

Employee Spotlight Awards



Every day, Lewis County employees demonstrate responsibility, initiative, teamwork, and dedication to public service.

These awards celebrate both individual employees and teams who go above and beyond serving our community with excellence and heart.

Employee Spotlight Award

Nikki Seifert,
Probation Clerk

District Court

“She always helps out when needed.”

“Arrives early to work every day and just makes things run smoothly in the office.”

Highlights: Significant contributor, takes initiative, and commitment to public service.



Nikki has been with the county for just over 2 years, and she always shows up early to work, is a super quick learner and just plain takes care of the probation staff. When our court was shorthanded, Nikki was the first to offer up her services to help anyone she could.

This may sound trivial, but she always has the office decorated for the next upcoming holiday. For example, as soon as the holidays were over, she took down the Christmas tree and immediately put up hearts for Valentines Day.

We have around 250 clients in our department and I think Nikki knows them all. I can't say enough about how well she is appreciated around here.

When our fridge freezer needed to be cleaned, she sat on the floor with tools and painstakingly chipped away all the ice and cleaned the fridge. She's just great.

She always helps out when needed, even if it's not our department. She arrives early to work every day and just makes things run smoothly in the office.

- Shawn Goldsby

Employee Spotlight Award

Rylie Blair,
Deputy Coroner

Coroner's Office

"She is helpful, kind, and one of the best employees this office has had."

"Rylie is an outstanding supervisor!"

Highlights: Compassionate leader and public servant, innovative, and positive workplace culture.



From Chelsie Niemczek: Rylie always puts her mind into new ideas that are helpful for our office, staff, and families. She is helpful, kind, and one of the best employees this office has had.

Rylie is also always willing to volunteer herself to help coworkers in need.

From Ashton Eyer: Rylie is an outstanding supervisor! She puts in a great amount of effort to ensure that our staff is welcomed and comfortable in the office and on the job. She takes pride in training our staff and streamlining processes for the needs of our office.

Rylie brings a great personality to our office; it's never a dull day working with her.

- Chelsie Niemczek and Ashton Eyer

Employee Spotlight Award

Charles Edmonson,
Noxious Weeds
Coordinator

Noxious Weeds

“He goes above and beyond...”

“Charles leads by example...”

Highlights: Supportive leader, people-centered, and inspirational.



Charles Edmonson has gone above and beyond to make sure that the office atmosphere is safe and inviting. He goes above and beyond to make sure that his employees feel supported and regularly checks in.

Charles leads by example and thus regularly inspires me to bring my best self to the team.

- Danielle Green

Employee Spotlight Award

Fionna Velazquez,
Fair & Events Manager
Facilities

“Fionna has a focus for customer service, making sure our community is a priority.”

“She consistently goes out of her way to improve her department...”

Highlights: Community minded, excellent role model, and customer service focused.



Fionna will consistently go out of her way to improve her department, her team, and the effect the fair has on its community.

She has a focus for customer service, making sure our community is a priority. She also goes out of her way to ensure her team has a healthy work environment. She is always checking in, making sure we're happy and able to keep up with everything that we do.

Fionna wants a fairgrounds that her community is proud of and a team that WANTS to be here. I couldn't be here without her.

- Elizabeth Hill

Employee Spotlight Award

Jared Larson,
Office Manager

Facilities

“Jared is the glue that holds the Facility Department together...”

“He gets the job done...and really strives to go above and beyond...”

Highlights: Team advocate, dedicated leadership, and willingness to help.



Jared is the glue that holds the facility dept together between the office, the shop, and the county.

He's not afraid to step up and help when asked and really strives to go above and beyond behind the scenes. No matter if its hanging fly strips in the bathrooms during fair, hunting down long-lost documents, making key copies, or just keeping the dept on track, Jared is there to help lead the way.

We know he doesn't hear it enough, so thank you, Jared. Thank you for your dedication, work ethic and willingness to say yes to the call for help. You are appreciated.

- Ashley Hamilton

Employee Spotlight Award

Brad Clark,
Permit Tech Lead

Community
Development

“Brad has consistently demonstrated professionalism, reliability, and a strong commitment to continuous improvement.”

