and dropped off items of interest. I am still in need of any photos that you would like to share, and any memorabilia that you would like to share with the officers of the Sheriff's Office. It is my hope that one day we will be able to proudly display items that represent what our organization is all about. I have attached a 1971 department photo that was donated by both retired Capt. Dick Becker and retired Sgt Tim Adams. I hope that those of you that have never seen this photo enjoy and for those that have, and are in the photo, I hope this brings back some great memories. If you would like to share any stories, photos, items etc. they can be sent to the Sheriff's Office in care of me, or I can be reached at 651-430-7858 or at e-mail address [Patrick.Olson@co.washington.mn.us](mailto:Patrick.Olson@co.washington.mn.us). I would also like to add that all items will remain with the Sheriff's Office for possible future display so please indicate any history attached to these items and who donated them.



Officers in the photo are: **L to R front row:** Duane Spoons, Robert Murphy, Raymond Law, Sheriff Ed Westphal, Robert Bell, Robert McPherson, Charles Pfingsten: **Second row:** Fred Thompson, William Knowles, Sue Stoll, Edna Peterson, Sandra Beberg, Al Ponath, Hartland Burnett, James Junker: **Back row:** Thomas Greene, Robert Hark, Richard Orth, Richard Becker, Raymond Peterson, Hulin Risenhoover, Jack Nelson, Allan Palmer, William Peltier, Timothy Holt. Absent are: Ted Preisler, Bud Evert, Hank Joice.

# Recognition Reception – Swearing-In Ceremony

By Commander John Haugen

On November 30, 2005, a reception was held in the County Board Room to honor those staff who had received recognition in 2005, to welcome new employees of the Sheriff's Office who began employment in 2005 and also to present additional awards. Sheriff Pott welcomed those in attendance and then proceeded to acknowledge those who had previously received recognition in 2005.

A number of new recognition awards were presented by Sheriff Pott and then the new staff were recognized. Following that, there was then a mass swearing-in of Sheriff's Office licensed staff by Sheriff Pott and The Honorable Gary R. Schurrer.

After closing remarks in which Sheriff Pott voiced his desire to hold receptions such as this twice each year, he thanked everyone for coming. Refreshments were then served.

## Those Previously Receiving Recognition in 2005

**Letter of Excellence:** Deputy Troy Ackerknecht, Deputy Chris Halder – Two Letters, COII Rebecca Kisch, Deputy Donovan Bump, Deputy (Sgt.) Marvin Stutz, Deputy Lee Bloomquist, Deputy Keith Land, Deputy Stephane Courtois, Sergeant Brent Olson, Office Specialist Amy Larsen, Bailiff Dave Hofstad, Office Support II Betty Lokker, Bailiff Tom Kopel, Dispatcher Thela Fitzgerald, Deputy (Sgt.) Dan Starry and K9 Smokey

**Meritorious Service Award:** Sergeant John Israel.

**Life Saving Award:** Sergeant Brad Marquardt, Deputy Lee Bloomquist and COII James Johnson.

**Minnesota Department of Natural Resources “2005 Water Patrol Officer of the Year Award”:** Sergeant Jerry Cusick.

## Those Receiving Recognition on November 30, 2005

**Meritorious Service Award:** Sergeant Troy Jorgenson and Deputy Kirby Livingston and K-9 Jax.

**Letter of Excellence:** Deputy Michelle Folendorf.

**Life Saving Award:** COII Julie Lane.

### Unit Citation Award:

The Washington County Narcotics Unit and others involved in Mark Nord murder investigation including: Washington County Sheriff's Office Commander Scott Malinosky, Sergeant Pat Olson, Deputy Keith Anderson, Deputy Rick Gruber, Office Specialist Kristine Crosby and Office Support II Jeanine Nelsen, Cottage Grove Police Department Officer Jim Neuenfeldt, Woodbury Police Department Officer Chris Ployhart, Oakdale Police Department Sergeant Rolf Hagland and Officer Roy Gilman, Polk County Sheriff's Department Sergeant Dave Lindholm, Sergeant Steve Smith, Detective Ray Joy and Detective Rob Rorvick.

### New Employees in 2005:

Dispatcher Cassie Castro, Dispatcher Toni Rossi, Dispatcher Matt Johnson, Office Support Julie Leucken, Office Support Sally Couchene, COII Brian Campbell, COII Stanley Brank, COII Julie Lane, COII Timothy Carson, COII Mary Castaneda, COII Kevin Davy, COII Brandon Olson, COII Tony Przybyla, COII Bradley Asplund, Deputy Paul Stenglein, Deputy Stacey Webb – Transferred from Jail Division, Deputy Joe Stoehr, Deputy Erin Thuente, Deputy Troy Lake, Deputy Justin Kaeding, Deputy Chris Majeski, Deputy Ty Jacobson, and Deputy Pete Godfrey.

# Patrol Division

By Cmdr. Tim Tuthill

The Patrol Division has been actively involved in traffic safety initiatives over the past months, including speed interdiction, drug interdiction, seat belt enforcement, and impaired driving, to mention a few.

