



Park County Sheriff's Office



2019 Annual Report

Scott A. Steward, Sheriff

"Service, Safety, Security"



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



To the citizens of Park County:

The men and women of the Park County Sheriff's Office continually face new and defining challenges as they strive to provide service, safety and security for our citizens; and 2019 was no exception. And even though our functional activity was down from 2018, which is a result of being short two deputies for a third of the year, our personnel continued to perform at an exceptionally high level with compassion, professionalism and commitment.

In 2019, our department saw an unusual amount of personnel activity including the retirement of three long-time sheriff's deputies, three transfers from detention to patrol to fill those vacancies, and the hiring of four new detention deputies to fill those vacancies as well as one resignation. In addition, two deputies were promoted to sergeant as serve first-line supervisors in the patrol division and one promotion to sergeant in the detention facility. And finally, the Park County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management was reassigned to the sheriff's office and a new director was hired to oversee that department.

Our personnel takes great pride in their work and the countless hours spent serving this community. Our deputies responded to an average of 670 incidents each over the year; our dispatchers answered an average of 3,102 calls each; and our detention deputies cared for an average of 44 detainees each day. And let's not forget the civilian staff who process paperwork, handle billing, maintain our supplies, cook, provide medical care for the detainees, and ensure that our deputies maintain a state of readiness at all times. And finally, our Search and Rescue volunteers who also performed at an exceptionally high level in 2019, representing the very definition of "giving to the community."

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 2020, 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 2019 brought to a close a homicide case that began in 2018, with the conviction and sentencing of Dennis Karl Klingbeil. On Sunday, August 5, 2018 at 9:52 p.m., the Park County Sheriff's 911 Dispatch Center received a report of possible homicide/suicide at 3056 North Fork Highway west of Wapiti. The caller, Mark Klingbeil who resides in Florida, told the dispatcher that his father, Dennis Karl Klingbeil, age 76 had called him and said that he had just shot his wife, Donna Marie Klingbeil, age 75 and then taken numerous pills with the intention of killing himself. Responding deputies found both victims still alive; Donna suffering from a gunshot wound and Dennis from an apparent overdose. Donna was flown to Billings Clinic Hospital in Billings, Montana where she later died. After 15 months of litigation and court hearings, Klingbeil was sentenced to life in prison without any opportunity for parole on Thursday November 21, 2019.



On Monday, September 3, 2019 a 2,000 acre wildfire was discovered in the Shoshone National Forest about 41 miles west of Cody. The wildfire dubbed the "Fishhawk Fire" was initially located six miles south of U.S. Highway 14/16/20 along the Fishhawk drainage. By Tuesday evening, the fire had swelled to 4,080 acres and by Thursday morning fire was measured at 10,320 acres. The



unexpected 5,000 acre growth was attributed to temperatures into the 90's, extremely low humidity and erratic, gusting winds. Due to the significant growth of the fire, a mandatory evacuation was issued for the cabins in the Kitty Creek drainage and a pre-evacuation order was issued for areas surrounding the fire. The Rocky Mountain Incident Management Blue

Team (type 2) was called in to support National Forest staff and other members of the type 3 incident management team before taking over management of the physical fire on Thursday. Deputies from the Park County Sheriff's Office as well as Homeland Security assisted in the

evacuation. However, with the burn at 11,130 acres as of noon Friday, there did not appear to be much change over the course of the day. The growth reduction was thanks to lowering temperatures both days and up to 0.4 inches of rain in some sections of the North Fork on Friday. Significant precipitation occurred in the fire area on Sunday and by Monday, September 9th at 11:00 a.m., the Rocky Mountain Incident Management Blue Team transitioned command back to the Wapiti Ranger District. Crews continued to monitor the fire until it was considered no longer a threat.

