



Sheriff Troy J. Knudson ROCK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Craig L. Strouse, Chief Deputy



Jude G. Maurer
Commander, Law Enforcement Services

"A Tradition of Service"

Erik D. Chellevoid
Commander, Correctional Services

MEDIA RELEASE

Sheriff Knudson Announces 15th Annual Awards Ceremony

For Immediate Release

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Contact Person

Chief Deputy Craig Strouse
608-757-7948

Sheriff Knudson is pleased to announce that the 15th Annual Rock County Sheriff's Office Awards Ceremony will be held on Tuesday, May 17, 2022, at 6:00 p.m., at the Marvin W. Roth Community Pavilion in Lower Courthouse Park, 51 South Main Street, Janesville. The inclement weather location is the Rock County Courthouse – Jury Assembly Room. This event is open to the public. All are welcome to attend.

This ceremony recognizes Sheriff's Office staff and community members for outstanding public safety achievements that occurred in 2021. Below is an overview of the 2021 Awards. Congratulations to the recipients for their contributions to public safety!

Deputy of the Year: Deputy Brandon Davis

Deputy Brandon Davis started on January 4, 2016, as a Correctional Officer. He earned an Associate in Applied Science in Criminal Justice from Blackhawk Technical College. He became a Deputy Sheriff on August 10, 2019. Deputy Davis presently works second shift in the Patrol Bureau. He also serves on the Honor Guard, SWAT Team, Domestic Violence Intervention Team, and Highway Interdiction Team. Deputy Davis is respected by his peers and supervisors and is always willing to assist other law enforcement officers. On March 3, 2021, Janesville Police Department (JPD) requested assistance stopping a reckless homicide suspect who was fleeing in a vehicle pursued by one JPD Officer. Deputy Davis responded and was able to get ahead of the pursuit. He successfully deployed stop sticks, which deflated all four tires of the fleeing vehicle, and ended the pursuit. Deputy Davis then assisted in the high-risk traffic stop. The suspect was taken into custody without further incident. On August 21, 2021, Beloit Police Department (BPD) and the Sheriff's Office were dispatched to the scene of a shooting where multiple subjects exited a vehicle and shot multiple people. While responding, Deputy Davis saw the suspect vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed through a busy intersection. He got behind the vehicle and kept up with it. Deputy Davis, at great risk to his own safety, rammed the fleeing vehicle with his squad car multiple



200 East U.S. Highway 14
Janesville, WI 53545
Phone: 608-757-8000 Fax: 608-757-7997

times. His squad became disabled, but the ramming caused enough damage to the suspect vehicle that police were able to catch up, stop the vehicle, apprehend all five suspects, and recover multiple firearms with high-capacity magazines. Deputy Davis regularly attends advanced training to expand his knowledge and skills. He embraces community engagement by making positive police contacts with citizens and participating in community events. Deputy Davis received recognition as First Responder of the Year for the 44th Assembly District during a Hometown Heroes Ceremony at the State Capitol on October 26, 2021.

Correctional Officer of the Year: Correctional Officer Matthew Jones



Correctional Officer Matthew Jones started on April 13, 2015. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from the University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee. Correctional Officer Jones currently works second shift in the Jail and is a leader amongst his peers. In 2021, he received outstanding performance reviews for two separate incidents where his application of lifesaving measures saved an inmate's life. He maintains a great attitude regardless of his workload or assignment. Correctional Officer Jones has outstanding attendance and demonstrates a strong work ethic and commitment to the Sheriff's Office. He has only used two days of sick time in seven years of employment.

Correctional Officer Jones skillfully excels in any area of the jail and is often assigned as a booking officer. His dependability and high quality work set him apart. Correctional Officer Jones routinely submits complete booking files and reports that pass supervisor review without revision. On his award nomination, his supervisors noted that his fellow officers frequently seek his advice and opinion and that his supervisors value his input on jail operations. As a Jail Training Officer (JTO), Correctional Officer Jones plays an integral role in the development of new Correctional Officers. Correctional Officer Jones excels at sharing his knowledge with new staff. He is very detail-oriented and prepares documentation that effectively communicates performance objectives to trainees. His positive attitude and thorough approach make him an ideal JTO.