“His dedication and leadership has made a lasting impact...”

Highlights: Dedicated professional, process innovator, and service-driven.



Brad Clark serves as the Lead Permit Technician for Community Development and has dedicated nearly 10 years of service to Lewis County. Throughout his tenure, Brad has consistently demonstrated professionalism, reliability, and a strong commitment to continuous improvement.

Brad played a key role in guiding Community Development through a complex and detailed transition from an antiquated permitting system to a modern, online permitting software platform. This major initiative has allowed the permitting process to begin its development toward a paperless system and has introduced a public-facing portal that significantly improves customer access to information and services.

During this transition, Brad devoted countless hours to organizing and participating in meetings with multiple county departments and staff. He gathered department-specific requirements, helped design workflows, and supported data development and migration efforts critical to the system's success.

Brad consistently shows up ready to work hard, eager to grow and advance his skills, and is committed to delivering high-quality service to both the department and the public. His dedication and leadership has made a lasting impact on the permitting process and exemplifies the values of Community Development.

- Mindy Brooks

Employee Spotlight Award

Blake Teitzel,
Patrol Sergeant

Sheriff's Office

“Sergeant Teitzel has made a meaningful impact on both his team and the community.”

“He treats all individuals with dignity, regardless of their circumstances...”

Highlights: Unwavering dedication to public service, professionalism, and commitment to justice.



Throughout the years, Sergeant Teitzel has consistently put the community first and demonstrated unwavering dedication to public service. He works diligently to ensure his team's success in every aspect of their duties, setting a high standard of professionalism, accountability, and integrity.

Sergeant Teitzel thoroughly reviews every report and consistently goes above and beyond to ensure that victims in Lewis County receive the support they deserve and that suspects are held accountable. His attention to detail reflects not only his commitment to justice, but also his deep respect for due process and fairness.

What truly sets Sergeant Teitzel apart is his exceptional professionalism and respect for every community member he encounters. He treats all individuals with dignity, regardless of their circumstances, and remains calm, composed, and respectful in even the most challenging situations. His approach fosters trust within the community and strengthens relationships between law enforcement and the public.

I have personally witnessed suspects who have committed serious crimes praise Sergeant Teitzel for his continued professionalism and respectful treatment. Even in difficult and high-stress encounters, he maintains fairness, patience, and compassion. This speaks volumes about his character and the standard he upholds as a leader.

Sergeant Teitzel dedicates countless hours to his work, often sacrificing his personal time to ensure the citizens of Lewis County receive the service they deserve. His tireless efforts exemplify what it truly means to represent public safety through professional service.

He is never afraid to do the hard work and routinely works side by side with his fellow employees. His leadership, skills, and work ethic have a positive influence on his crew, motivating them to perform at their best. He continuously strives for self-improvement while encouraging those around him to grow as well.

Through his actions and leadership, Sergeant Teitzel has made a meaningful impact on both his team and the community. His dedication plays a vital role in making Lewis County a safer place for everyone.

- Andrew Scrivner

January 27, 2026

Employee Spotlight Award

Tyson Brown,
Sheriff's Deputy

Sheriff's Office

“Deputy Brown’s rapid response, physical readiness, and decisive actions were critical in preventing a tragic loss of life.”

Highlights: Rapid response under pressure, unwavering focus, and exceptional public service.



On August 21, 2025, Deputy Brown and others were dispatched to a report of an unconscious male in Onalaska. The 911 caller, a distraught female, reported that she had discovered her husband hanging. Deputy Brown arrived within minutes and immediately ran to the residence, where he located the caller and her husband. The male, weighing approximately 230 pounds, was unresponsive.

Acting quickly, Deputy Brown moved the male to a location where life-saving measures could be initiated and immediately began CPR. While the wife screamed in anguish nearby, Deputy Brown continued uninterrupted CPR for approximately seven minutes until relieved by responding medical personnel.