Finally, on Saturday, November 2, 2019 at 1:53 p.m., a local hunter reported he had found a body on private property near milepost 67 on WYO 120 South, 1.5 miles west from the highway on a dirt two-track road. The victim was identified as Angela Elizondo, 40, of Cheyenne. Her body was wrapped and bound. Joseph C. Underwood, age 45, formerly of Cody was apprehended after he returned to the scene later on and then fled from authorities. Underwood had returned to the scene at approximately 11:00 p.m. and was spotted by a deputy that was posted for scene security. Underwood then fled south on Highway 120 but stopped north of Meeteetse. After being pulled over, he threatened to commit suicide and after a 2-hour standoff, a Bureau of Land Management officer was able to get close enough to Underwood to get hold of the handgun. As the struggle continued, a sheriff's deputy tasered Underwood which caused him to surrender. He was arrested on four charges including transporting a dead body from Cheyenne to Park County, resisting arrest and fleeing and eluding law enforcement. Because of the multiple jurisdictions involved, the case was investigated by the Wyoming Division of Criminal Investigation. Underwood was eventually extradited to Cheyenne and charged with first degree murder. He awaits trial on those charges.



PERSONNEL – During 2019, the patrol division saw three retirements, three reassignments from the detention center, and two promotions. 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 Friday, July 27, 2019, Park County Sheriff's Deputy Sergeant Chad McKinney officially retired from service. Sgt. McKinney began his service with Park County in 2006 as a detention deputy and transferred to road duty six months later. He was promoted to sergeant in 2012 when he assumed supervisory duty over the Cody District deputies. Prior to his employment with the Park County Sheriff's Office, Chad served with the Cody Police Department as well as the Yakima Washington Police Department. After retirement, Chad and his family relocated to the Oregon coast where he currently works in the charter fishing business. We thank Sgt. McKinney for his service to the citizens of Park County and wish him well in his future endeavors.



On August 2, 2019, Deputy Jackson James (J.J.) Schwindt also officially retired from service after 20 years with the Park County Sheriff's Office. J.J. joined the Park County Sheriff's Office as a detention deputy in 1999. He was transferred to the patrol division in 2003. After retirement, J.J. was employed at a local retailer where he manages firearms sales. We also thank Deputy Schwindt for his service to the citizens of Park County and wish him well in his new career.

Finally, Veteran Deputy Hayes C. Randol retired on September 12, 2019. Deputy Randol joined the Park County Sheriff's Office in October of 2008 and was assigned to the Meeteetse District. Before joining the Park County Sheriff, Hayes was employed as a deputy with the Sublette County Sheriff's Office. Hayes has pursued self-employment opportunities in his retirement years. We are also grateful for Deputy Randol's service to the citizens of Park County and we wish him well.



On Thursday, November 21, 2019, two Park County Sheriff deputies completed their Peace Officer Basic training at the Wyoming Law Enforcement Academy so that they may assume their new duties as patrol deputies. Both deputies transferred from the detention facility to assume their new positions which were created due to the aforementioned retirements. Deputy Tyler Patterson was assigned to the Powell Patrol

District. He joined the Park County Sheriff's Office in November of 2017 as a detention deputy. He has an associate's degree in Emergency Medical Technician and Fire Science from Casper College. Originally from Seattle, Washington, Tyler moved to Powell with his family in 2006. He is the son of retired Park County Lieutenant and current Northwest College Professor Dave Patterson.

At the same time, Deputy Ethan Robinson assumed patrol duties in the Cody District. He joined the Park County Sheriff's Office in April of 2017, also as a detention deputy. He was born and raised in Bellefontaine, Ohio and relocated to Cody in 2014 to become a member of the county's Search and Rescue Unit. He continues to volunteer with Search and Rescue today. He attended Hocking College in Nelsonville, Ohio where he earned two associates degrees; one in Natural Resources Law Enforcement and one in Wildlife Management.



Finally, to replace Deputy Randol, Sgt. Lisa P. Cooke transferred out of the detention facility and assumed patrol duties as a deputy in the Meeteetse District. Lisa, who was already certified as a road deputy took a voluntary demotion for her road duties. Deputy Cooke joined the Park County Sheriff's Office in November of 2009. Before that she also served time as a deputy with Sublette County Sheriff. In May of 2013, Lisa was assigned as the lead investigator for the Park County Sheriff where she served three years in this temporary position. After being reassigned back to detention, she was promoted to sergeant in April of 2017.