Support Staff Person of the Year: Administrative Assistant Tamera Kettleon

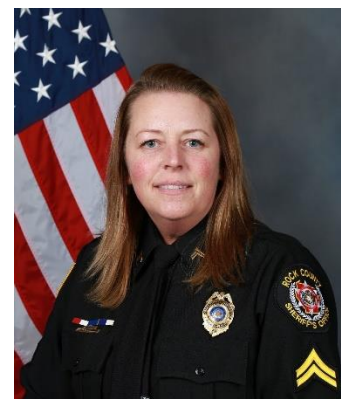
Administrative Assistant Tamera Kettleon started on April 9, 2018, in the Emergency Management Bureau and remained in that position until April 29, 2022, when she became the Office Coordinator for the Rock County Facilities Management Department. Kettleon obtained an Associate in Applied Science in Medical Administrative Specialist from Blackhawk Technical College. Administrative Assistant Kettleon thrived in the Emergency Management Bureau and provided vital support to stakeholders throughout her tenure. Kettleon worked in the COVID-19 Emergency Operations Center (EOC) that was open for more than 400 days, serving as the Logistics Deputy Section



Chief. She continuously managed the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Allocation Program and processed over 575 orders for PPE for Rock County non-profit organizations, schools, medical facilities, public safety agencies, nursing homes and assisted living centers, all County departments, local municipalities, and more. At a time when many worked remotely, Kettleson reported to the office and carried out her duties at an exemplary level. She also served as the Rock County Wisconsin Credentialing & Asset Management System (WI-CAM) Administrator, managing credentials for all emergency response agencies in Rock County. Kettleson completed extensive training in emergency management, incident command, EOC functions, disaster planning, and volunteer management.

Retired Sheriffs Leadership Award: Correctional Supervisor Erin Wilson

Correctional Supervisor Erin Wilson started on June 3, 2004, as a Correctional Officer. Her uncanny ability to connect with those around her allowed her to excel as a corrections professional. She shared her knowledge and skills as a Jail Training Officer, In-Service Instructor, Hostage Negotiator, and Peer Support Leader. She regularly instructed Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Training, Avoiding Inmate Manipulation, and Suicide Prevention. She even taught CIT to law enforcement administrators from across the state through WILENET on four occasions. She earned the respect and trust of her colleagues and developed camaraderie within the jail. She received a promotion to Correctional Supervisor on March 3, 2019. Correctional Supervisor Wilson has supervised third shift in the jail and most recently the Classification Unit. She embodies perseverance, positivity, and compassion. Her impact on the Sheriff's Office resonates with all who served with her. Correctional Supervisor Wilson is a mentor for many and a natural leader. Her sound and practical decisions have been paramount to jail operations. Correctional Supervisor Wilson has dedicated her career to improving the Sheriff's Office through professionalism, hard work, and leading with her heart. Her open door approach and investment in staff truly supports them as employees and people. Correctional Supervisor Wilson is the epitome of leadership and an inspiration to us all. Correctional Supervisor Wilson has contributed so much to everyone around her, making her the clear choice for this award.



Lifesaving Awards:

Correctional Officer Richard Plach

On October 21, 2021, at 10:12 a.m., while conducting a security check of the Medical Unit, Correctional Officer Richard Plach noticed that the inmate in cell M-7 was having a medical emergency. Correctional Officer Plach immediately called for additional staff and entered the cell. The inmate appeared to be breathing, but was unresponsive. Correctional Officer Plach took immediate lifesaving actions, rolling the inmate on their back, checking for a pulse, and checking for breathing. He administered a sternum rub to

the unresponsive inmate, causing the inmate's eyes to flutter. The inmate remained unresponsive. Correctional Officer Plach continued to render aid until Nurse Brandi Malcook arrived and took over. Correctional Officer Plach's diligence conducting the security check led to the detection of a significant medical issue with symptoms that could have been life threatening. His response saved the inmate's life.

Deputy Christopher Lochner

On October 29, 2021, Deputy Christopher Lochner responded to an address in Harmony Township for a report of a pulseless non-breathing subject. Upon arrival, Deputy Lochner announced his presence and heard a distressed female's voice from a separate room. He entered the bedroom and observed an elderly woman cradling an unresponsive elderly male. Deputy Lochner rapidly assessed the dire situation and deployed the AED. The AED advised a shock. After the shock, Deputy Lochner immediately began CPR. After a cycle of CPR, the AED reanalyzed the subject and delivered a second shock. Deputy Lochner continued CPR until emergency medical services personnel arrived and took over. Deputy Lochner then spoke with the woman and gathered background information. The subject was transported to the hospital with a pulse, and Deputy Lochner drove the woman to the hospital. Deputy Lochner's quick thinking under stress and administration of CPR stabilized this man.

