



Thurston County Sheriff's Office

"Creating a Safer Community Together."

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QUARTERLY NEWS

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Sheriff Dan Kimball

It probably would come as no surprise to anyone to say that at the Sheriff's Office we are right now working almost non-stop on budgetary issues and how they may impact community safety. As Sheriff, I am committed to providing the best public safety service possible, regardless of budgetary limitations. That said, I am very concerned as to what the impact on public safety could be and that is why I have been addressing this issue publicly.

We all know these are

extremely difficult financial times for all, to include families, businesses, non-profits, government entities and others. We have to all pitch in and support one another in order to weather these difficult times. That is why it is even more important that your Sheriff's Office partner with you, the community, in addressing crime and safety in our neighborhoods. As resources lessen and law enforcement is forced to curtail services, it is essential that we remember to work together as a team.

During my term as Sheriff, I have continued to be impressed by how many citizens truly want to be partners in improving community safety. Whether it is by attending a citizen's academy, volunteering, or creating a neighborhood watch program, these efforts are to be commended.

As we move through these current budget matters, rest assured that the men and women of your Sheriff's Office remain committed to you and your family's safety. Thanks for staying involved!

Dan

What's Inside!

- New! Sex Offender Registration internet tool allows citizens to see where registered sex offenders live.
- TCSO Explorers excel at academy
- Awards Ceremony recipients
- Crime Victim Advocacy information
- Upcoming events!



Undersheriff Brad Watkins congratulates Grete Roeckers

1st Quarter 2009 Awards Ceremony.

See page 3 for details



Undersheriff Watkins with Lt Mealy and Sgt Stines

TCDISA Recognize Their Own for Excellence

The Thurston County Deputy Sheriff's Association (TCDSA) has recognized two of their own for excellence in their field and for their commitment to their profession and their community. Each year the Association accepts nominations for "**Deputy of the Year**" and "**Support staff of the Year.**" The honorees for 2008 are:

Valerie Sweet, Support Staff of the Year- Valerie is a Legal Assistant who works in the Evidence Section at TCSO. She was nominated by her peers for her ongoing commitment to her job and her willingness to volunteer for all tasks, no matter how menial. Valerie's work in the Evidence Section is pivotal to the success of that section. She is responsible for tracking evidence from the time it is collected through the time it is used in court and until the evidence reaches its final disposition. Very few areas of law enforcement have the strict guidelines set forth as evidence tracking and Valerie's work in this area helps make the TCSO Evidence Section one of the finest. And all this work is done with a smile and a great attitude. Great job Valerie!

Dave Odegaard, Deputy of the Year- Dave is a Sergeant assigned to the Patrol Division. He is also the three-term president of the TCDSA. Dave has worked tirelessly during his tenure as President, but never as much as the last year. 2008 brought the county's budget crisis, officer-involved shooting incidents, TCSO policy revisions and contract issues. Dave worked through these issues, giving up much of his personal time, while still working as a patrol supervisor, handling both routine shifts and high stress incidents such as barricaded suspects. Dave was also a key participant in securing funding for the K-9 program and volunteers his time with both CrimeStoppers and the WA Council of Police (WACOPS). For these reasons Dave was recognized by his peers for excellence. Great job Dave!

Thurston County Sheriff's Office Registered Sex Offender Program

By Chief Jim Chamberlain

Have you ever wondered if a registered sex offender is living in your neighborhood? Or have you wondered whether your child is walking past a home where a sex offender is living on her way to school? A new web based sex offender site is now up, which allows the public to get information on registered sex offenders living in Thurston County. This is the latest piece of an ongoing program at the Sheriff's Office to protect the public from predatory offenders.

Over the last two years, the Sheriff has implemented several steps to improve the monitoring of registered sex offenders. These include quarterly registration days where all Level II and

Level III offenders must show up in person to verify their address. Transient offenders must show up every Monday at the Sheriff's Office to list where they have been staying. In 2007 the Sheriff's Office started issuing "Wanted Sex Offender" press bulletins and partnered with the State Department of Corrections to apprehend registered sex offenders who have outstanding arrest warrants as part of "Operation Crackdown."