On August 22, 2019, Sheriff Scott Steward promoted Deputy Andy Varian to patrol sergeant in the Cody District. Andy replaced retired Sgt. Chad McKinney. Sgt. Varian joined the Park County Sheriff's Office in October of 2011 as a detention deputy. He was transferred to patrol in May of 2013. Andy hails from California where he worked part time with the Ripon Police Department working with their traffic safety section assisting with traffic safety grants, traffic studies and other administrative tasks. He has a Bachelor's Degree in Business Management from University of Phoenix.



At the same time, Deputy Dan Walker was promoted to sergeant in the Powell Patrol District. Sgt.



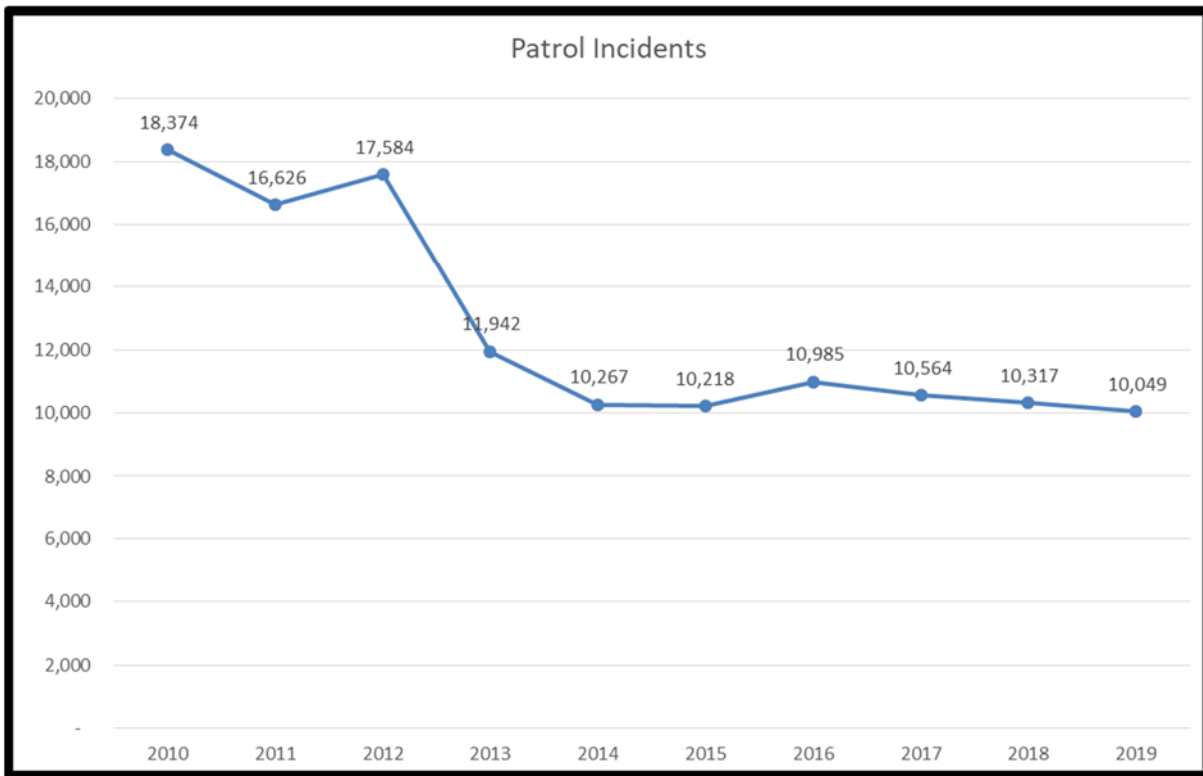
Walker replaced Sgt. Mark Hartman who was promoted to lieutenant in 2018. Dan joined the Park County Sheriff's Office in June of 2017 after serving 15 years with the Wyoming Highway Patrol. He also spent several years as a sworn law enforcement officer in the state of Oklahoma: 3 years with the Tulsa County Sheriff's Office, 2 years with the Kiowa Police Department, and 3 years with the Major County Sheriff's Office. Dan also possesses a Bachelor's Degree in Law Enforcement from Northwest Oklahoma State University.