Deputy Lee Jackson and Correctional Officer Dennis Meyer

On November 11, 2021, a Drug Court participant received a judicially mandated 8-hour sanction in the secure holding area of the Courthouse. Shortly after lunch, Correctional Officer Dennis Meyer was in Master Control monitoring cameras in the occupied cells when he noticed the participant laying on his side on the floor. Correctional Officer Meyer was familiar with this participant and knew that he always sleeps on the bunk. Correctional Officer Meyer went to the cell to check on the participant. He found the individual pale and unresponsive with agonal breathing. Correctional Officer Meyer radioed for Deputy Lee Jackson to bring NARCAN and an AED. Correctional Officer Meyer and Deputy Jackson started life saving measures. After three doses of NARCAN, the participant became responsive. Emergency medical services personnel arrived and transported the participant to the hospital for treatment. Deputy Jackson then processed and photographed the cell and located cocaine. The awareness and actions of Correctional Officer Meyers and Deputy Jackson saved the participant's life.

Deputies Kristina Bordner and Samantha Valencia

On February 6, 2022, at approximately 6:01 p.m., patrol personnel were dispatched to a residence in the Town of Rock for an unresponsive male. The individual was reported to be blue and stiff to the touch. Deputy Kristina Bordner and Deputy Samantha Valencia arrived on scene first and immediately started lifesaving measures. They performed chest compressions and utilized the AED. Deputy Bordner and Deputy Valencia continued these measures until fire and emergency medical services personnel arrived and took

over. The individual was transported to the hospital and recovered. The quick and concise actions of Deputy Bordner and Deputy Valencia saved this man's life.

Sergeant Andrew Reed and Deputy Kaitlyn Barrett

On February 25, 2022, at approximately 5:55 p.m., patrol personnel were dispatched to a residence in Janesville Township for a medical emergency. Deputy Kaitlyn Barrett arrived first. She assessed the male subject and recognized that the individual was experiencing agonal breathing from a medical issue. Deputy Barrett immediately began CPR on the unresponsive male and coordinated with responding personnel to have an AED brought into the residence. Sergeant Andrew Reed soon arrived with an AED. He opened and applied the AED, while Deputy Barrett continued CPR. The AED advised of a shock. The AED administered multiple shocks prior to and while emergency medical services personnel were present. The individual ultimately regained a normal heartbeat and began breathing. The calm, quick, and decisive actions of Deputy Barrett and Sergeant Reed saved the man's life.

Sergeant Nicholas Brown, Correctional Supervisor Cory Reilly, Correctional Officers Riley Bendorf, Kalyn Collins, Nicholas Habeck, Jordan Hillis, Stephen Kreuter, Corey Schilt, and Bryce Wilson, and Nurse Taylor McNeff

On March 29, 2022, at approximately 12:45 p.m., Correctional Officer Ryan Brassington radioed for correctional staff to respond to D Unit for an overdose. Several personnel responded and located three unresponsive inmates within the section. Personnel determined this was an overdose situation and called for AEDs, oxygen, and NARCAN. The first inmate was found on the floor right inside of the section. Correctional Supervisor Cory Reilly evaluated this inmate and determined unresponsive. Correctional Officer Corey Schilt started sternum rubs and administered two doses of NARCAN. Correctional Officer Stephen Kreuter began CPR, and the inmate became responsive. Sergeant Nicholas Brown evaluated the second inmate and began chest compressions as Correctional Officer Kalyn Collins administered two doses of NARCAN. Correctional Officer Bryce Wilson prepared the AED as Correctional Officer Schilt administered a third dose of NARCAN. The inmate became semi-conscious prior to the administration of a fourth dose of NARCAN by Correctional Officer Schilt. The inmate was responsive prior to the arrival of emergency medical services personnel. Correctional Officer Riley Bendorf evaluated the third inmate as he checked for a pulse. No pulse was present, so he followed up with a sternum rub, with no reaction. Staff attached the AED, and Nurse Taylor McNeff started chest compressions, while Correctional Officer Jordan Hillis administered NARCAN. CPR continued. The AED advised and administered a shock. Correctional Officer Nicholas Habeck took over chest compressions as Correctional Officer Bendorf and Correctional Officer Hillis administered additional NARCAN. Nurse Taylor then took over chest compressions followed by Correctional Supervisor Reilly. The inmate became respondent after more than 10 minutes of care by correctional staff and prior to the arrival of emergency medical services personnel. The actions of these employees saved three inmates' lives.

