



# Stars and Bars



Sheriff Jim Frank

A Quarterly Publication of the Washington County Sheriff's Office

Winter 2002

## Message from the Sheriff

By Sheriff Frank

What is the hardest part of your job? What is the best part of your job?

After some thought many people find the answer the same to both questions, it is the people they work with. When asked how your day is going your answer often depends on how others around you day is going.

Job duties, for the most part, remain the same. We usually get better at our jobs with time and experience. There are tricks to the trade that once acquired enhance both our product and performance.

Each person brings very different and unique experiences to the job. They have wants and needs that often change based on personal or family circumstances. Some are within our control and others are not.

To perform our best we need others to do the same. We depend on others to do their very best. When that happens all of our jobs become easier. When others come up short our jobs are made more difficult.

No one minds doing a little extra to cover for a co-worker who is faced with a bad day that is not of their own doing. We all have those days. In fact, it makes people feel good to cover in a time of need. It is our heritage to support each other when difficulties arise.

The best part of your job should be the people you work with. Try your hardest to make working with you the best and not the hardest part of the job.

## Commitment to Excellence Corner

By Sgt. Richard Peterson

In 1998 several dedicated committee members started our Commitment to Excellence slogan here at the Sheriff's Office. The concept behind the phrase, "commitment to excellence" was derived from the San Diego Police Department where they proudly exclaim with their slogan that they are "Americas Finest" Department. We can all benefit from a reminder of why we wear the Commitment to Excellence pins. The values that are listed below should guide us as we do our job each day regardless of the division in which we serve.

The Stars and Bars committee members decided to dedicate a column for employees of the Sheriff's Office who go above and beyond their duties. From this issue forward, you will see the names of employees who have done their job, in an exemplary manner under our Commitment to Excellence values:

- I. Superior Service
- II. Dedication
- III. Professionalism
- IV. Integrity

# Holidazzel Parade

By Sgt. Cheri Dexter

On December 12, 2001, Special Olympics Athletes from the St. Croix Valley Lumberjacks and members of the Washington County Sheriff's Office volunteered to walk in the Holidazzel parade. Minnesota Special Olympics was asked to lead the Holidazzel Parade in Minneapolis and thought it would be fitting that law enforcement officers walk with the athletes. Officers volunteering to walk in the parade were: Sheriff Jim Frank, Chief Deputy Steve Pott, Deputy Brian Carlson and Deputy Jim Martin.

Law enforcement officers are the permanent sponsors for Special Olympics. Officers raise money each year for the Special Olympics by participating in the State Law Enforcement Torch Run. The proceeds from this event are used to sponsor area athletes so they may participate in the State Special Olympic Games.



Sheriff Frank and Chief Deputy Steve Pott with members of the St. Croix Valley Lumberjacks at the Holidazzel Parade.

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## Patrol News

By Commander Don McGlothlin

Traffic accidents and suspicious letters could be the headlines for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter in the Patrol Division. In October, a fatal accident occurred on County Rd. 12 in the city of Grant which resulted in the death of one individual. In December, we experienced one of the worst fatal accidents in the last 4 years when two vehicles collided head-on in the city of Grant resulting in the deaths of 4 individuals. Due to the occurrences of 9/11 and the resulting Anthrax scare, the Patrol Division was called to numerous homes and businesses to deal with suspicious mail and suspicious vehicles. All of the reports turned out to be harmless.

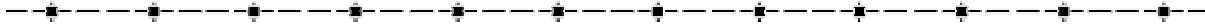
The Water, Parks, and Trails Unit have seen a decrease in the snowmobile traffic on the trails due to the unseasonably warm winter. They have also had to close lakes early due to thin ice, which has resulted in numerous local fishing contests and radar runs being cancelled.

# Explorer News

By Sgt. Cheri Dexter

The Washington County Sheriff's Office Explorer Post would like to thank everyone who helped out with their fund raising efforts by purchasing candy, popcorn or car washes over the past year. A special thank you goes out to the advisors who donated their time and efforts to help with the fund raising.