PATROL ACTIVITY – In 2019, 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. Overall however, patrol activity did see a slight decrease in 2019 due to the department being short



two deputies for four months during their basic patrol deputy training. Total incidents were down by 6%, total case investigations (including non-criminal investigations) down by 1% and total arrests down by 21%. However, the sheriff's office did see a 21% increase in criminal case investigations but a 14% decrease in traffic crash investigations. In 2019, deputies responded to 10,049 patrol incidents which included 1,190

traffic stops, 317 criminal investigations, 897 non-criminal investigations, 221 felony and misdemeanor arrests, 102 motor vehicle crash investigations, 289 warrant service attempts, 2,620 motor vehicle inspections, 444 animal calls, and 1,612 civil paper services. All of this activity was accomplished by 15 full-time patrol deputies who are responsible for patrolling nearly 7,000 square miles of rural Park County. That equates to an average of 670 incidents per deputy.



INCIDENTS

Total Patrol Incidents	10,049
Calls for Service Incidents	5,313
Deputy Initiated Incidents	4,736
Traffic Stops	1,190
Business/Building/Vehicle Checks	9
Other Incidents	3,546

ARRESTS

Total Arrests	221
Misdemeanor Arrests	164
Felony Arrests	57

WARRANTS

New Warrants Received	170
Warrants Closed	103

CASE INVESTIGATIONS

Total Case Investigations	1,320
Vehicle Accident Investigations	102
Criminal Investigations	317
Non-Criminal Investigations	897
Unclassified Investigations	4

VIN INSPECTIONS

Total VIN Inspections	2,612
VIN Inspection Fees Collected *	\$26,120.00

CIVIL SUMMONS

Total Service Attempts	1,610
Total Served	620
Total Attempts with No Service	988
Civil Service Fees Collected *	\$21,119.33

CITATIONS

Total Citations Issued	295
Misdemeanor Criminal Citations	100
Traffic Citations	180
Unclassified	15

* Fees collected are returned to the county general fund / includes work release fees

PATROL INCIDENTS BY TYPE

INCIDENT TYPE		INCIDENT TYPE	
911 HANG UP CALL	39	MESSAGE DELIVERY	6
ABANDONED VEHICLE	71	MISCELLANEOUS ASSISTANCE	441
ADMINISTRATIVE DUTY	2	MOTOR VEHICLE CRASH	132
ALARM-INTRUSTION/HOLDUP	85	NCIC WARRANT ENTRY	255
AMBULANCE-DEPUTY ASSIGNED	12	NOTIFY CITY DEPARTMENTS	41
ANIMAL-BITE	21	NUISANCE COMPLAINTS	4
ANIMAL-DECEASED	3	OPEN DOOR/WINDOW	5
ANIMAL-LOST	103	OTHER ACCIDENT	2

ANIMAL-NOISY	7	OTHER LAW VIOLATIONS	20
ANIMAL-OTHER	140	PARKING PROBLEM	13
ANIMAL-ON ROADWAY	207	PATROL-EXTRA	42
ANIMAL-STRAY	103	PEDESTRIAN STOP	1
ASSIST OTHER AGENCY	600	PERSON LOST	2
ASSAULT	25	PHONE RELATED COMPLAINT	3
ATTEMPT TO LOCATE	21	PRISONER TRANSPORT	11
AUTO BURGLARY	1	PROBATION VIOLATION	3
BARWALK	9	PROPERTY DAMAGE	37
BODY FOUND	41	PROPERTY FOUND	52
BUILDING BURGLARY	5	PROPERTY LOST	54
COUNCIL COMMUNITY SERVICES	1	PROTECTION ORDER	6
CHILD WELFARE	29	PROWLER	2
CITIZEN/BUSINESS CONTACT	91	REDDI REPORT	35
CIVIL ATTEMPTS	1,612	ROAD HAZARD/BLOCKAGE/CLOSURE	68
CIVIL DISPUTE	58	RUNAWAY JUVENILE	3
CIVIL STANDBY	30	SEARCH AND RESCUE CALL	16
COMPUTER CRIME	4	SECURITY CHECK	3
CRIME TIP PPD	1	SEXUAL ASSAULT	11
CUSTODY DISPUTE	16	SEXUAL OFFENDER RECORD	26
DISTURBANCE	32	SEX OFFENDER REGISTRATION	57
DOMESTIC	47	SEX OFFENDER REPORTING	102
DRILL/EXERCISE	2	SMOKING UNDERAGE	1
DRUGS RELATED	11	SPECIAL INCIDENT- Undefined	14
ESCORT	3	STOLEN VEHICLE	6
EXTRA PATROL REQUEST	20	SUICIDE ATTEMPT/THREATS	34
FIRE CALL-DEPUTY ASSIGNED	8	SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY	122
FIREWORKS COMPLAINT	10	THEFT	91
FLAGDOWN OF DEPUTY	24	THREATS	27
FOLLOWUP INVESTIGATION	134	TRAFFIC COMPLAINT	69
FRAUD RELATED	50	TRAFFIC STOP	1,190
HARASSMENT	32	TRAINING/ INSTRUCTION	18
HAZARD	7	TRESPASS COMPLAINT	78
INCORRIGIBLE JUVENILE	11	UNKNOWN CALL TYPE	1
INFORMATIONAL CASE	73	US FOREST SERVICE PATROL	86
INTOXICATED SUBJECT	7	VIN INSPECTIONS	2,620
LIQUOR LAW VIOLATION	1	WARRANT SERVICE	289
LITTERING	6	WEAPONS OFFENSE	12
MENTAL PROBLEM	4	WELFARE CHECK	118
		TOTAL PATROL INCIDENTS	10,049