There have been few pattern type crimes which have persisted recently, but identity fraud and identity theft have continued to plague the metro area, just as it has nationally.

A few things you can do to reduce your chances in becoming victimized include mailing items via a secure mailbox or post office box. When receiving mail, you can minimize your receipt of vulnerable documents in the mail by moving toward electronic payments and statements. Unsolicited mailings are still problematic, but some companies will stop mailings to your home if specifically requested.

The mailbox is not the only vulnerable source of information. Theft from vehicle is another common point source of identity theft and fraud. Avoid leaving any valuables unattended, particularly in your passenger area of your motor vehicle. If you have the need to secure items, lock them inside your trunk before arriving at your destination.

You can make a difference by securing valuables, limiting accessibility to sensitive documents, and reporting suspicious activities and persons as soon as possible to alert law enforcement.

Our deputies continue to be vigilant in the field. Deputy Joe Stoehr recently came upon an identity theft suspect whom he stopped and arrested during a routine traffic stop. The suspect had stolen credit cards and identification, and defrauded banks and citizens of more than \$51,000 before being stopped by Deputy Stoehr.

Our most recent acquisition of new deputies includes: Deputy Marc Bolduc, Deputy Mark Rindfleisch, Deputy Vuepao Thao, Deputy Justin Rangel, Deputy Breana Fry, Deputy Russell Fox, Deputy Michael Pearson and Deputy Bradley Volk. The new hires come on the tail of the recent retirement of Deputy Larry Zafft, after nearly 30 years of service. During his years of service, Larry was involved in street patrol, firearms instruction, water recovery, and welfare investigations. We wish Larry well in his new endeavor as a Border Patrol Agent in the State of Montana, near Banff National Park.



**Sheriff Pott and Deputy Marc Boldoc**



**Deputy Mark Rindfleisch and Judge Miles**



**Deputy Vuepao Thao and Judge Miles**



**Deputy Justin Rangel and Judge Martin**



**Deputy Breana Fry and Judge Cass**



**Deputy Russell Fox and Judge Martin**



**Deputy Michael Pearson and Judge Ekstrum**



**Deputy Bradley Volk and Judge Ekstrum**

# People on the Move

By Jill Strong

The Washington County Sheriff's Office has had some changes in the fall of 2005 and the early months of 2006. We have promoted employees, transferred employees and added some new employees in several divisions. Some of the new employees and retired employees were also mentioned in the fall/winter edition of Stars and Bars and the others are listed below:

## NEW EMPLOYEES:

<u>COMMUNICATION CENTER:</u>	<u>CLASSIFICATION:</u>	<u>EFFECTIVE DATE:</u>
Cassie Castro	911 Call Taker	09/06/2005
Toni Rossi	911 Call Taker	09/07/2005
Matt Johnson	911 Call Taker	09/08/2005
Teissa De La Cruz	911 Dispatcher	01/23/2006
Julie Ziemer	911 Dispatcher	03/13/2006

## PATROL DIVISION:

Pete Godfrey	Deputy	08/15/2005
Ty Jacobson	Deputy	08/28/2005
Marc Bolduc	Deputy	12/05/2005
Mark Rindfleisch	Deputy	02/05/2006
Vuepao Thao	Deputy	02/07/2006
Justin Rangel	Deputy	02/13/2006
Russell Fox	Deputy	03/20/2006
Michael Pearson	Deputy	03/27/2006
Bradley Volk	Deputy	03/28/2006

## JAIL DIVISION:

Timothy Carson	CO II	08/08/2005
Mary Castaneda	CO II	08/15/2005
Kevin Davy	CO II	08/22/2005
Branden Olson	CO II	08/29/2005
Tony Przybyla	CO II	09/06/2005
Brad Asplund	CO II	09/12/2005
Brian Hibbs	CO II	02/13/2006
Glenn Knight	CO II	02/21/2006
Roy Asuncion	CO II	02/27/2006
Sally Couchene	Office Support II	09/06/2005

<u>TRANSFERS:</u>	<u>TO:</u>	<u>FROM:</u>	<u>DATE:</u>
Andy Ellickson	Deputy-Investigations	Deputy-Patrol	10/23/2005
Lonnie Van Klei	Deputy-Courts	Deputy-Investigations	10/23/2005
Laura Waldon	Operations C/Sgt	Jail C/Sgt	10/23/2005
Kath Oslund	Office Support II – Records	Office Support II –Jail	12/11/2005
Dani Erickson	Deputy-Patrol	Deputy-Investigations	01/01/2006
Tim Harris	Deputy-Investigations	Deputy-Patrol	01/01/2006
Tim Wessels	Deputy-Investigations	Deputy-Patrol	01/01/2006
Larry Osterman	Sgt-Courts/Civil	Sgt-Patrol	01/22/2006
Pat Olson	Sgt-Patrol	Sgt-Vol. Services	01/22/2006
Sara Halverson	Deputy-Investigations	Mahtomedi SRO	02/26/2006
Joel Legut	Mahtomedi SRO	Deputy-Patrol	02/26/2006

