



Park County Sheriff's Office



2016 Annual Report

Scott A. Steward, Sheriff

"Service, Safety, Security"



**A MESSAGE FROM
SHERIFF SCOTT A. STEWARD**



To the citizens of Park County:

Each year the men and women of the Park County Sheriff's Office face new and defining challenges as they strive to provide service, safety and security for our citizens and 2016 was certainly no exception. Our personnel experienced their share of triumphs and tragedies; from the apprehension and arrest of several wanted felons, to the investigation into the starvation death of several horses and dogs on a rural Clark property, to dealing with Mother Nature in the form of wildfires and blizzards. And as always, our personnel continued to perform at an exceptionally high level with compassion, professionalism and commitment.

Our personnel spent countless hours assisting residents and firefighters as they battled not one, not two, but three major wildfires in Park County during August of 2016. The largest fire threatened numerous residential homes in the North and South Fork areas and a second fire threatened cabins in Crandall. Deputies assisted in mandatory evacuations and provided traffic and security patrols for the protection of residents and to assist firefighting efforts. Deputies also helped county residents during the blizzard of 2016, assisting stranded motorists and checking on the elderly all while continuing to perform their law enforcement duties.

Our Search and Rescue volunteers also performed at an exceptionally high level in 2016, always under difficult circumstances. They rescued a group of Boy Scouts after their rafts overturned in the swollen waters of the Shoshone River; they coordinated the evacuation of numerous injured hunters in separate incidents in the back country; and were tasked with recovering the bodies two separate heart attack victims in the wilderness.

Through all this, our personnel remain committed to our mission to "promote public trust and provide service, safety and security to those we are sworn to serve." In 2017, we will continue our promise to keep you informed regarding criminal investigations, safety programs, community outreach and general information regarding Park County and the activities of your sheriff's office.

Sincerely,

Scott A. Steward
Sheriff, Park County, Wyoming

PATROL DIVISION

MAJOR INCIDENTS – The year 2016 was a busy season for wildfires in Park County and deputies from the Park County Sheriff’s Office played a major role in security patrol, traffic control, and evacuation notifications. A three-month drought contributed significantly to the fire danger and on August 2nd at 2:00 p.m., the Cody Fire Department was dispatched to a fire in the



Whit Creek area of the North Fork. Subsequently named the Whit Fire, it quickly spread over the dry timber and sage brush. And on August 3rd, temperatures soared into the 90’s and sustained winds of 50 miles per hour with gusts up to 70 miles per hour fanned the flames into a raging inferno, spreading up and over the mountains and down into the South Fork

threatening numerous residences and subdivisions. Mandatory evacuation orders of as many as 250 homes were issued by the Emergency Management Agency. Federal, state and local firefighting agencies deployed as many as 1,000 firefighters as well as numerous air resources to fight the blaze and protect property. Park County Sheriff’s deputies went door-to-door issuing the evacuations orders and assisted in traffic control in the effected neighborhoods in order to permit unobstructed access for firefighting resources. Eventually, the Whit Fire consumed 12,387 acres. As of August 9th, the fire was 80% contained with no loss of life and only four structures lost (only one residence). The cause of the fire remains undetermined.

Just as the Whit Fire was being brought under control, two more wildfires were discovered in Park County. The Twin Lakes Fire was reported on the evening of August 8th. It burned approximately 1,579 acres on public land approximately 19 miles south/southwest of Meeteetse and west of Grass Creek. Because the fire burned in rough terrain and steep canyons with no persons or property threatened, the Park County Sheriff’s Office had minimal involvement in this fire other than continually monitoring the progress of the firefighting efforts



and keeping residents updated through social media. The fire was determined to be caused by a lightning strike.

Finally, a new fire was reported evening of August 9th on the Clarks Fork Ranger District of Shoshone National Forest. Believed to be caused by a lightning strike, the Hunter Peak Fire was



located approximately 30 miles northwest of Cody near Squaw Creek Road in the Crandall area. Due to the fire activity and its proximity to numerous cabins on Squaw Creek Road, the area was evacuated. Park County Sheriff's deputies were assigned to prevent access to this area for the safety of residents as well as the efficiency of the firefighters. Deputies also patrolled the Chief Joseph

Highway in the area of the fire which had a temporary reduced speed limit of 45 miles per hour. Eventually the Hunter Peak Fire consumed 3,572 acres before being brought under control by federal, state and local firefighting resources. There was no loss of property due to the fire.

Fire was not the only reason that deputies stayed busy with Mother Nature in 2106. Just prior to Christmas, a blizzard struck Park County with over 18 inches of snow and winds gusting up to 50 miles per hour in and around the city of Cody. Snowfall totals on the North and South Fork areas totaled over 36 inches in some areas. During the blizzard, sheriff's personnel remained extremely busy responding to and getting help to those in need whenever and wherever they could and keeping residents up to date on current road closures through their social media accounts. During this week-long weather event and the days surrounding it, deputies



investigated 17 motor vehicle crashes and responded to over 60 reports of stuck or stranded motorists. Even one of our own deputies became stuck trying to assist another motorist (see photo). He was forced to abandon his vehicle for several days until the county road crews could get to it. Deputies also checked on the welfare of a dozen county residents during the storm.

In addition to assisting firefighting efforts and handling blizzard emergencies, Park County Sheriff's deputies and investigators stayed busy with several high-profile investigations in 2016. On Thursday, January 7th, sheriff's deputies responded to an anonymous report of approximately six to seven deceased horses at a property on Crossfire Trail in Clark. Upon arrival, deputies discovered seven dead horses along with six live horses in several corrals on the property. The dead horses appeared to have died from



neglect and there did not appear to be any water or food available to the live horses.

Subsequent investigation revealed an additional three dead dogs on the property along with three live dogs and three live cats. All of the live animals were seized for their safety and well-being and the owner of the property, Michael Aaron Wood who claimed to have insufficient resources to care for the animals, was charged with 13 counts of animal neglect. He was eventually convicted on all counts and sentenced to serve one year in the Park County Detention Facility.