Due to his immediate and sustained efforts, the patient was airlifted to a medical facility and ultimately survived. Deputy Brown's rapid response, physical readiness, and decisive actions were critical in preventing a tragic loss of life.

- Andrew Yocom

Employee Spotlight Award

Zac Zuber,
Detention Supervisor

Juvenile Detention

“Witnessing the way Zac carries himself, maintains his composure, builds rapport with juveniles, and leads his shift team is admirable in a way that deserves to be recognized.”

“We are a lucky department to have him on our team.”

Highlights: Compassionate youth leader, calm and steady presence, and servant-leader mindset.



Zac is a true, multi-level powerhouse. Not only because his physical presence brings a sense of security, but he also just has a genuine amount of love and compassion for the youth that he encounters in his day-to-day duties as a Detention Supervisor. When Zac enters a room, you can feel the heaviness in a room shift to something more calming, enjoyable, and safe. He is a true thermostat that has the ability to adjust the temperature of any atmosphere he walks into. Witnessing the way Zac carries himself, maintains his composure, builds rapport with juveniles, and leads his shift team is admirable in a way that deserves to be recognized.

A few weeks ago, I personally encountered a youth one-on-one in custody that would be serving his detention sentence over the Christmas holiday. This young man was severely struggling with his mental health in a way that prohibited his ability to move forward in a pro-social program. When I asked him if there was any detention staff, he would feel comfortable sharing his emotional struggles with, he answered "Zac".

When discussing ways a Detention Officer can go above and beyond their call of duty, that can cover multiple areas in this field of work - some fun, and some not-so-fun. For example, Zac has participated and encouraged youth in-custody to be a part of activities such as cornhole and gardening. On the flip side of things (being the not-so-fun side), detention walks alongside youth that experience drug withdrawal, suicidal ideation, lack of bladder/bowel control (yes, that means what you're thinking), physical defiance, property destruction, sexualized behavior, and more. Dealing with these scenarios is an expected action of a Detention Officer; however, the way Zac handles adversity and struggle is beyond a job description. If a youth is combative, Zac can initiate deescalation. If a youth has a bathroom accident, Zac is patient and caring. If a youth is suicidal, Zac provides safety and care. With the numerous and sometimes unknown outcomes a detention environment can bring, Zac handles them all with patience and authority.

Aside from the day-to-day, Zac has also explored and pursued trainings in our CSEC team which stands for Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children. He has participated in trainings and conferences to further strengthen his knowledge on this tragedy and built his tool kit on how to interact with these specific youth if they encounter the juvenile justice system.

Aside from interactions with youth, Zac is also a great team player and can bring joy to a work environment that can be draining and exhausting. If his team needs a mental break, he will cover and step in. If you need a laugh, go visit Zac in detention. He can have a true, genuine conversation with anybody in this building, probation officers, legal assistants, GAL coordinators, administration, law enforcement, judges/attorneys, etc. His humor and listening skills are traits that do not go unnoticed.

I would be shocked if this nomination was the only one submitted for Zab Zuber. We are a lucky department to have him on our team.

- Kayla Hoke

Employee Spotlight Award

Risk and Safety- Risk Management

Sam Allen,
Claim Administrator

Nathaniel Barr,
Safety Officer

“...Sam and Nathaniel have hit the ground running and accomplished a remarkable amount...”

“They deserve recognition for transforming safety practices and making a tangible, lasting difference for our entire workforce.”

Highlights: Significant contributors, proactive, and positive and safe workplace culture.



I am excited to nominate the outstanding team of Sam Allen and Nathaniel Barr for the Employee Spotlight. Since joining Lewis County in January 2025, Sam and Nathaniel have hit the ground running and accomplished a remarkable amount in their first year as a team. Working closely together, they have built a strong, proactive Risk and Safety program from the foundation up.

Their key accomplishments include thoroughly updating critical policies and safety procedures, implementing a comprehensive new employee safety orientation program, ensuring every new hire receives essential training before beginning their roles, and actively promoting and developing a positive Risk and Safety culture throughout the county.

These efforts are not only significantly reducing Lewis County's liability exposure but—most importantly—are helping keep our employees safe, healthy, and protected while performing their duties every day.