Sheriff's Awards:

Captains Aaron Burdick and Kimberly Litsheim and Sergeants Nicholas Brown and Shawn Natter

The Sheriff's Office committed to adopting a new policy manual in 2021 and accomplished this through the implementation of Lexipol's Custody Policy Manual. This project included entering all Correctional Services Division policies and procedures into Lexipol, linking Law Enforcement Services Division policies and procedures, and combining shared Administrative policies under one umbrella. This endeavor required significant time and effort from select supervisors, beyond their regular responsibilities and primary assignments. Captain Aaron Burdick and Captain Kimberly Litsheim along with Sergeant Nicholas Brown and Sergeant Shawn Natter completed the bulk of this process. This project required continued dedication as they faced difficult questions about current policies and procedures and conducted a critical analysis of every aspect of the Sheriff's Office. Their collective efforts resulted in a customized policy manual that best meets the needs of the agency and the community as a whole. They completed this massive undertaking as scheduled. Their work will guide Sheriff's Office staff well into the future.

Administrative Assistant Christopher Johnson

Administrative Assistant Christopher Johnson started in this position on April 26, 2021, after serving as a Correctional Officer. Johnson was hired to maintain the scanning of vital records for the Sheriff's Office. With his initiative and drive, he took the position far beyond the parameters set. Johnson drew upon his corrections experience and explored areas for improvements within the agency. He sought to improve current methods, paperwork, and situations to provide better opportunities for the agency as a whole. He obtained approval to begin a few projects early on and has steadily increased his workload since. Notably, Johnson digitized a considerable amount of current records. This enabled a significant reduction in the records storage space needed in the building project. He completed the majority of this task within a few months, despite the timeline of several years before the new building opens. Johnson's accomplishments in his short tenure as an Administrative Assistant are remarkable.

Administrative Assistant Lindsey Bittorf

Administrative Assistant Lindsey Bittorf works as the liaison for the Sheriff's Office Body Camera Program. In this role, she manages data for approximately 175 body cameras. Data management encompasses retention, redaction, open records requests, and evidentiary requests from the District Attorney's Office. In the course of her duties, Bittorf identified and fixed issues within the program. She has been instrumental to the success of the Body Camera Program. Bittorf also assisted with the implementation of the Sheriff's Office digital evidence storage system. She collaborated with the software company for nearly a year to ensure the program's functionality. This is no small task, as it consists of all of the agency's digital evidence on a daily basis. Bittorf discovered software glitches that the software company was unaware of until she brought them to light. Bittorf displays

a strong working knowledge of the program and engages in a weekly meeting with the software development team to assist them with programming errors and features.

Unit Citations:

Second Shift Patrol: Deputies Zachary Anacker, Jacob Arneson, Kristina Bordner, Terry Borgwardt, Mathew Christidis, David Cliffe, Kevin Lyga, Jesus Salazar, Cody St. Michael, Samantha Valencia, and Cole Walsh

Rock County experienced a steep increase in frauds related to purchasing gift cards at local stores during 2019 and 2020. Several citizens fell victim to phone scams that prompted them to get gift cards to pay a fake warrant, fine, or late fee. The victims would provide the gift card number over the phone to the suspects, and their money would be taken. These scams affected all jurisdictions in Rock County. Deputies on Second Shift Patrol contacted all of the businesses related to this fraud and the local jurisdictions. They created information cards for store clerks to use to alert victims of potential fraud and distributed them to the businesses. In less than a week, it was reported that the information cards worked, and the usage of a card intervened in an ongoing fraud. Since the distribution of the cards, credit card frauds have dropped to near zero reporting. The coordinated efforts of these Deputies exemplified proactive policing to prevent crime.

