

# OFFICE OF THE LEWIS COUNTY

# SHERIFF



## Sheriff's Office Rapsheet

**"PUBLIC SAFETY THROUGH PROFESSIONAL SERVICE"**



### MESSAGE FROM THE SHERIFF:

The first five months of serving as your Sheriff has been an exciting time. Transparency of information and partnerships with the public we serve are of the utmost importance to me. We have so much to share with the community we serve and hope to make this "Rapsheet" the first of many to give the people of Lewis County current information on our recent accomplishments, what our vision is for the future, and how we are involved with our communities throughout the county. Each newsletter will have interesting, current, and relevant information, which we feel will give our citizens a better feel for what we are doing to fulfill our mission and make Lewis County a safer place to live.

This "Rapsheet" will feature some of the important community programs and partnerships our office has recently undertaken. Future editions will include other topics such as our tough, no frills jail; efficiency solutions in our office; strengthening community partnerships; coordination with other law enforcement agencies; new training programs; and recognition of our outstanding employees.

Thank you so much for your support and for entrusting us to make Lewis County a safer place to live. We do not take this responsibility lightly and will strive each day to offer "Public Safety through Professional Service".

Sincerely,

Sheriff Robert R. Snaza

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Volume 1, Issue 1

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**CRIME STOPPERS**  
OF  
LEWIS COUNTY

1-800-748-6422

### Mission Statement:

*Being a committed community partner, providing professional service to enhance the safety, security, and quality of life in Lewis County.*



### Mission

Being a committed community partner, providing professional service to enhance the safety, security, and quality of life in Lewis County.

### Vision

Committed to excellence in being a trusted, respected, and professional public safety agency.

### Core Values

- Trustworthiness
- Responsibility
- Respect
- Fairness
- Compassion

## A DAY IN THE LIFE OF THE SHERIFF’S OFFICE

We had our first Day in the Life of the Sheriff’s Office this past month. Several citizens from our communities participated and all involved felt they learned a lot about what the Sheriff’s Office does day in and day out. The program is a chance for community members to try their hand at “shoot don’t shoot scenarios”, fingerprinting, tour the jail, observe a K9 demonstration, and more. We expect to offer this opportunity to more of our citizens several times a year.



Participants of the “Day in the Life of the Sheriff’s Office”

Together, we will make a positive difference as we provide Public Safety through Professional Service.

## SHERIFFS’ MENTORING STUDENTS “SMS”

This program was designed to allow Sheriff’s Office employees the opportunity to make a deeper positive connection and impact on our youth. In the program our personnel are given time and encouraged to pick a school of their choice, in the county, and make a point to connect with the students



Sheriffs' Mentoring Students Program

and staff on a frequent basis and in a meaningful manner. Whether reading books to kids, lending a listening ear to a child, providing education and safety presentations along side our teachers, playing catch and being a friend, or being on campus and present as a deterrent, our folks love the program and really enjoying the renewed commitment to our schools.

We recently held a contest for a logo design for our Sheriffs’ Mentoring Students "SMS" Program. William Taylor, a 7th grade Chehalis Middle School student, won the contest! He won \$100.00 (donated by employees of the Sheriff’s Office), donuts for all of his classmates, and a demonstration from K9 Axel and his handler, Deputy Rick Van Wyck.



Sheriff Snaza, Deputy Van Wyck, Undersheriff Wes Rethwill, and K9 Axel with SMS logo design winner, William Taylor

## REGIONAL ANTI-CRIME UNIT

The drug issue in our community is real. We are committed to aggressively investigating drug dealers and people who prey on others to get money or goods in order to feed their drug habits. We have partnered with Centralia Police Department as part of a regional Anti-Crime Unit.

Already, the unit has made numerous arrests, seized thousands of dollars in illegal drugs, and more importantly, taken several pounds of illicit drugs off our streets.