On Wednesday, November 2nd, Park County Law Enforcement were notified by investigators with the Mesa County, Colorado Sheriff's Office that Jacob Christopher Hoard was possibly headed to the Cody area. Hoard was wanted in connection with an armed robbery involving cash and drugs on October 5th in Molina, Colorado during which three subjects were shot. Hoard had a Goldsboro, North Carolina address but records indicated that he had previously lived in Cody as well. He was reportedly driving a newer model Ford F-150 pickup with North Carolina plates. On Friday, November 4th at 7:30 p.m., a deputy from the Park County Sheriff's Office observed a dark colored Ford F-150 pickup with North Carolina license plates parked in downtown Cody.



Upon checking the license plates, the deputy confirmed that the truck indeed was registered to Hoard. The deputy began surveillance on the truck and after approximately 15 minutes, two male subjects appeared and entered the truck. With the assistance of a second deputy, the truck was blocked, preventing it from leaving. Hoard was subsequently identified and taken into custody. He was booked into the Park County Detention facility and subsequently extradited to Colorado.

During 2016, Park County Sheriff's Office continued to monitor the judicial process as it related to the murder of Juan Antonio Guerra-Torres whose decapitated body was found on January 9, 2014 on Little Sand Coulee Road, near Clark. Two of the suspects, Pedro Garcia Jr. and John Louis Marquez are still incarcerated in the county detention facility awaiting trial. However, a third suspect, Sandra Garcia pled guilty to manslaughter and accessory to second degree murder. She is currently serving a sentence of 10 to 18 years in the State Department of Corrections Wyoming Women's Center in Lusk, Wyoming.



PERSONNEL - Patrol deputies are primarily responsible for providing public safety by maintaining order, responding to emergencies, protecting people and property, enforcing motor vehicle and criminal laws, and promoting good community relations. On January 18th, Sheriff Steward appointed Deputy Brett Tillery to the department's patrol division. He replaced long-time Deputy Mike Pennell who had recently retired. Brett has been with the Park County Sheriff's Office since February of 2014 as a deputy in the detention facility. He was born in California but his parents moved to Wyoming immediately after. He has lived in Wyoming ever since and moved to the Cody area in 2005. Brett attended Northwest College in Powell where he earned an associate's degree. His father, Rick is an officer with the Cody Police Department.

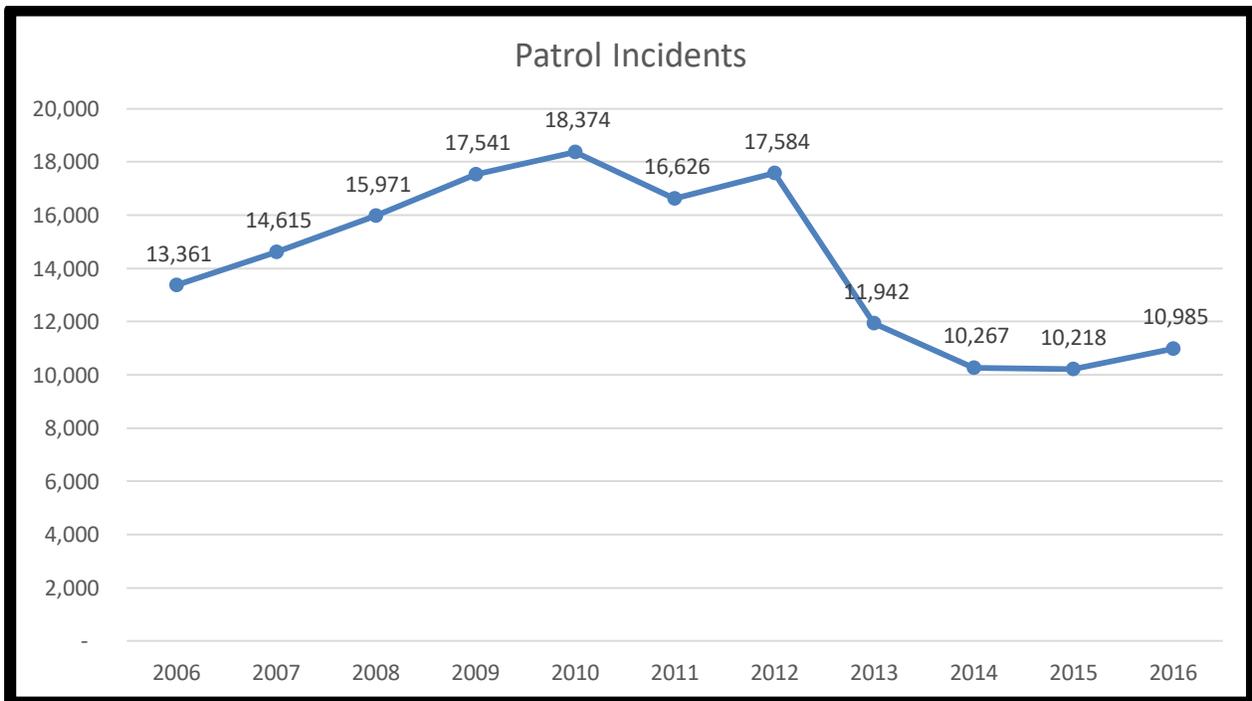


Tragically, on January 8, 2017, retired and long-time deputy Mike Pennell, succumbed to heart related issues and passed away at his home in Naylor, Georgia. Mike retired from the sheriff's office in January of 2016 after nearly 17 years of dedicated service to the citizens of Park County. Previously Mike served as a deputy with the Hillsborough County, Florida Sheriff's Office as a canine handler and briefly with the Greybull, Wyoming police department before joining the Park County Sheriff's Office. He was also a veteran of the United States Army Calvary where he received numerous awards and commendations for his service to our country. Mike leaves behind a son, Russell who lives in Tampa, Florida. There were no services for Mike however, the Park County Sheriff's Office received hundreds condolence messages via



Facebook from local residents as well as his former coworkers in the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office. Mike was highly regarded and he will be missed.