In addition, Sheriff's officials have been working with State Corrections, using their G.P.S. tracking system on offenders under mutual supervision to determine if transients are being truthful in reporting their whereabouts and if not, arresting them. All of these efforts have resulted in a reduction in the

number of registered offenders in the county from a high of 700 in 2005 to 680 currently.

Our new website is hosted by OffenderWatch® through a contract with the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) to provide this service throughout the state. Thurston County is one of the first to use the system and allow the public to access it.

The Sheriff's Office utilizes OffenderWatch® to manage and monitor the whereabouts, conduct, and compliance status of the registered offenders in Thurston County. OffenderWatch® provides the most accurate and timely information available to the public through the Thurston County Sheriff's Office website.

Citizens may enter any address in the county and see real-time information on the publishable offenders within a one-mile radius of the address that is entered.

All of these efforts together help increase the Office's ability to monitor these offenders. We become more efficient in how the services are performed, as well as being more effective at uncovering violations and prosecuting the offenders who do violate.

You can access the searchable database by visiting the [Sheriff's Alerts](#) page on the Thurston County Sheriff's Office web page.

www.thurstonsheriff.org

Explorers Attend Washington Law Enforcement Explorer Academy

By Deputy Cameron Simper

EXPLORERS ATTEND WLEEA WINTER ACADEMY IN YAKIMA.

This year's Washington Law Enforcement Explorers Association (WLEEA) Winter Academy was held in Yakima at the Yakima Training Center December 26-31, 2008. Eight explorers from the Thurston County Sheriff's Office Post #734 attended the academy along with explorers from all over the state. While most teens were home enjoying the winter break with their families, these explorers were dedicating their time to learning and growing.

During the 6-day academy, the explorers received instruction and were tested in various topics related to law enforcement, such as

patrol procedures, building searches, domestic violence and traffic control. For many of the youth this was the first time they had been introduced to these aspects of the law enforcement profession. The TAC staff and instructors were comprised of officers and deputies from various law enforcement agencies, including two from the Thurston County Sheriff's Office, Deputies Cameron Simper and David Claridge.

The goal of the academy is to give the explorers a realistic view of law enforcement while teaching them to work as a team. The spirit of teamwork was emphasized from the very moment they arrived, and it is something they each took with them when they left. The youth were introduced to

levels of stress that they have never been exposed to so that they could see their limits and overcome them. This also helped them to develop problem solving and critical thinking skills.

Our Thurston County Explorers did extremely well at the academy. One of our Explorers, Gideon Lovick was selected as a Sergeant for the Academy Police Department (APD). During the academy APD officers patrol and respond to mock calls on the academy grounds. The APD is the pinnacle of the explorer experience. Only after attending all of the required academies and going through a realistic hiring process are explorers selected for APD. It is safe to say that only the finest ex-

plorers are selected for APD, and one of ours was a supervisor!

Additionally, Explorer Daniel Hatchett took Third in Academics and also **Best Overall Explorer** in the Basic Academy. Explorers Sandra Turner and Ashley Rozier cleaned up in Physical Fitness with Sandra taking First and Ashley taking Second!

This was the first academy that the Thurston County Explorer Post has attended since being re-commissioned in May 2008. Our youth left a lasting impression on the staff as well as the other explorers present. We should be proud of the efforts and achievements of TCSO's Law Enforcement Explorers.

First Quarter Awards Ceremony

Citizen Commendation

Awarded to any citizen who performs an act that jeopardizes their own safety while assisting the Sheriff's Office in the performance of a hazardous task, or performs an act of exemplary service in support of the Sheriff's Office goals and objectives, or performs an act that jeopardizes their own safety while attempting to save the life of another person.