*Cash, methamphetamine, and marijuana seized by the Anti-Crime Unit in a recent bust.*

## MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT

The Lewis County Sheriff's Office is committed to be recognized as a progressive leader in serving those in the community who suffer from mental health disorders. Traditionally, many individuals suffering from mental health issues have been arrested and confined, which in many cases is not in the best interest of the individual, and does not address the underlying health concerns they have.

To improve our service to these individuals, the Field Operations Bureau of the Sheriff's Office has begun to attend training in collaboration with mental health professionals to better address the needs of those in crisis.

In February of 2015, all members of the Operations Bureau attended Mental Health First Aid training. This training included resources available to law enforcement officers in the field, as well as understanding different mental health disorders, and tools for dealing with those in crisis. In May, Lewis County hosted a Crisis Intervention Team Training (CITT), which is a forty hour expanded course on interacting with those in crisis. Five members of the Field Operations Bureau are now CITT trained, with a goal of obtaining the same training for the rest of the bureau's members.

In addition, a flagging system has been put into use in our agency's database for those receiving certain types of mental health counseling and treatment. This flag is created to notify the responding law enforcement officers of a person who may potentially be in crisis. It includes information to assist the officer in helping them, and also contacting their counselor for assistance, if needed.

## SAFETY TIP OF THE MONTH



Remember to always wear your life jackets and watch kids carefully around water.



Like us on  
**Facebook**



## DON'T BECOME ANOTHER VICTIM THIS SUMMER!

Summertime is a great time for hiking, enjoying the water, and beautiful terrain in Lewis County, but don't become an easy target for theft. The Sheriff's Office typically handles more thefts from vehicles during warm weather than any other time of the year. Many victims leave their windows down or park in isolated areas. Some tips to prevent becoming the next victim:

- Do not leave valuables in your car. If you must leave them, hide them in the trunk and out of plain sight. This includes cell phones, purses, wallets, computers, etc.
- Do not park or leave your car in a deserted location.
- Close all windows and lock all doors.
- If you have an alarm, set it.
- Don't use hidden keys on your vehicle.



## JAIL PARTNERS WITH OTHERS TO DEAL WITH MENTAL HEALTH INMATES ISSUES

It's a fact the Lewis County Sheriff's Office runs the largest and only institution in Lewis County which houses the mentally ill. In 2014, approximately 43 percent of the inmates in custody at the Lewis County Jail reported they had unmet mental health needs. Mentally ill offenders, charged with nuisance crimes, spend two thirds longer in custody than non-mentally ill offenders.

In August of 2014, the Lewis County Sheriff's Office, Cascade Mental Health, Superior Court, and the Prosecutor's Office collaborated to brainstorm a means to help these "high utilizers" stay and remain out of the criminal justice system. A committee was started consisting of: the Sheriff's Corrections Chief, Prosecutor, Superior Court Clerk, Dispatch, and the jail's contract Mental Health provider, Cascade Mental Health. A new program was created and named the **Mental Health Alternative (MHA)**. The program's mission is: ***"To assist Lewis County citizens living with mental illness to find recovery, limit involvement with and stay accountable to the criminal justice system, and grow as productive members of our community"***.

The program works through the criminal justice system by identifying mentally ill offenders while incarcerated and coordinating between the courts, mental health providers, defense attorneys, and the prosecutor.



*A facilities worker cleans a mess on the floor in a mentally ill inmate housing area.*

The high utilizer is eventually released with court ordered conditions of release, which include approved housing, medical and mental health care, routine follow-up court appointments, and medication monitoring.

This program currently has five active participants and is being facilitated with existing resources. We are looking to expand the program allowing up to twenty participants using federal grant money and local 1/10<sup>th</sup> of 1 percent sales tax dollars approved by the Lewis County Board of County Commissioners three years ago.

## MEET OUR COMMAND TEAM

### Undersheriff Wes Rethwill



Years in Law Enforcement: 31

Favorites:  
Your Job: Working alongside all of the wonderful women and men of the Sheriff's office.

Food: Costco hotdogs - best deal around!