Small Unmanned Aerial System (Drone) Team: Captain Aaron Burdick, Deputies Christopher Hasseler, Ross Wenger, and Jason Wescott, and Correctional Officers Steven Fraser and Aaron Mikel

The Rock County Sheriff's Office small Unmanned Aerial System (sUAS) Team deployed 25 times in 2021 for several types of operations, including accident reconstruction, crime scene documentation, high risk / tactical, and search and rescue. These operations vary in scale, but are vital to the overall mission of the Sheriff's Office. Notably, the successful utilization of drones led to the recovery of a missing man. On March 17, 2021, the sUAS Team responded to the area of Storrs Lake for a report of an overdue hiker. Over the course of a few days, Deputy Jason Wescott, Deputy Christopher Hasseler, and Correctional Officer Steven Fraser flew several flights to search Storrs Lake and surrounding trails, as well as Bowers Lake and surrounding trails. The drone pilots utilized drones equipped with a zoom camera and an infrared camera. On March 19, 2021, Deputy Wescott and Detective Brent Reilly spotted an object in the water of Bowers Lake on the drone feed. Deputy Wescott directed searchers in a boat to the area, where they located the missing man. Drones allowed staff to search several acres more efficiently, provided documentation of the operation, and resulted in closure to this tragic event.

ICAC Task Force: Detectives Corene Bilhorn and Luke DuCharme

In 2021, Detective Corene Bilhorn and Detective Luke DuCharme worked significant Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) cases above and beyond their normal case load. A November 2020 case yielded over 300 images of child pornography and is still being prosecuted. An April 2020 case resulted in 45 suspected child pornography videos and

over 1,000 suspected child pornography images. The suspect was referred for an arrest warrant. Another case entailed a man targeting juvenile females and grooming them to send him sexually explicit images and videos that he would then share with others. In total, over 313,000 sexually explicit and grooming messages sent to juvenile victims were located, and over 13,000 images and videos of child pornography sent by the victims were recovered. This case ended in Federal Prosecution. A July 2021 case regarding child exploitation involved posting explicit images, videos, and information regarding juvenile children on social media platforms and sexual assaults of numerous juvenile boys. As a result of this case, two suspects are awaiting trial. Throughout, Detective Bilhorn and Detective DuCharme displayed the diligence and tenacity it takes to successfully investigate ICAC cases.

12/09/2021 Investigation: Sergeant Matthew Jacobson, Detective Corene Bilhorn, and Deputies Terry Borgwardt, Matthew Michalski, Margaret Schmidt, and Jason Wescott

On December 9, 2021, at approximately 6:08 p.m., patrol personnel from the Town of Beloit Police Department, the City of Beloit Police Department, and the Sheriff's Office were dispatched to 1905 South Porter Avenue in the Town of Beloit for a report of a gunshot victim. Shortly thereafter, a hospital called and reported three additional gunshot wound victims arrived at the hospital. The Town of Beloit Police Department requested that the Sheriff's Office Detective Bureau, Bureau of Identification, and Special Investigations Unit respond and assist with the shooting investigation. The Detective Bureau and Special Investigations Unit interviewed several subjects, including shooting victims at four hospitals in Rock, Dane, and Winnebago, IL Counties. Detective Corene Bilhorn and Deputies Terry Borgwardt, Matthew Michalski, Margaret Schmidt, and Jason Wescott processed the crime scene and collected hundreds of pieces of evidence. They remained on scene for approximately 24 hours to complete the initial evidence collection process. Bureau of Identification staff continued to process the collected evidence at the Sheriff's Office for weeks following. This was a very complex scene that required a team effort. Their work ethic demonstrated their dedication to the community.

Citizen Award: Tony Farrell

Tony Farrell is well known in Rock County for his contributions to the community, and the Sheriff's Office is no exception. Farrell started working in suicide prevention during his military service and has continued suicide prevention efforts in Rock County for the past 52 years. He volunteers as the Director of the Rock County Suicide Prevention Network and the Director of the Rock County Safety Series. Farrell's musical expertise and work in the retail music business over the last 55 years provided countless opportunities for mentoring local youth. His family owns and operates Voigt Music Center, which has graciously loaned sound equipment to the Sheriff's Office for numerous events over the years. Farrell was a long term volunteer for the Rock County Board of Supervisors and assisted at many meetings. Farrell served as a long term volunteer Deputy Coroner for the Rock County Coroner Department. In this role, he assisted the Coroner and families in their time of need. He presently serves as the volunteer Outreach Coordinator for both

the Rock County Medical Examiner's Office and the Rock County Health Department.
The Sheriff's Office recognizes Farrell for his decades of selfless community service.

TROY J. KNUDSON
SHERIFF

By: Nicole Barrington