The recipient of this Award is:

Lisa Wahl-Hermosillo

On the January 16, 2009, while attending Thurston County Family Court, David M. Gadsby began to have chest pains that resulted in a seizure. **Lisa Wahl-Hermosillo**, a nurse practitioner who was in the courtroom that day, quickly identified herself and volunteered to help.

Lisa assessed Mr. Gadsby's condition, and it appeared that he was having a seizure. When he began to turn blue, Lisa quickly requested a safe object to clear his airway and was given a pen, which Lisa inserted into Mr. Gadsby's mouth above his tongue. Mr. Gadsby's breathing returned to normal, and the color returned to his face. Lisa then removed the pen to prevent it from breaking in his mouth when Mr. Gadsby bit down on it as he seized. When it appeared that his seizure had subsided, Lisa helped sit him up and asked him routine questions to gauge his condition. Mr. Gadsby was very confused and unable to answer most of the questions. Lisa stayed to assist until medics arrived and transported him to the hospital.

Lisa's knowledge and expertise greatly assisted in this incident. Her quick thinking and fast action helped save someone she'd never met.

Certificate of Commendation

Awarded to office members in recognition of a high degree of competence and professionalism in the performance of their duties. This includes exemplary conduct during a field incident or operation, outstanding administrative work, the effective handling of a criminal investigation, the organization of a new and beneficial

office program, designing and conducting a course of training, and commendable participation in any other activity that improves the office's functioning or brings credit upon the office in any way.

The recipients are:

In 2006 **GeoData** was asked if they could help us develop a Crime Map program as another tool to help us better serve the public. The program languished until a dedicated employee took it upon herself to resurrect it, making the program a reality in late 2007. This program directly contributed to stopping and solving the rash of car prowls in the southwest portion of our county in the fall of 2008.

First and foremost, the lion's share of the credit must go to **Grete Roeckers** of Roads and Transportation's Geodata Center who took a dying concept and breathed life into it. She has created a viable, interactive, and user-friendly web-based graphical interface that allows great flexibility in using the program.

Grete was supported by CAPCOM employee **Gary Bowman**, who worked with the GeoData Center to set up a connection between the two agencies so a copy of the needed data can get extracted every 8 hours.

Developmental Services employee **Merie Cockrum** provided key support too. Without Merie's help, this project would not have materialized. She helped set up and automate the manipulation of the data extracted from CAPCOM, so the data is in the proper format.

Central Services employees **Craig Thorne** and **Todd Gibson** worked with Geodata to ensure permissions between CAPCOM and Geodata were set up so the data could be extracted.

A hearty thank you to all for your efforts and dedication to the citizens of Thurston County.

In 2008, the **Detective Division** was tasked with investigating seven officer-involved critical incidents that occurred in Mason and Thurston counties. These incidents stretched our investigative resources during a very difficult financial period. They were asked to take on three

investigations for the Mason County Sheriff's Office in addition to the four incidents that occurred within our boundaries. We were the lead agency on five of the seven cases and major participants in two cases involving our own staff. The Detective Division also investigated and/or participated in the Evergreen Riot, the Luhr Rd. SWAT mission, the Scott Homicide and the U.S Marshall's warrant sweep.

The quality and professionalism shown during the investigations were repeatedly commended by the leaders of the other agencies whose officers were investigated. Sheriff Casey Salisbury of Mason County even made a personal appearance before the Thurston County Commissioners to express his gratitude. The Washington State Patrol expressed their compliments on the investigation involving their trooper. Both of these cases were professionally challenging due to the added circumstances of having law enforcement employees involved. In these cases there are many rules to be followed that are not present in most major crimes. Things such as collective bargaining rules and labor laws like the Garrity rule contribute to the complexity of these cases. In addition, their actions were being scrutinized by other law enforcement professionals to ensure they were getting a quality, unbiased, and professional investigation of their employees. The Detective Division, led by Lt. Chris Mealy, passed all of these tests with high marks.