PATROL ACTIVITY – In 2016, patrol deputies continued to provide the citizens of Park County the service, safety, and security that they have come to expect from their law enforcement officials. In fact, operational activity saw an overall increase in almost every category from 2015. Deputies responded to 10,985 calls for service which is a 7.5% increase from 2015. These included 2,472 motor vehicle inspections, 1,621 civil paper services, 1,246 traffic stops (up 67% from 2015), 783 animal calls, 416 warrant service attempts, 369 felony and misdemeanor arrests (up 20% from 2015), 119 motor vehicle crash investigations, 379 criminal investigations (up 60% from 2015) and 1,186 non-criminal investigations. All of this activity was accomplished by 14 full-time patrol deputies who are responsible for patrolling nearly 7,000 square miles of rural Park County. That equates to an average of 785 calls for service handled by each deputy during the year.



INCIDENTS

Total Patrol Incidents	10,985
Calls for Service Incidents	6,182
Officer Initiated Incidents	4,803
Traffic Stops	1,246
Business/Building/Vehicle Checks	16
Other Incidents	3,557

ARRESTS

Total Arrests	369
Misdemeanor Arrests	302
Felony Arrests	67

CASE INVESTIGATIONS

Total Case Investigations	1,565
Vehicle Accident Investigations	87
Criminal Investigations	379
Non-Criminal Investigations	1,088
Unclassified Investigations	11

WARRANTS

New Warrants Received	573
Warrants Closed	406

VIN INSPECTIONS

Total VIN Inspections	2,472
VIN Inspection Fees Collected *	\$24,720.00

CIVIL SUMMONS

Total Service Attempts	1,621
Total Served	625
Total Attempts with No Service	982
Civil Service Fees Collected *	\$22,630.00

CITATIONS

Total Citations Issued	459
Misdemeanor Criminal Citations	189
Traffic Citations	258
Unclassified	12

* Fees collected are returned to the county general fund

PATROL INCIDENTS BY TYPE

INCIDENT TYPE		INCIDENT TYPE	
911 HANG UP CALL	95	MOTOR VEHICLE CRASH	119
ABANDONED VEHICLE	73	NCIC WARRANT ENTRY	229
ADMINISTRATIVE DUTY	1	NOTIFY CITY DEPARTMENTS	79
ALARM-INTRUSTION/HOLDUP	111	NUISANCE COMPLAINTS	2
AMBULANCE-DEPUTY ASSIGNED	15	OPEN DOOR/WINDOW	2
ANIMAL-BITE	19	OTHER ACCIDENT	9
ANIMAL-DECEASED	7	OTHER LAW VIOLATIONS	29
ANIMAL-LOST	172	PARKING PROBLEM	10
ANIMAL-NOISY	7	PATROL-EXTRA	83
ANIMAL-OTHER	164	PEDESTRIAN STOP	2
ANIMAL-ON ROADWAY	232	PERSON FOUND	1
ANIMAL-STRAY	182	PERSON LOST	1
ASSIST OTHER AGENCY	614	PHONE RELATED COMPLAINT	2
ASSAULT	22	PRISONER TRANSPORT	8
ATTEMPT TO LOCATE	24	PROBATION VIOLATION	7
AUTO BURGLARY	7	PROPERTY DAMAGE	68
BARWALK	24	PROPERTY FOUND	48
BODY FOUND	21	PROPERTY LOST	78
BUILDING BURGLARY	25	PROTECTION ORDER	27
COUNCIL COMMUNITY SERVICES	1	PROWLER	7
CHILD WELFARE	18	REDDI REPORT	68
CITIZEN/BUSINESS CONTACT	69	ROAD HAZARD/BLOCKAGE	89
CIVIL ATTEMPTS	1,605	RUNAWAY JUVENILE	2
CIVIL DISPUTE	58	SEARCH AND RESCUE CALL	44
CIVIL STANDBY	52	SECURITY CHECK	11
COMPUTER CRIME	1	SEXUAL ASSAULT	10
CUSTODY DISPUTE	21	SEXUAL OFFENDER RECORD	11
DISTURBANCE	42	SEX OFFENDER REGISTRATION	60

DOMESTIC	68	SEX OFFENDER REPORTING	159
DRILL/EXERCISE	3	SPECIAL INCIDENT- Undefined	33
DRUGS RELATED	18	STOLEN VEHICLE	7
ESCAPE	1	SUICIDE ATTEMPT/THREATS	36
EXTRA PATROL REQUEST	32	SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY	147
FIRE CALL-DEPUTY ASSIGNED	19	SEARCH WARRANT	2
FIREWORKS COMPLAINT	7	THEFT	76
FLAGDOWN OF DEPUTY	38	THREATS	28
FOLLOWUP INVESTIGATION	137	TRAFFIC COMPLAINT	120
FRAUD RELATED	72	TRAFFIC STOP	1,246
HARASSMENT	45	TRAINING/ INSTRUCTION	6
HAZARD TO SAFETY	6	TRESPASS COMPLAINT	90
INCORRIGIBLE JUVENILE	16	UNKNOWN CALL TYPE	9
INFORMATIONAL CASE	126	US FOREST SERVICE PATROL	141
INTOXICATED SUBJECT	11	VIN INSPECTIONS	2,477
LITTERING	8	WARRANT SERVICE	416
MENTAL PROBLEM	5	WEAPONS OFFENSE	20
MESSAGE DELIVERY	9	WELFARE CHECK	110
MISCELLANEOUS ASSISTANCE	453	TOTAL PATROL INCIDENTS	10,985

COMMUNICATIONS

The Park County Sheriff's Office Communications Division handles calls for the Park County Sheriff's Office, Cody Police Department, Park County Search and Rescue, West Park Ambulance, and the Cody, Powell, Meeteetse and Clark Fire Districts. In 2016, seven total



dispatchers handled 24,190 calls for service. This equates to over 3,455 calls per dispatcher. Park County 911 dispatchers play many roles: therapist, doctor, lawyer, teacher, weatherman, guidance counselor, psychologist, priest, secretary, supervisor, politician, and reporter. And few people must jump through the emotional hoops on the trip through the routine of one caller's request for a

phone number, to the fear of another caller's burglary in progress, to the anger of a neighbor blocked in their drive, to the sorrow of a caller who lost their pet, to the stress of an officer's request for help, and back to the phone number request all in a five-minute time frame. But Park County dispatchers accept these responsibilities with expertise and confidence.

COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION CALLS FOR SERVICE (% Change from 2015)

Park County Sheriff's Office	10,985 (+07.51%)
Cody Police Department	10,634 (-09.30%)
Cody Fire Department	381 (+04.38%)
Clark Fire Department	32 (-41.82%)
Powell Fire Department	200 (-25.09%)
Meeteetse Fire Department	36 (+28.57%)
West Park Hospital Ambulance	1,878 (+02.45%)
Park County Search and Rescue	44 (+69.23%)
Total Calls for Service	24,190 (-01.22%)

Controlled Burn Permits

Total Permits Issued	3,682
Cody/Meeteetse Area	1,559
Powell/Garland/Ralston/Clark Area	2,096

Fire Calls Dispatched

Cody Fire Department	381
Clark Fire Department	32
Powell Fire Department	200
Meeteetse Fire Department	36
Total Fire Calls	649

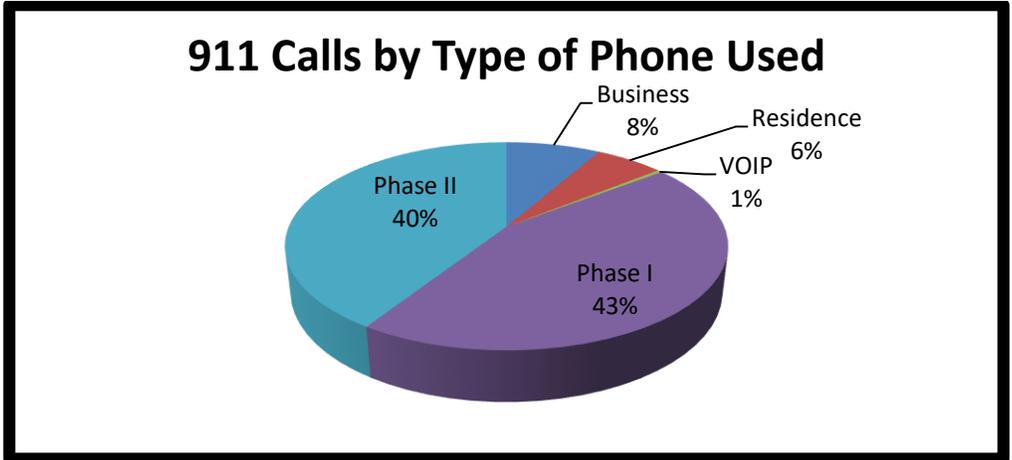
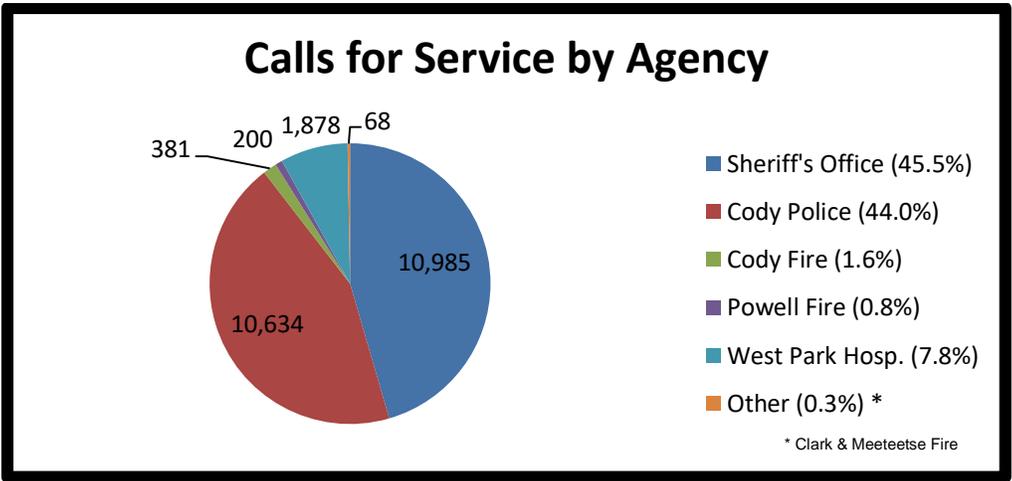
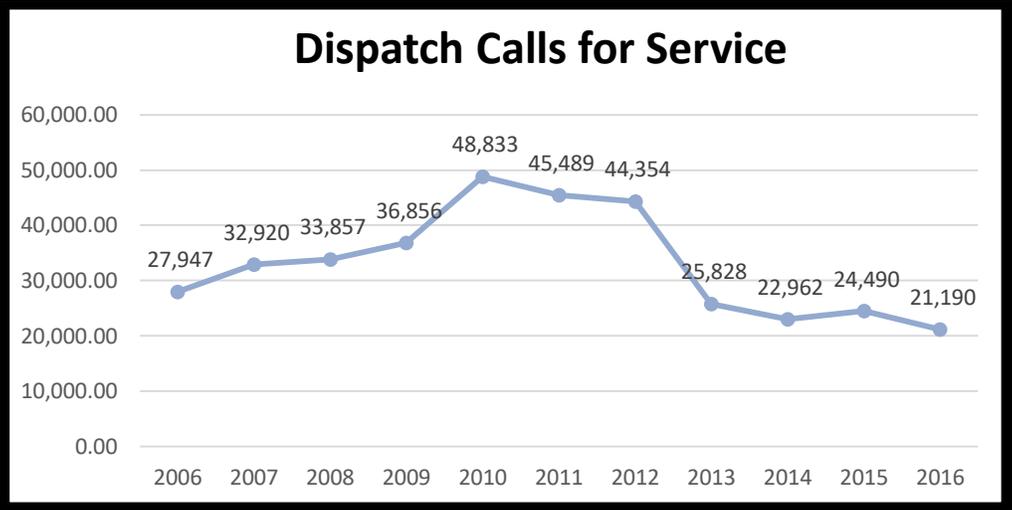
A Dispatcher's Prayer

"Dear Lord, help me keep safe those who depend on me. Bless me with nerves of steel that I may listen to a mother screaming for her child to live, the man with a gun, or an officer yelling for backup, and not give way to panic.