They deserve recognition for transforming safety practices and making a tangible, lasting difference for our entire workforce.

- Becky Butler

Employee Spotlight Award

Payroll & Benefits - Auditor's Office

Michelle Sabin,
Payroll and Benefits
Specialist 2

Vanessa Ruelas,
Payroll and Benefits
Specialist 2

“Michelle and Vanessa are excellent work partners.”

“Their dedication, attention to detail, and commitment to serving all Lewis County employees...exemplify what it means to go above and beyond.”

Highlights: Operational excellence, get-it-done attitude, and employee focused.



From Graham Gowing: As we approached 2026, there were a significant number of payroll and benefit changes that needed to be implemented. Michelle and Vanessa handled these changes with professionalism, grace and a true 'get it done' attitude. Their efforts ensured all updates were reflected accurately and timely on employee paychecks, while still maintaining their normal workload, daily responsibilities, and year-end processes.

Their dedication, attention to detail, and commitment to serving all Lewis County employees during a very demanding period truly exemplify what it means to go above and beyond.

From Rachel Lester: At the end of 2025, we experienced an exceptionally busy and complex period for HR, which had a significant impact on the Payroll and Benefits team. Between open enrollment, collective bargaining, and the transition to a new insurance plan for a major group of employees, there were many new processes and challenges to navigate.

Throughout all of this, Michelle and Vanessa were consistently helpful, patient, and kind. They generously shared their knowledge, answered questions with clarity, and guided us through unfamiliar processes with professionalism and grace. Their willingness to support HR, even while managing increased workloads and additional responsibilities, made a meaningful difference during a high-pressure time.

Michelle and Vanessa are excellent work partners. Their collaboration, dedication, and positive attitude exemplify teamwork and service, and their partnership with HR is truly appreciated. Their hard work and the extra duties they took on did not go unnoticed, and we are grateful for their commitment and support.

- Graham Gowing and Rachel Lester

Employee Spotlight Award

Public Works Traffic Control and Paint Striping Crew

- Lisa Larsen, TOS III
- Jeff Vanasse, TCS III
- Rory Gall, TCS III
- Pete Holmstedt, TCS III
- Brett Potter, TCS III
- Kayleena Bushnell, TCS I
- Carson White, Flagger
- Caleb Perz-Stewart, Flagger
- Avery Manning, Flagger
- Beth Bowen, Flagger
- Kage Holman, Flagger

“...the crew consistently goes the extra mile in work zone safety.”

“This crew’s dedication, teamwork, and pride in their work set a high standard...”

Highlights: Work ethic, efficiency, commitment to safety, and pride in public service.



I would like to nominate our Traffic Control and Paint Striping Crew for their outstanding performance this season. Between April and October, weather permitting, this team successfully striped over 1,400 lane miles, utilizing approximately 30,000 gallons of paint and 182,000 pounds of reflective beads—a significant accomplishment that directly enhances roadway safety and visibility for the traveling public.

Beyond their production numbers, the crew consistently goes the extra mile in work zone safety. On average, they deploy 300 cones per day and utilize reader boards to provide advanced warning and clear communication to motorists. Their attention to detail, proactive planning, and commitment to best practices resulted in an exceptional achievement this year: zero paint claims.

This crew's dedication, teamwork, and pride in their work set a high standard and truly exemplify excellence in safety, efficiency, and public service. They are well deserving of this Spotlight recognition.

- Kevin Korpi

Employee Spotlight Award

Environmental Planning – Public Works – Flood Response

Ann Weckback,
Environmental
Planner

Public Works

“Ann's responsibility and diligence have fostered good and trusting relationships with outside agencies...”

“I am proud to work with Ann and thank her for all she has done and continues to do.”

Highlights: Crisis response, operational excellence, and regulatory expertise.



Ann is instrumental to the success of Lewis County Public Works, often times working behind the scenes to ensure the County is providing efficient service to the public, all while following environmental regulations.