The explorers have met their fund raising goal and will be attending the Explorer National Conference in July of 2002! The explorers will be sending two teams (four members per team) to compete in Flagstaff, Arizona.



The Washington County Explorer Post awarded Explorer Captain Joel Legut, a \$300.00 scholarship for his law enforcement education. Explorer posts are awarded scholarship money when their teams place first, second or third at a state competition. A set amount of money is set aside for the department and is given out in scholarship form, which then can only be used to pay for law enforcement courses.

Joel has been with the Washington County Explorers for several years. He is also a reserve deputy and is on the Lower St. Croix Valley Fire Department. Joel is currently attending Century College pursuing a law enforcement degree.

Congratulations to Joel.



Explorer Joel Legut and his scholarship check



## Do you Secretly Want to be a Writer?

By Yale Norwick

The Stars and Bars Committee encourages and welcomes suggestions for articles to be published in this quarterly newsletter. Is there something newsworthy that you think should be reported? Would you like to write and contribute an article? Please submit your ideas or written articles to John Warneke in the Sheriff's Administrative Unit. Articles submitted on disc in WORD format are preferred. The articles will be reviewed by the editorial committee and may be edited for content and space.

## Inmate Workers Join Jail Kitchen Crew

By Chuck Yetter, Jail Commander

One of the major costs involved in the operation of a jail is the inmate food service. As in other areas of the Sheriff's Office, the jail is always looking for ways to cut costs and provide mandated services in the most economically sound manner possible.

Inmate meals are provided as a contracted service provided by BEST Foods, Inc., which is a division of Fine Host, Inc. Best has had a large amount of experience in the inmate food service business, providing inmate meals in numerous jails as well as Minnesota Department of Corrections prisons.

When the jail was built, the kitchen was designed for inmate laborers with locking doors, a security ceiling and good sight lines. While inmate workers have long been used in the jail laundry, they had never been utilized in the kitchen. That changed on Monday January 21<sup>st</sup>, when two inmates reported to the kitchen to wash pots, pans and dishes as well as help with general clean up.

Before this could occur, a number of meetings were held between Steve Bailey of BEST, Inc., Dave Wiles and Les Ploen of the Court Services Sentence to Service (STS) Program and Jail Administration. Because of excellent cooperation from BEST, Inc. and Court Services, all concerns were addressed and January 21<sup>st</sup> was set as the start date.

Only inmates screened by Les Ploen who would be eligible to work on an outside STS work crew are considered to work in the kitchen. The two inmates selected for kitchen duty work from 0830-1630 seven days a week. As with all STS inmate workers, time is deducted from an inmate's jail sentence depending on the number of hours worked. This program benefits the jail by reducing costs and the kitchen has the advantage of dishwashers who can always be counted on to show up for work.

# Tom Stafford is Promoted to Patrol Sergeant

By Sgt Scott Malinosky

A promotion ceremony with cake and coffee was held on January 3<sup>rd</sup> to mark the advancement of Deputy Tom Stafford to the rank of Sergeant. Family and friends of Sergeant Stafford attended the ceremony, conducted at the Washington County Law Enforcement Center.

You may recall from the previous Stars and Bars edition (Fall '01) that Sergeant Stafford was named Police Officer of the Year 2001 in June. Tom began his career here as a jailer. He was later hired as a police officer by the city of Farmington. Tom was then hired back by the Washington County Sheriff's Office as a patrol deputy. He served with distinction as a member of the Minnesota Gang Strike Force where he earned the recognition of being an expert in the field of Asian gangs.

Asked to comment on his promotion, Sergeant Stafford stated that he is looking forward to the challenges of his new position. Tom is currently assigned as a shift sergeant on the afternoon shift.



Sheriff Frank presents Tom with his sergeant stripes.

# Patrol Division Departs From Old Schedule

By Sgt Scott Malinosky

With the arrival of January 1<sup>st</sup>, the Patrol Division left behind the old schedule of 5/2-4/2 and implemented a new schedule of 5 days on followed by 3 days off. The new schedule is in a trial period for one year to be certain that it meets the needs of the Sheriff's Office with its obligations to public safety, as well as to give the deputies an opportunity to see how it works for them. By contract, both the Sheriff and a majority of deputies must agree to the schedule change before it can become permanent.