HOMELAND SECURITY

On June 26, 2019, Sheriff Scott Steward announced the appointment of Jack Andrew Tatum to the position of Director of Homeland Security for Park County. The Homeland Security Director is



responsible for planning, directing, and overseeing the activities and emergency operations for Park County and ensuring that local emergency operations response agencies and the general public are prepared for any hazard or emergency as well as other duties as required. Mr. Tatum replaced outgoing Homeland Security Director Martin Knapp who retired earlier in the month. During this transition, the office of Homeland Security was reassigned under the direction of the sheriff's office. Director Tatum began his career with the fire mitigation arm of the U.S. Forest Service in 2008 in Townsend, Montana. In 2011, he transferred to the Big Horn Basin in the Lovell/Greybull area before eventually settling in Cody in 2015. Director Tatum was born in Muskogee, Oklahoma and grew up in the Liberty, Oklahoma area. He has an associate's degree in Natural Resource Biology from Northwest College in Powell and a Bachelor of Science degree in Fire Ecology and Management from the University of Idaho.

Director Tatum was very busy during the last half of 2019. He oversaw and promoted usage of the CodeRed System in park County. CodeRed is the county's reverse 9-1-1 system that uses a three level approach to evacuation notifications. It was used extensively during the Fishhawk Fire. He also entered into a mutual aid agreement with Wyoming All Hazards Association on behalf of Park County. This compact allows member county officials to more effectively share county resources in times of crisis. Finally, in response to the flash flood event in the Powell area on Sunday, July 14, 2019, he responded to assist city officials and local residents to help mitigate flood damage. He together with County Road and Bridge, aided residents by delivering sand and sand bags in order to attempt to prevent further damage from localized flooding caused by the significant rain event that hit the area and assisted in referring residents to agencies where they might receive financial assistance.



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, Cody Regional Health Ambulance, and the Cody, Powell, Meeteetse and Clark Fire Districts. In 2019, eight total



dispatchers handled 24,813 calls for service, including 5,348 calls received via the 9-1-1 emergency phone system. This equates to over 3,102 calls per dispatcher. Park County 911 dispatchers play many roles: therapist, doctor, 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.

PERSONNEL - In 2020, the Park County Sheriff's Office welcomed one new dispatcher. Tyler Allen Wallace was added to the dispatch team in September as an additional dispatch position. Originally from Santa Rosa, California, Tyler relocated to the Powell area in 1998. Prior to joining the sheriff's office, he was employed at the Cody Labs facility where he worked in manufacturing. Afterwards, he worked in automotive sales for a number of years.



COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION CALLS FOR SERVICE (% Change from 2018)

Park County Sheriff's Office	10,049 (-02.60%)
Cody Police Department	11,716 (-01.83%)
Cody Fire Department	332 (+12.16%)
Clark Fire Department	49 (+16.67%)
Powell Fire Department	236 (+03.51%)

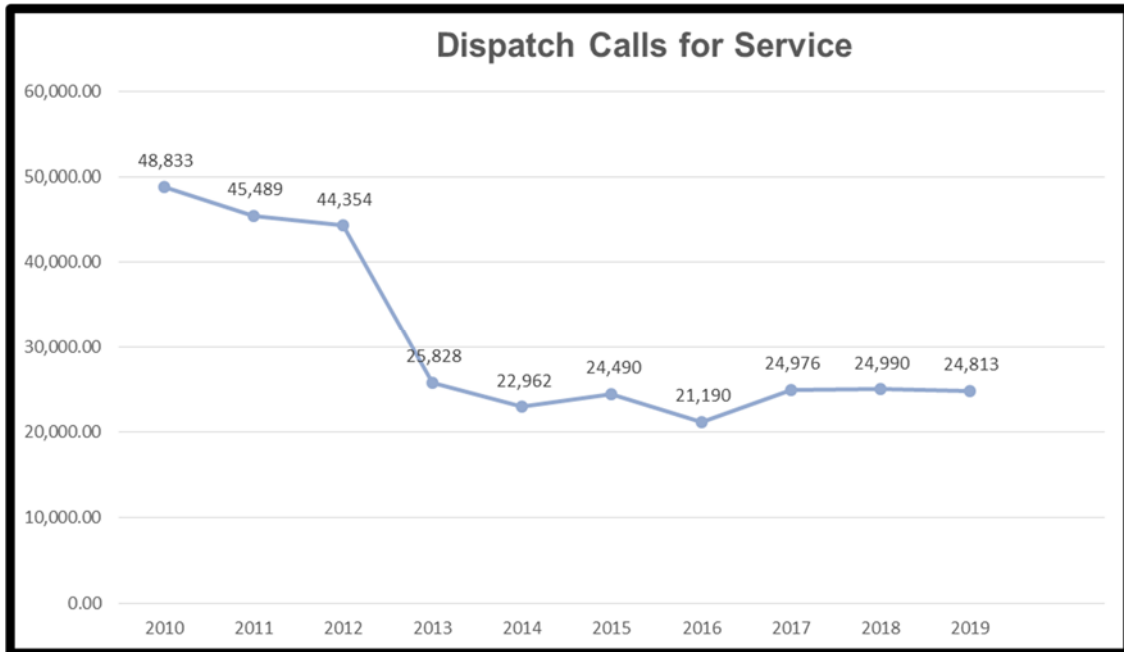
Meeteetse Fire Department	30 (-03.23%)
Cody Regional Health Ambulance	2,401 (+13.36%)
Park County Search and Rescue	16 (-46.67%)
Total Calls for Service	24,813 (-00.71%)

CONTROLLED BURN PERMITS

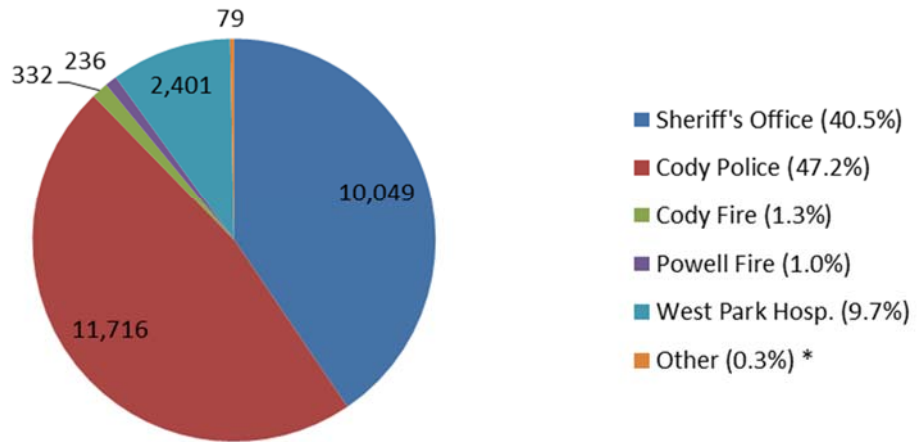
Total Permits Issued	3,550
Cody/Meeteetse Area	1,650
Powell/Garland/Ralston/Clark Area	1,900