Grant me empathy that I may help the battered wife, the rape victim, the abused child, and not cause them more pain than they already have. God, give me the ability to learn what I need, to remember it quickly, and the wisdom to use the knowledge properly.

Bless my family Lord. Help them understand the missed ball games, school programs and dinners for two. Lord, give me courage, courage to persevere when I feel undervalued, unappreciated, overworked and unrecognized. Courage to keep trying when I feel in my heart it's hopeless.

Last of all Lord, help me to never forget, why I chose this job in the first place, to never lose sight of what is important in the midst of the stress. Help me to remember that I make a difference, however small it may seem some days, and that I matter. I am a dispatcher, Lord, grant me peace."



Phase I = Calls originating from a cellular telephone, unable to map location
 Phase II = Calls originating from a cellular telephone, able to map location
 Business = Call originating from a business landline, able to map location
 Residence = Call originating from a residential landline, able to map location
 VOIP = Voice Over Internet Protocol, internet-based phone service, able to map location

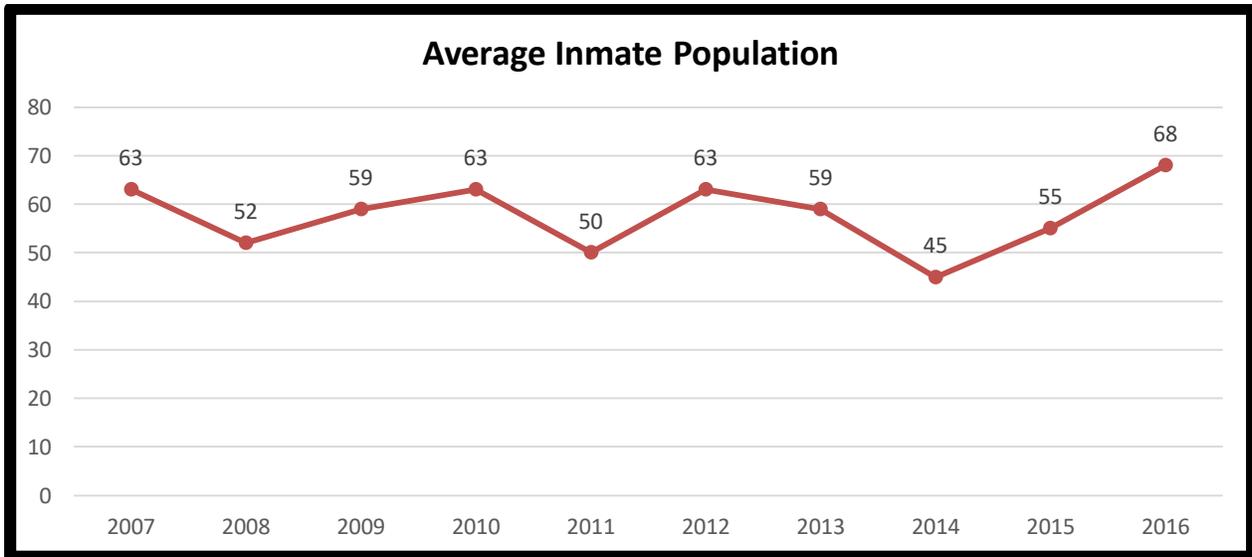
DETENTION

In 2016, the Park County Sheriff’s Office Detention Division booked a total of 1,112 prisoners into the holding facility. This number represents a 16 percent increase in total bookings from 2015. The average inmate population also increased from 55 in 2015 to 68 in 2016, a 24 percent increase.

TOTAL DETENTION BOOKINGS BY YEAR (Including the percent change from previous year)

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Park County Sheriff	270 (-10%)	256 (-5%)	265 (+4%)	244(-8%)	257 (+5%)
Cody Police Dept.	429 (-26%)	480 (+12%)	474 (-1%)	400 (-16%)	472 (+18%)
Powell Police Dept.	195 (+4%)	278 (+43%)	331 (+19%)	264 (-20%)	336 (+27%)
Wyoming Highway Patrol	52 (+2%)	47 (-10%)	44 (-6%)	43 (-2%)	38 (-12%)
Division of Criminal Invest.	14 (+250%)	9 (-36%)	6 (-33%)	3 (-50%)	6 (+100%)
Probation & Parole	4 (-20%)	8 (+100%)	8 (0%)	2 (-75%)	0 (-100%)
New Bookings on New Charges	947 (+10%)	833 (-12%)	920 (+10%)	784 (-15%)	918 (+17%)
Total Bookings *	1,145 (+1%)	1,083 (-6%)	1,132 (+5%)	962 (-15%)	1,112 (+16%)

* Includes “weekender” bookings, where someone comes to serve time on weekends only. Also includes 6 bookings by other agencies.



USE OF FORCE - The Park County Detention Center also tracks the use of force incidents against inmates within our care and protection. These incidents are created whenever a detention deputy has to utilize force against a non-compliant inmate. This can be in the form of compliance holds such as a wrist-lock up to and including the use of non-lethal weapons such as a Taser or pepper spray. We continually strive to keep these incidents to a minimum by providing the best possible

training to our deputies in methods to mitigate situations prior to resorting to physical force. Assaults by inmates against officers and each other increased from 5 to 8 in 2016 and our use of force incidents also increased from 6 to 14, however as the table below indicates, 2015 was an exceptionally low year. As with use of force incidents, we continually strive to minimize inmate assaults through training. All inmates who assault officers or other inmates are prosecuted under state law.