Community Alert

Please sign up for our COMMUNITY ALERT. The alert provides information on criminal activity occurring in your neighborhood.

You can sign up at our website

www.co.thurston.wa.us/sheriff

You can also access our website by logging onto:

www.thurstonsheriff.org

“Bridging the gap between victims and the services they need”

By Stanley Phillips

The Crime Victim Advocacy Network is a consortium of trained advocates providing free and confidential services to victims of crimes in Thurston, Mason, Lewis, Grays Harbor, and Pacific Counties.

Victims of Assault, Robbery, Arson, Identity Theft, Elder Abuse, Burglary, Hate Crimes, Homicide, Vehicular Assault/Homicide, DUI Injuries, and Property Crimes are all eligible. Excluded crimes are Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. Victims do not have to report the crime to law enforcement to receive services.

Advocacy services we offer include: crisis intervention, information and referrals to community resources, systems and legal advocacy, outreach, safety planning, jail notifications, assistance applying for crime victim’s compensation, limited emergency assistance, and explanation of statutory rights of crime victims. This program is made possible through Federal VOCA grant funding to bridge the gap between victims of crimes and the services they need.

To speak with an advocate, please call our toll-free 24-hour hotline at 1-866-711-2826. Thurston County victims can also call 360-786-5601 between the hours of 8AM-5PM. Offices are located at the Thurston County Courthouse, 2000 Lakeridge Drive SW, Bldg 2, Rm 258 in Olympia; 1570 National Avenue in Chehalis, and 807 W. Railroad Ave. in Shelton.

To learn more about the program and assistance for victims, please view our website at www.cvan11.org Interpreter services are available.

Upcoming Events

2nd Annual DNR/WOHVA Safety Summit
May 9, 2009, Straddleline ORV Park
10:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

Special Olympics Tip-a-Cop
West Olympia Red Robin Restaurant
April 18th, noon– 8:00 pm

What to Bring - motorcycles, quads and riding equipment

- Learn the rules for safe ORV operation and recommended safety equipment.
- Participate in equipment safety and sound checks.
- Test your riding skills under the supervision of professional instructors.
- Participate in demo rides provided by local vendors.
- View riding demonstrations.
- Learn how to become a DNR trails volunteer.
- View an injured rider rescue scenario.
- Participate in free drawings for the chance to win riding equipment.
- Visit with various law enforcement, fire and rescue officials.

TCSO, Tenino PD, and WSP personnel will be participating in this state-wide Special Olympics Fundraiser, again being held at the Red Robin Restaurant. Special Olympics is an organization that allows developmentally challenged athletes to participate in sporting events.

Come see law enforcement personnel bus tables, fill your water, and blow up balloons for the kids. 100% of the money raised goes to Special Olympics, and fundraising t-shirts are also available the day of the event for \$15.00. For more information, log on to www.sowa.org.

TCSO Explorer Post #734 Fun Run around Capitol Lake

The Thurston County Sheriff’s Office Explorer Post will be hosting a “Fun Run” to raise funds for the post. The Law Enforcement Explorer program is designed for youth 14 – 20 years old as a way for them to learn life skills, develop good physical fitness habits, and learn about the law enforcement career. Check-in at Heritage Park on Capitol Lake starts at 9:00 am with the run starting shortly thereafter.

Cost: Adult \$10.00, youth 12 and under \$5.00. **All** proceeds directly benefit the TCSO Explorer program.

For more information, call Deputy Carla Carter at (360) 480-4922 or log on to www.thurstonsheriff.org

Community Outreach Deputy J. Snaza
Phone: 360-786-5855
E-mail: snazaj@co.thurston.wa.us

www.co.thurston.wa.us/sheriff
or
www.thurstonsheriff.org

Business Address
2000 Lakeridge Dr. SW
Olympia, WA. 98502
360-786-5500 TDD:360-754-2933