Book: Wooden

Quote: "Failure is not fatal, but failure to change might be"  
- John Wooden

Mentor: My father and grandfather

Vacation Spot: Anywhere with my family

Work related memory:  
Retirement from the Washington State Patrol after 29 years of service

Hobbies: Duck hunting, shooting, and outdoor activities; spending time with my family puppy, Beemer, who is a "Teddy Bear" puppy, a mix of Shih Tzu, Maltese, and Bechon Frise.

### Chief Bruce Kimsey Field Operations Bureau



Years in Law Enforcement: 17

Favorites:  
Your Job: The ability to provide a family environment for all deputies who work at the Lewis County Sheriff's Office. I am grateful to be given the opportunity to lead the deputies and provide them with training, equipment and experience.

Food: Prime Rib & Oysters

Quote: "The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."  
-Martin Luther King, Jr.

Vacation Spot: Anywhere in Mexico

Work related memory: I have so many awesome memories, but my favorite memory would be Judge Richard Brosey reading the guilty verdict after the 6 week trial on the murders of Ed and Minnie Maurin.

Hobbies: Fishing, gardening, and traveling

### Chief Kevin Hanson Corrections Bureau



Years in Law Enforcement: 24

Favorites:  
Your Job: Being part of my subordinates growth and watching them achieve their professional and personal goals.

Food: Steak

Book: The Outfitter

Quote: "Time is money"

Vacation Spot: Mexico and the backcountry of Idaho and Montana

Work related memory:  
Feeling panicked and helpless as I was trying to get through a security door while watching an inmate toss one of our female Corrections Officers around like a rag doll

Hobbies: Horses, fishing, farming and hunting.

### Chief Stacy Brown Special Services Bureau



Years in Law Enforcement: 19

Favorites:  
Your Job: Getting the opportunity to find a way to make a difference, even if a small thing, in a person's life each day I come to work.

Food: Pizza

Book: The Glass Castle, The Invention of Wings

Quote: "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing."  
-Edmund Burke

Mentor:  
Bill Brown, Father-in-Law

Vacation Spot: Maui, Sun River

Work related memory: Getting flowers from a child victim when she graduated from military boot camp to let me know I had made a difference in her life.

Hobbies: Racquetball, baking/cooking, hiking, reading, and spending time with family and friends.

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*"Alone, we do so little, together we do so much" - Helen Keller*

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## SHERIFF'S OFFICE NEW PATROL CAR AND STRIPING

The Ford Police Interceptor Utility vehicle is one of the newest vehicles in the Lewis County Sheriff's Office fleet. The vehicle has a 3.5-liter EcoBoost V-6 engine, that can deliver 365 hp and produce 350 lb.-ft. of torque, and is same one that Ford uses in its F-150 pickup truck models equipped with a V-6 engine.

Unfortunately, the iconic Ford Crown Victoria is no longer being manufactured and will be missed, but this All Wheel Drive Ford is definitely better in the snow.

We have also gone to a new striping as seen in the above photographs. The striping is a reflective black metallic that delivers a fresh clean look for our patrol cars.



## LEWIS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE OFFERS NEUTRAL EXCHANGE ZONE

Published by Stacy Grods Brown · ·

The Lewis County Sheriff's Office now offers a Neutral Exchange Zone for individual buyers and sellers involved in online selling transactions. This will allow buyers and sellers a specific neutral location to make the exchange compared to meeting at a private location.

Online selling and buying on Craigslist, Facebook, and other sites has become increasingly popular and with that comes risks. Robberies, thefts, and even deaths in some cases have resulted from people meeting strangers to sell or buy an item advertised online.

“This concept provides community members an option to meet their buyer or seller in a neutral zone. We hope this program helps to address unsafe situation or deter crimes from occurring during the exchange of an item. If someone refuses to meet in a public place or a neutral zone, that should be cause for concern with continuing a transaction”, said Sheriff Robert Snaza.

The concept is the first of its kind in the Lewis County area. The specified exchange area is the front lobby of the Law and Justice Center located at 345 West Main St, Chehalis. Parameters for transactions are as follows:

- No weapons are allowed inside the building
- Exchanges must be made during business hours: Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- No personal services may be traded