During and after the flooding in December, Ann was in constant communication with other agencies such as the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and the Department of Ecology (DOE), as well as LC Community Development to ensure our response efforts were in line with state law and environmental regulations, and eligible for federal reimbursement.

Ann's responsibility and diligence have fostered good and trusting relationships with outside agencies, which benefits the citizens of this County. I am proud to work with Ann and thank her for all she has done and continues to do.

- Wes Anderson

Employee Spotlight Award

Water and Utilities – Public Works – Flood Response

Anthony Kinswa,
Utility Operator 2

Kai Fleming,
Road Maintenance Technician 3

“...Kai and Tony consistently demonstrated exceptional commitment, skill, and teamwork.”

“Their professionalism and reliability during a time of crisis had a direct and meaningful impact...”

Highlights: Reliable and consistent, adaptability, and commitment to community safety.



I would like to nominate Kai Fleming and Tony Kinswa for their outstanding contributions and dedication to the success of our team. During last month's severe weather event, Lewis County experienced flooding, multiple windstorms, and widespread power outages. Despite these extreme conditions, Kai and Tony consistently demonstrated exceptional commitment, skill, and teamwork.

Their efforts were critical in maintaining high-quality drinking water throughout the emergency. While many systems were under significant strain, they worked tirelessly to monitor, respond, and adapt to rapidly changing conditions, ensuring uninterrupted service and public safety. Their professionalism and reliability during a time of crisis had a direct and meaningful impact on both the team's success and the community we serve.

Kai Fleming and Tony Kinswa exemplify what it means to go above and beyond, and they are truly deserving of this recognition.

- Dan Anderson

Employee Spotlight Award

Water and Utilities – Public Works – Flood Response

Dan Anderson,
Utility Operator 3



“Dan consistently demonstrates exceptional dedication, professionalism, and pride in his role....”

“Dan’s diligence, dependability, and pride in his work exemplify the values of public service and operational excellence.”

Highlights: Dedicated public servant, commitment to community safety and operational excellence.

Dan Anderson consistently demonstrates exceptional dedication, professionalism, and pride in his role as operator of the Vader and Middle Fork water systems. His work ethic, reliability, and attention to detail set a high standard for operational excellence.

Dan thinks creatively and offers intuitive, practical solutions to real-world challenges, drawing from his deep knowledge and experience of our water systems. His strong sense of responsibility and stewardship reflects a level of care and accountability that makes him an invaluable asset to Lewis County.

This commitment was especially evident during the December 2025 flooding event, when Dan devoted countless hours—day and night—to keeping the treatment plant operating safely and maintaining compliance with state water quality standards under extremely demanding conditions. He responds faithfully whenever called upon, addresses issues promptly, and consistently ensures that nothing is overlooked.

Dan's diligence, dependability, and pride in his work exemplify the values of public service and operational excellence. Lewis County is fortunate to have Dan on our team, and we are proud to recognize his outstanding contributions.

- Anders Pollman

Employee Spotlight Award

Emergency Operations Center - Public Works – Flood Response

Gary Hurley,
GIS Supervisor

Kevin Korpi,
Road Maintenance Manager

LeeAnn Frank,
Environmental Technician 2

Kayla Low,
Environmental Technician 2

“They took time away from their families to man the EOC and share their knowledge...”

“This experience will better prepare our team in the future for responding to disasters.”

Highlights: Volunteerism, problem-solving, and commitment to public service.



I would like to nominate Gary Hurley, Kevin Korpi, LeeAnn Frank, and Kayla Low for stepping up and manning the EOC for Public Works during December's flood event.

Kayla and LeeAnn both volunteered to come into the EOC before their shifts to learn about Public Works' role in the EOC during a disaster event. This experience will better prepare our team in the future for responding to disasters.

Gary and Kevin's willingness to share their knowledge and experience by leading the efforts for Public Works in the EOC is invaluable. They took time away from their families to man the EOC and share their knowledge with Public Works' next generation, myself included.

While I am sure we would have stumbled through it if we had to, we didn't have to because of their support. Their calm demeanor and guidance was reassuring while learning "the ropes" myself.