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Use of Force Incidents *	13	21	19	6	14
Inmate Assaults	7	7	2	5	8

* Force is used to gain compliance only

PERSONNEL - In 2016, the detention facility hired four new deputies: Deputy Kole Richmond (pictured right with Sheriff Steward) in January; Deputy Steven Bassett in July; Deputy Neal Corr in September; and Deputy Brandon Tillery in December. All hires were the result of resignations and reassignments therefore there was no increase in personnel levels. Also in June of 2016, Deputy Investigator Joe Torczon was promoted to Lieutenant in charge of the detention facility, replacing the former lieutenant who resigned. Lieutenant Torczon (pictured below) was selected from a pool of qualified candidates after an extensive review and interview process. In making the promotion, Sheriff Steward praised Lt. Torczon’s experience and professionalism. “Joe brings years of



experience to the table, not only in detention administration, but in overall law enforcement operations,” commented Steward. “He not only has supervisory experience in our detention facility but was instrumental in bringing the three Little Sand Coulee Homicide murderers to justice. I am confident in his dedication to duty, professionalism, and ability to serve the needs of our residents to the standards they have come to expect from all of our staff.” Lieutenant Torczon joined the Park County Sheriff’s Office in 2005 as a detention deputy, eventually attaining the rank of sergeant in 2007. In 2011, he was transferred to the patrol division and then in 2013, appointed the department’s lone detective.

REVENUE GENERATED BY THE PARK COUNTY DETENTION DIVISION *

Jail Housing from the City of Cody	\$10,530.00
Fingerprint/Notary/Record fees	\$ 8,796.97
Inmate Phone system	\$12,740.88
Medical Reimbursement	\$ 3,735.92
Court Restitution	<u>\$10,036.89</u>
Total	\$45,840.66

* All revenues are returned to the Park County General Fund

SEARCH AND RESCUE

The Park County Search and Rescue Unit (SAR) is comprised of 25 to 30 volunteers, from all walks of life who are ready at a moment's notice to selflessly sacrifice their time and put themselves in harm's way to serve the citizens of Park County. They are trained in various skills including but limited to first aid and CPR, wilderness search, aircraft search, urban rescue, swift water and ice rescue, mountain rescue, canine search, avalanche search, land navigation and critical incident stress management. In 2016, SAR participated in 36 calls for service, up 39% from 2015. These included several high-profile rescues and recoveries.



On Sunday, February 14th, an ice climber from Phoenix, Arizona, fell from the “High on Boulder”



ice flow near the Majo Ranch located at the end of the South Fork Road. SAR was activated and immediately responded. The 56-year-old victim was climbing with a guide on the ice flow as part of an annual ice climbing festival. The victim had reached the summit of the flow and was descending when the guide, due to his inattention, ran out of rope causing the victim to fall. After dropping some 30

feet, the victim was able to catch himself with his ice axe preventing himself from falling an

additional 50 feet to the bottom. Fellow climbers reached him and were able to lower him to the bottom. He was eventually stabilized and evacuated to a waiting ambulance.

On Friday, June 24th, two inflatable rafts containing four adults and ten juveniles from the Buffalo Bill Boy Scout Camp flipped on the North Fork of the Shoshone River in an area known as “Devil’s Elbow” approximately two miles west of the National Forest Service boundary. SAR immediately responded to the scene. Upon their arrival, SAR discovered that ten of the victims had taken shelter under a rock ledge on the north side of the Shoshone River. The remaining victims were swept approximately ¼ mile down river and were also on the north shore. Members of the SAR Swift Water Rescue Team traversed the river in an inflatable spider boat to reach the victims. In order to shuttle them across the river to the south side, the team set up a make shift “zip line” over the river. The line



was then used in conjunction with the spider boat to ferry the victims to safety. One adult and one juvenile sustained minor injuries. All of the victims were wearing life jackets and helmets. Medical personnel at the scene commented that this incident could have been a lot worse and credited the victim’s use of personal safety gear for preventing further injuries.

On Saturday, August 13th, SAR was activated for an injured horseback rider who fell in area south of Sheep Mountain approximately two miles west of Bear Creek Road. The 72-year-old rider was



riding with his son-in-law scouting for elk in preparation for the upcoming season when he fell from his horse striking his head. He became dizzy, disoriented and was unable to stand. He also complained of pain in his rib area. SAR immediately launched its search aircraft to get a specific location on the victim and then deployed a ground team which hiked up the steep, extremely rugged terrain to reach him. They were accompanied by a sheriff’s deputy and members of the ambulance team. A medical helicopter was also summoned to the scene. However, the helicopter had to land higher

up the mountain forcing the ground team to carry the victim up to the landing zone. He was then airlifted for further treatment.

Tragically, some of SAR missions involve a recovery rather than a rescue. On Monday, September 26th, SAR received a report of a deceased hunter in the Thorofare area of southwestern Park County in the Bridger-Teton National Forest. The location of the victim was reported to be on the north fork of the Yellowstone River approximately 14.5 miles southwest of the end of the South Fork Road. The victim, a 71-year-old male from Hartselle, Alabama. He was last in a line of four mounted riders headed up a small drainage to continue their hunt. After they rode approximately ½ mile from their camp, they entered a small meadow. That's when his companions heard him scream. When they turned around, they observed the victim had fallen off the right side of his horse. He was dragged approximately 20 feet before his companions were able to free him from the horse. He was unresponsive and not breathing. Two of his companions were certified emergency medical technicians and they immediately began CPR. However they were unable to revive him. SAR immediately requested the services of a helicopter that picked up two members of SAR and transported them to the scene. They subsequently evacuated the victim's body bringing comfort and closure to his family.