Under the new schedule, the deputies work a 9-hour day. The scheduled starting times for the 3 shifts are 0630 hours, 1430 hours and 2230 hours. Each shift is overlapped by the previous shift by one hour, providing better coverage during shift changes. The only deputies not affected by the new schedule are the deputies who work in the Grant and New Scandia contract areas. Those deputies continue to work an 8-hour day because they are a single deputy contract.

The previous schedule had been in existence for about 30 years. At the completion of this year, or sooner should circumstances dictate it, the new schedule will be evaluated and a decision made regarding permanent implementation.

# Booking Station in Court Administration

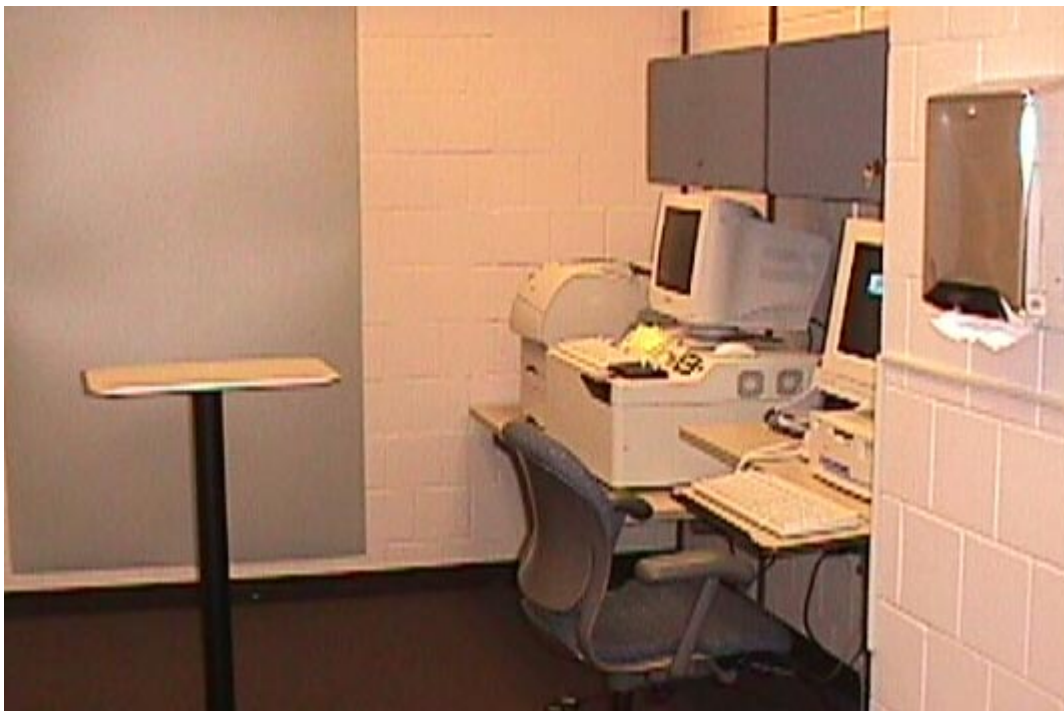
By Sgt Laura Waldon

More and more often, the courts are sending people to the jail to be processed (booked, pictured and fingerprinted) on Booking Motions. Booking Motions are created for various reasons: subjects may be released by the arresting officer before they are brought to the jail, subjects may not be cooperative when they are brought to jail during the booking process for a mug shot or fingerprints so we may have to get them at a later date, or the subject may need to be fingerprinted again because the initial set of fingerprints were rejected by the FBI, the subject may be immediately sent to detox, or subjects may be charged at a later date.