<b>PROMOTIONS:</b>	<b>TO:</b>	<b>FROM:</b>	<b>DATE</b>
Cassie Castro	911 Dispatcher	911 Call Taker	12/04/2005
Toni Rossi	911 Dispatcher	911 Call Taker	12/18/2005
Breana Fry	Deputy	911 Dispatcher	03/12/2006

<b>RETIREMENTS:</b>	<b>FROM:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
Richard Peterson	Sgt. Court Security/Civil	01/20/2006
Larry Zafft	Deputy Sheriff	01/28/2006



**Sergeant Richard Peterson:**

**Hired: February 9, 1981**

**Promoted to Sergeant August 14, 1994**

**SWAT/SRT**

**K-9 Officer**

**DARE Officer**

**HonorGuard**

**Retired: January 20, 2006**

**Sheriff Pott and Sgt. Richard Peterson**



**Larry Zafft:**

**Hired: April 18, 1976**

**Firearms Safety Instructor**

**Water Recovery Unit**

**Investigations-Welfare/Fraud**

**Retired: January 28, 2006**

**Deputy Larry Zafft**

## New Employees



**CO II Roy Asuncion**



**Deputy Marc Bolduc**



**Dispatcher Teissa De La Cruz**



**Deputy Russell Fox**



**CO II Brian Hibbs**



**CO II Glenn Knight**



**Deputy Michael Pearson**



**Deputy Justin Rangel**



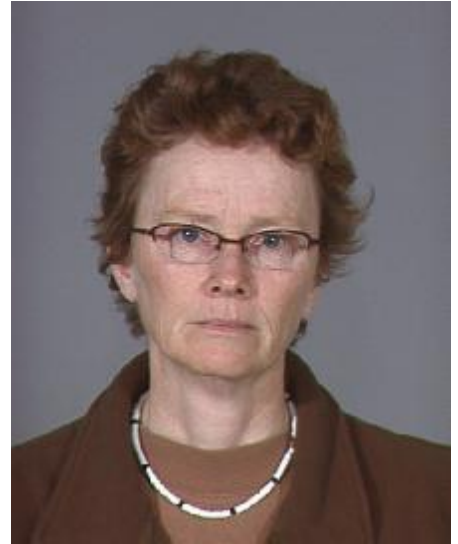
**Deputy Mark Rindfleisch**



**Deputy Vuepao Thao**



**Deputy Bradley Volk**



**Dispatcher Julie Ziemer**



## **Investigation Division News**

**By Commander Malinosky**

We have seen a number of personnel changes in the Investigation Division in the recent past. Deputy Andy Ellickson joined the Division in late October 2005 to replace Deputy Lonnie Van Klei who moved to Court Security. In January, Deputy Tim Harris began working in the Specialized Investigations Unit, replacing Deputy Dani Erickson who returned to the Patrol Division. Deputy Tim Wessels is our new representative on the Metro Gang Strike Force as of January 1<sup>st</sup>. More recently, Amy Sprague resigned from the Sheriff's Office to pursue employment with the Postal Inspectors Office. Deputy Sara Halverson has moved into the vacant position from her previous assignment as School Resource Officer for Mahtomedi. Deputy Joel Legut has taken over the SRO position from Deputy Halverson.

The Narcotics Task Force has been extremely busy routing out and dismantling major marijuana growing operations in St. Paul Park and Forest Lake. Due to the size and the scope of the operations, federal authorities have become involved and are pursuing charges on the operators of all of the grow operations. All of the principle targets have been federally indicted at this point. The efforts of the entire Division in these investigations have been exemplary in displaying efficient and effective law enforcement.

Identity theft and check fraud, manifested primarily through vehicle break-ins and mail theft, continue to be our most frequent crimes. We encourage citizens not to leave any items of value in their vehicles and not to use residential curbside mailboxes for outgoing mail.

# **Sheriff's Office Receives Donation of Eight X26 TASERS**

**By Chief Deputy Chuck Yetter**

Over this past year, Deputy Cory Reedy was working with Dr. Robert F. Reardon, who resides in the Afton/Lakeland area, to coordinate the donation of X26 TASERS to the Washington County Sheriff's Office.

Dr. Reardon is an expert witness for TASER International and has been involved in medical research which shows that the TASER device is safe. As an expert witness, he has testified that the TASER does not cause injury or death, as often reported by media sources. He has also personally encountered a full five-second discharge from the X26 TASER

and is confident that it makes our deputies jobs easier by providing an alternative to hand-control techniques and lethal force.

On February 15, 2006, Sheriff Pott presented Dr. Reardon with a plaque from the Washington County Board of Commissioners recognizing Dr. Reardon's contribution of eight TASERS to the Washington County Sheriff's Office. The plaque was presented at the deputy roll-call and attended by the correctional officers from the Jail. The eight X26 TASERS arrived during the last week of February and have been distributed accordingly.

A special "Thank You" to Dr. Reardon and Deputy Cory Reedy for working together and getting this completed. If any staff should need anything in the future, contact Cory!



**Sheriff Pott and Dr. Reardon**

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