On Sunday, October 2nd, SAR safely evacuated an injured overdue hunter from an extremely rugged area near Logan Mountain on the North Fork. The 27 year-old victim was first reported overdue the previous night at 8:00 p.m. He had been hunting elk all day when he aggravated a previous injury to his knee. Due to his injury, he was unable to continue hiking out due to being exhausted and dehydrated. SAR, who was in contact with the victim via his cell phone, was able to determine his location to be 1.5 miles north of the end of the Trout Creek Ranch road in rugged area near the junction of Trout Creek and Robbers Roost Creek. A ground team was immediately deployed in an attempt to locate and safely evacuate him. However, due to the extreme nature of the terrain, combined with darkness, heavy rain and high winds in the area forced SAR to abandon the rescue effort until the next morning. The victim was advised to stay put, build a fire and wait until first light when evacuation efforts would continue. At 7:00 am the next morning, SAR deployed their search aircraft in order to verify the victim's location. Once located, the pilot dropped food, water and a rescue radio to the victim to enable him to communicate directly with

the airplane. A ground team was once again deployed and after hiking in over two miles, they were able to safely evacuate him. He was tired but otherwise uninjured.

On Wednesday, December 7th, SAR was requested to assist the Big Horn County Sheriff's Department in the search for a small airplane that was overdue and feared crashed. The aircraft left the Worland airport, with two "predator control specialists" on board. The Big Horn County Sheriff's Department subsequently received information that the aircraft had crashed in the south Big Horn County area. Park County SAR immediately launched its rescue aircraft to assist in the search. The downed aircraft was eventually located in a rugged, remote location southwest of an area known as the Wardell reservoir, off of the Dorsey creek road near Otto Wyoming. Medical personnel from a local air ambulance reached the site and provided immediate medical services until ground resources could arrive on the scene to provide extrication services as both occupants were trapped inside the plane. The rough terrain and bitter cold weather made rescue efforts hazardous and more difficult. One occupant was air lifted to a trauma center for treatment, however the second occupant was pronounced dead at the scene. The cause of the crash is undetermined as of this printing.



Once again, on Wednesday, December 14th, SAR received a report of a possible deceased hunter in the Beem Gulch area of Little Sunlight. Beem Gulch runs south off of Little Sunlight Road (County Road 7GQ) approximately 6 miles west of the Chief Joseph Highway. The location of



the victim was reported to be off Forest Service Road 105, ½ mile south of Little Sunlight Road. The 67-year-old victim had been hunting with his brother when they harvested a cow elk. The victim collapsed while helping his brother drag the elk towards Little Sunlight Road. His brother attempted CPR but the victim never regained

consciousness. The brother then hiked another ¼ mile to get cell phone reception before calling 911. A medical helicopter was able to locate the victim and land. Their medical staff reported that he was indeed deceased. SAR personnel continued to the scene to recover his body which

was eventually evacuated and turned over to Park County Coroner who ruled the cause of death to be a “cardiac event.”

Finally, on Monday, December 19th, SAR responded to a report of a hunter experiencing a medical emergency in rural Powell. The 50-year-old victim was hunting approximately ½ mile north of Lane 13 ½ when he began experiencing chest pains. A deputy was immediately dispatched to the area as was an ambulance from Powell Valley Hospital and units from the Powell Fire Department. Upon arrival, emergency personnel battled high winds and deep snow as they hiked the ½ mile to the victim. As the ambulance personnel tended to him, a medical helicopter was summoned to the scene. With assistance from fire personnel, the helicopter was able to land and evacuate the victim. SAR personnel, utilizing their Argo 8-wheeled tracked amphibious vehicle, then assisted emergency personnel by ferrying them and their equipment back to their vehicles.



The purpose of Park County Sheriff’s Office Search and Rescue Unit is to organize for, plan for, train for, maintain equipment for, and respond to incidents requiring search and rescue assistance



as requested, directed, and authorized by the Sheriff of Park County, Wyoming. This is accomplished in three ways: 1) By identifying hazardous areas, activities or situations and assisting in education of the public about these hazards and ways to avoid or minimize them

thereby eliminating or minimizing the hazards if practical; 2) By training all SAR team members in basic search and rescue skills and training special teams for more technically demanding emergencies; and 3) By responding to calls for assistance in searching for lost or missing persons and rescuing persons in distress within the training and performance capabilities of the members. SAR teams also assist the local law enforcement, emergency management, volunteer fire



departments and ambulance services when extra help is needed with logistical support or medical/rescue services during serious incidents.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

PUBLIC AFFAIRS - In 2016, the Park County Sheriff's Public Affairs Office remained active in promoting positive relations with the media and coordinate community involvement through



proactive program implementation all while maintaining the goals and objectives of the department. There were a total of 71 media releases issued during the year on a variety of topics including 50 news-related media bulletins. In addition, 8 safety-related media releases were issued on a variety of topics including bear and fire safety, fraud

awareness and prom safety advice. There were also 13 media releases of an informational nature. These include information on new personnel, new technology or how to avoid being the victim of a crime.

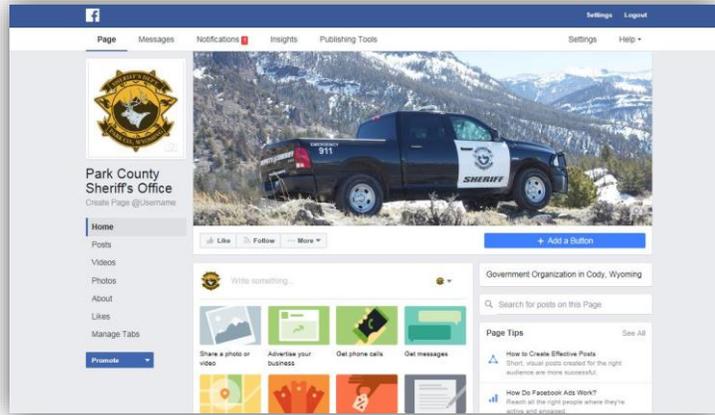
In February, Sheriff Scott Steward sat down with CBS reporter Ted Kopple for a segment of the show CBS Sunday Morning titled "Guns in America." The segment focused on the western "gun



culture" and how residents from western states feel about their weapons and the overall topic of firearm ownership. It was an unscripted conversation, focusing on a slice of life in Park County, where guns are a way of life, and important to its people. The discussion touched on how gun ownership fits into law enforcement, whether private gun ownership is helpful, whether it presents

concerns to the deputies, and Sheriff Steward's view of how guns fit in the culture and traditions of the community. The segment aired in March.