For whatever reason, the amount of booking motions are on the rise. The court files are “flagged” so the Judge knows when someone has a Booking Motion. When people are ordered by the courts to report to the jail to be processed, many fail to follow these orders. To try to limit the amount of people failing to get the Booking Motions completed, booking rooms have been built near the courtrooms in Cottage Grove and Stillwater.

Once ordered to get the Booking Motion completed, the person will report to the Booking Room. The person will be booked, fingerprinted and a mug shot taken. The Officer(s) who have been appointed to process these people should have a list of names from the court.

The Booking Officer will submit a Completed Booking Motion Form or a Failed To Report Form with the courts for the court file. The Judge will know at the next court appearance if the person complied with their order to be processed. Even though the booking rooms are still in the beginning stages, the idea is to try to reduce the amount of Booking Motions that are not completed.



New booking station by Court Room #1

# Narc News

By Sergeant Pat Olson

The Washington County Coordinated Narcotics Task Force (WCCNTF) has recently added two new members to the Unit. Officer James Cummins returned to his duties at the Oakdale Police Department and was replaced by Patrolman Brian Stroshane. Officer Cummins was a valuable asset to our Narcotics Unit and will be missed by all members of the Task Force. Officer Jeff Stender returned to the Stillwater Police Department and was replaced by Carla Cincatta. Officer Stender's contributions to the Task Force will also be missed. Good luck to both Officers as they return to their respective departments.

The Task Force has seen a significant change in the type of drugs and their frequency. During the year 2001, there were 105 incidents in which methamphetamine played a role, as opposed to 59 incidents involving marijuana. This trend should signify a heightened awareness for officer safety issues when dealing with potential drug users during traffic stops

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## Investigation News

By Commander Johnson

In late 2001 members of the Washington County Sheriff's Office Investigation Division served several search warrants at a residence in Landfall. While executing the first warrant, hundreds of pieces of mail taken from residences in Washington County and other surrounding communities were discovered. Investigators also found several computers and other electronic devices that we believed were being used to manufacture false identification. The primary suspect in this case was Barbara Grunklee.

A second warrant was served at the same location after Washington County Investigators were able to determine that a computer taken in a burglary in Stillwater Township had accessed an Internet site several times from a phone number listing to the same residence in Landfall. When that warrant was served, additional financial documents and mail were located. Several hundred more victims were identified as well as property taken from two burglaries in Washington County was also located.

Early in 2002 we learned that the Airport Police Department apprehended and detained Barbara Grunklee for theft of luggage from the airport. In the course of their investigation, they discovered additional financial documents and mail taken from residences in our area and other parts of the Twin Cities.

Grunklee and several accomplices, who we believe are responsible for hundreds of forgery related incidents across the Twin Cities, have been identified. She and her accomplices steal financial documents from victim's mailbox at their homes. The information taken from these documents are used to access accounts by creating computer generated checks and identification that allow the suspect(s) to pass checks and, in some cases, they are able to access accounts electronically. This method of accessing victim's accounts has become more prevalent.

Many of the victims involved were unaware that these individuals had accessed their accounts. The suspects capitalize on the fact that it takes some time for victims and their financial institutions to realize that someone has accessed the account illegally.

In other warrants served in Woodbury and St. Paul Park, financial documents from the same case were found in the possession of persons who were the subjects of narcotics search warrants. We believe Grunklee distributed them to these individuals in exchange for narcotics.

The Grunklee case is still under investigation, and is pending for charges with the county attorney's office. Members of our division are working with the Postal Inspector's Office and are attempting to contact all of the victims involved. Thus far, the victims heard from report losses from their accounts that were made throughout the Twin Cities. Attempting to track down these transactions in other jurisdictions complicates the case considerably.

In the Grunklee matter, the suspect(s) involved managed to take more money from victim's account, than they would have had they broken into the resident's home and committed burglaries.

We should all be vigilant and aware of this increasing type of crime. Communities and Neighborhood Watch groups should be advised when they see people prowling around mailboxes at the end of driveways, they may have an alternative motive.

Washington County Sheriff's Office  
15015 62nd Street North  
P.O. Box 3801  
Stillwater, Minnesota 55082-3801