- Geoff Soderquist

Employee Spotlight Award

Solid Waste – Public Works – Flood Response

- Kristen Buckman, Office Manager
- Karen Hirte, Administrative Assistant
- Marissa Briggs, Office Assistant
- Lisa Pratt, Accounting Specialist
- Melanie Case, Sustainability Coordinator
- Kallan Kersavage, Hazardous Waste Coordinator
- Bill Norwood, Operations Supervisor
- Brian Levine, Operations Specialist Sr.
- Tyrone Musselman, Operations Specialist Sr.
- Jerry Wallace, Operations Specialist Sr.
- Jason Ford, Operations Specialist Sr.
- William Potter, Operations Specialist Sr.
- Collin Wolbert, Operations Specialist

“...outstanding coordination, adaptability, and dedication.”

“Their ability to collaborate effectively under pressure ensured a successful outcome and exceeded expectations.”

Highlights: Exceptional teamwork, rapid response, and community support.



I am proud to nominate the following thirteen individuals as a group for recognition of exceptional performance and teamwork.

With less than 48 hours' notice, this team successfully transformed a plan into action through outstanding coordination, adaptability, and dedication. Faced with significant time constraints, they demonstrated professionalism, decisiveness, and a shared commitment to excellence. Their ability to collaborate effectively under pressure ensured a successful outcome and exceeded expectations.

This group's performance stands as a clear example of excellence, teamwork, and resilience. Their collective efforts made a meaningful impact and embodied the high standards and values worthy of formal recognition.

I am also thankful to mention the support received from our Roads Department, GIS Department, and Traffic Department. Their willingness to help Solid Waste allowed for a smooth execution. We all came together to help those Lewis County Residents during this extreme hardship.

- Rocky Lyon

Employee Spotlight Award

Public Works – Flood Response

Geoff Soderquist,
Public Works Director

“Geoff did an outstanding job leading the Public Works Department response....”

“Geoff was highly engaged, visible, and steady throughout....”

Highlights: Outstanding leadership, commitment to service, and operational excellence.



I would like to recognize Geoff Soderquist, Public Works Director, for recognition in this Employee Spotlight for his leadership during last month's flooding event.

Geoff did an outstanding job leading the Public Works Department response, coordinating across multiple PW divisions to deliver a cohesive, effective response to flooding roadways and bridges which posed real risks to people and homes.

Geoff was highly engaged, visible, and steady throughout the multi-day incident response, providing clear direction and support to his team while working closely with County leadership.

His professionalism, commitment, and hands-on leadership were appreciated by his employees and teammates, and they made a meaningful difference during a challenging and high-stakes situation.

- Ryan Barrett

Employee Spotlight Award

Department of Emergency Management – Flood Response

Erika Katt,
DEM Deputy Director

“...Erika worked tirelessly to ensure Lewis County was informed and prepared as possible.”

“Her leadership and dedication made a meaningful difference”

Highlights: Outstanding leadership, commitment to service, and operational excellence.



I would like to recognize Erika Katt, Deputy Director of Emergency Management, for her exceptional work surrounding last month's flooding event.

In the days leading up to the flooding, Erika worked tirelessly to ensure Lewis County was informed and prepared as possible. During the days-long incident, she effectively coordinated with State and Federal officials, as well as local and regional partners and volunteers, to secure resources and ensure our response was timely, organized, and effective in every respect.

Erika also did an excellent job keeping County leadership up to date throughout the event and sent articulate and detailed daily briefings as well.

This event marked Erika's first large-scale emergency response since being promoted into her new role in mid-2025, and she rose to the occasion with professionalism, confidence, and skill. Her leadership and dedication made a meaningful difference for the County and the community during a challenging situation.

- Ryan Barrett

Employee Spotlight Award

Department of Emergency Management – Flood Response

Justin Bushnell,
DEM Planner

Amy Daker,
DEM Administrative
Assistant

“Justin and Amy consistently step up, quickly mastering complex tasks while making meaningful contributions.”

“Their professionalism and initiative strengthen operations and build confidence during disaster response.”