FACEBOOK & TWITTER - The Park County Sheriff's Office continued to utilize social media in 2016 to communicate directly with residents through the use of its Facebook page and Twitter account. These social medium are used to inform and engage the residents of Park County on a variety of topics. Safety messages, emergency bulletins, and agency information are included, but also the accounts are used to distribute information on incidents reported to the sheriff's office that may be of interest to our residents. The intent is to proactively distribute information that is both informative and safety-oriented in content and when necessary, ask for assistance from residents in emergency situations. We are extremely pleased with the popularity of these accounts. In 2016, the Facebook page grew from 3,000 followers to nearly 4,800. Several postings received tens of thousands of "hits" nationally.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH – The Community Outreach Program insures that the Park County Sheriff's Office is active in programs designed to serve the needs of county residents while promoting a positive image for department personnel. Examples of these efforts in 2016 included the department's participation in the annual 4th of July parade. Sheriff Steward



also participated in the Park County Special Olympics program benefitting developmentally disabled children by awarding participants medals for their efforts during the games. The Sheriff's Office also



participated in several Park County "family fun days" at local churches. Also, in 2016, we invited local middle school students to help decorate our Christmas tree by placing handmade ornaments on the tree.

Also as part of our community services, deputies routinely patrolled the Shoshone National Forest



under a contract with the Department of Agriculture. These services include traffic patrols along the major highways traversing the national forest, citizen contacts with visitors and residents making use of what the forest has to offer, and security patrols checking on privately-owned cabins and structures on the forest. In 2016, deputies performed 141 such patrols in the North Fork, South Fork, Meeteetse, and Crandall areas of the national forest.

NORTHWEST COLLEGE PARTNERSHIP – The Park County Sheriff's Office is proud to continually partner with the Criminal Justice Department of Northwest College (NWC) in Powell on a variety of projects, issues and instructional assistance. During the summer of 2016, deputies provided firearms instruction for NWC students utilizing the sheriff's shooting range. Several students were brought to the range for live-fire practical exercises under the supervision of their professors. These classes are intended to familiarize the students with their firearms and to present them with actual situations that law enforcement officers are often presented with during the course of their duties. Also in December, our detective participated in a round



table discussion with the criminal justice students to give first year criminal justice students a broad overview of careers within the criminal justice system and offer a smooth transition from the college environment. This is the second year in a row that a deputy has presented at this roundtable. In addition, Sheriff Steward donated a Remington 1187 semi-automatic shotgun to

NWC which was retrofitted with a laser sighting device so that it could be used for training purposes in the college's 5-screen 300-degree immersive training simulator that uses computer projection to translate real world survival scenarios into virtual training simulations. Finally, during the summer of 2016, the sheriff's office hosted an intern from NWC who spent each day watching and learning every aspect of law enforcement from the performance perspective. She



spent time in every facet of sheriff's operations including patrol, detention, dispatch, and administration learning firsthand what it's like to be an employee in law enforcement.

FEDEX PARTNERSHIP FOR SAFETY - In April, the Park County Sheriff's Office partnered with local FedEx drivers at their Cody terminal to discuss traffic safety issues. The program was requested by FedEx to allow for presentation of traffic safety related topics and afford drivers the opportunity to learn and ask questions that were important to them. The sheriff's public affairs



officer (PIO) gave a 45-minute presentation on a variety of subjects that included safety belt use, distracted driving, fatigued driving, aggressive driving, impaired driving, pedestrian safety, and defensive driving techniques. In addition to being the sheriff's spokesperson, the PIO is a 31-year

veteran of the Ohio State Highway Patrol. Sheriff Steward commented that it is to everyone's benefit that drivers receive ongoing safety-related training. "The fact that FedEx requested this type of training is a tribute to their concern for their drivers and for the community in general. I'm confident that we can continue this relationship for the betterment of all of our citizens."

STATE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OF THE YEAR - On Saturday, May 21st, Park County Sheriff's Deputy Investigator Lt. Joe Torczon was honored by the Wyoming Elks Association as their Law Enforcement Officer of the Year in ceremonies held during their statewide meeting in Worland. Lt. Torczon was recognized for his tireless and selfless dedication towards solving the Little Sand Coulee homicide and bringing the suspects to justice. On January 9, 2014, the body of Juan Antonio Guerra-Torres' was found on Little Sand Coulee Road approximately 1.5 miles west of Highway 294 east of Clark by a 40-year-old Cody resident who was hunting ducks with his son. Guerra-Torres



had been shot multiple times and his body severely mutilated post mortem. In the early stages of this extremely difficult and complex investigation, Deputy Torczon was tasked first with identifying the victim which was made nearly impossible by the fact that the body was decapitated

and also missing the left arm and right hand. He spent over 400 hours in a 3-month span working cooperatively with multiple law enforcement agencies in several states in order to identify Guerra-Torres. Once the victim's identity was known, Lt. Torczon devoted nearly 1,500 hours over the next 10 months chasing down leads, pouring over forensic evidence and interviewing anyone who may have either been connected to the homicide in some way or who came forward with information. His dogged determination eventually paid off in March of 2015 with the arrests of three suspects in connection with the murder. All are currently awaiting trial. Sheriff Scott Steward not only praised Lt. Torczon's unwavering determination but also the inter-agency cooperation that brought these murderers to justice. "Park County residents owe Lt. Torczon their thanks for his hard work and unwavering determination to solve this case," commented Steward. "We also had cooperation from numerous federal, state and local law enforcement agencies across the country including agencies from Arizona, New Mexico, California, Georgia and Texas. Also, the Wyoming Division of Criminal Investigation logged hundreds of hours on the case. Joe couldn't have done it without their help." Pictured: Clayton Kilgore, Chairman of the Elks Law Officer of the Year Committee (left) and Lt. Torczon.