Highlights: Proactive, problem-solving, and commitment to public service.



Regardless of tenure or prior experience, Justin and Amy have each demonstrated an exceptional ability to learn quickly while contributing meaningfully at a high level. They consistently go beyond assigned responsibilities, stepping up to take on complex or unfamiliar tasks with confidence and initiative. Their willingness to ask thoughtful questions, apply critical thinking, and adapt in real time has strengthened team capacity and enhanced overall operational effectiveness.

Justin and Amy bring a consistently positive, team-first attitude, even during extended hours and high-pressure situations, and are trusted by colleagues for their reliability and solution-oriented approach. They regularly think creatively, identify practical improvements, and take initiative to move work forward—often preventing delays, minimizing the need for external support, and conserving organizational resources. Their professionalism, flexibility, and commitment reflect positively on the entire organization and have improved both internal operations and external partner confidence, particularly during disaster response and recovery efforts.

- Erika Katt

Partner Spotlight Award

Department of Emergency Management – Flood Response

Cory Moses,
CERT Team Member -
Volunteer

“Cory Moses demonstrated outstanding dedication and commitment to serving the community.”

“Her flexibility, reliability, and willingness to go above and beyond did not go unnoticed.”

Highlights: Volunteerism, dedication to community, and teamwork.



During the December flooding response:

Cory Moses demonstrated outstanding dedication and commitment to serving the community. Cory stepped in on very short notice and willingly took on additional responsibilities to support response and recovery efforts when help was urgently needed.

Her flexibility, reliability, and willingness to go above and beyond did not go unnoticed. Cory's readiness to assist and positive attitude during a challenging and fast-moving situation made a meaningful impact on the team and helped ensure critical needs were met.

We are incredibly grateful for Cory's support and her continued dedication to CERT and to the Lewis County community. Her actions during the December flooding are a great example of the spirit of service and teamwork that CERT represents.

- Erika Katt

Partner Spotlight Award

Department of Emergency Management – Flood Response

“Brad Flexhaug stepped in to provide valuable support...during a rapidly evolving situation.”

“His flexibility, reliability, and readiness...contributed meaningfully to response operations...”

Highlights: Community partnership, dedicated public servant, and emergency response.

Brad Flexhaug,
Fire Chief
Onalaska Fire Department



During the December flooding response:

Brad Flexhaug stepped in to provide valuable support in the east end of the county during a rapidly evolving situation. His willingness to assist and help provide on-the-ground insight was instrumental in keeping situational awareness during the response.

Brad also supported coordination efforts by helping facilitate communication with response partners as needed. His flexibility, reliability, and readiness to step in on short notice contributed meaningfully to response operations and helped support informed decision-making.

We sincerely appreciate Brad's support, time, and commitment to helping the community during the December flooding response. His willingness to step up when needed reflects the strong partnerships that are critical during emergency response and recovery.

- Erika Katt

Partner Spotlight Award

Department of Emergency Management – Flood Response

Annie Merritt,
Continuity Program Manager
Washington State Emergency
Management Division

“Annie Merritt provided exceptional support to Lewis County by assisting local emergency management...”

“...her steady support greatly strengthened local response and recovery efforts.”

Highlights: Commitment to partnership, steady supporter, and emergency response.



During the December flooding response:

Annie Merritt provided exceptional support to Lewis County by assisting local emergency management throughout the incident. Her availability, responsiveness, and depth of knowledge were instrumental during a complex and fast-moving response.

Annie's support helped ensure Lewis County had timely access to information, guidance, and resources, and her steady support greatly strengthened local response and recovery efforts. Her commitment to collaboration and her willingness to step in when needed made a meaningful difference throughout the incident.

We are sincerely grateful for Annie's dedication and support of Lewis County during the flood response. Her commitment to partnership and her readiness to step in and help wherever needed made a meaningful difference during this event.

- Erika Katt

Celebrating the Heart of Lewis County

These stories reflect the very best of
who we are — dedicated public
servants making a difference every day.

Thank you for your service and
commitment to Lewis County!



January 27, 2026