FIRE CALLS DISPATCHED

Cody Fire Department	332
Clark Fire Department	49
Powell Fire Department	236
Meeteetse Fire Department	30
Total Fire Calls	647



Calls for Service by Agency



DETENTION

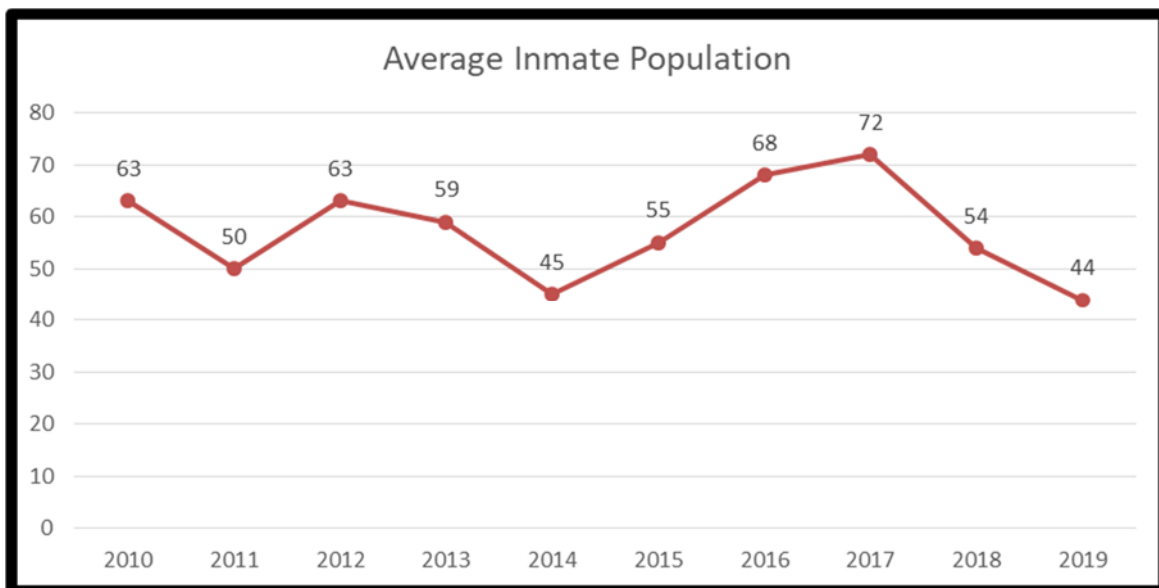
In 2019, the Park County Sheriff’s Office Detention Division booked a total of 922 prisoners into the holding facility. This number represents a decrease of 270 in total bookings from 2018. The average inmate population also decreased from 54 in 2018 to 44 in 2019; a 19% decrease and a 10-year low. Inmate population has been on a steady decline since 2017 when the average hit a 10-year high of 72. The average inmate population over those 10 years is 57.

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

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Park County Sheriff	244(-8%)	257 (+5%)	219 (-15%)	212 (-3%)	158 (-25%)
Cody Police Dept.	400 (-16%)	472 (+18%)	469 (-1%)	553 (+18%)	509 (-8%)
Powell Police Dept.	264 (-20%)	336 (+27%)	296 (-12%)	377 (+27%)	183 (-51%)
Wyoming Highway Patrol	43 (-2%)	38 (-12%)	29 (-24%)	42 (+44%)	52 (+24%)
Other Agencies *	3 (-50%)	6 (+100%)	5 (-17%)	4 (-20%)	20 (+400%)
New Bookings / New Charges **	784 (-15%)	918 (+17%)	1,014 (+5%)	1,027 (+1%)	794 (-23%)
Total Bookings	962 (-15%)	1,112 (+16%)	1,182 (+6%)	1,192 (+1%)	922 (-23%)

* Division of Criminal Investigation, Bureau of Land Management, & Probation and Parole

** Includes “weekender” where someone comes to serve time on weekends only.



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. 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.

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Use of Force Incidents *	21	19	6	14	8	11	13
Inmate Assaults	7	2	5	8	15	3	4

* Force is used to gain compliance only

PERSONNEL – In 2019, the detention facility hired four new deputies: Deputy Christopher Hall (top left) and Deputy Corey Zubik (top middle) on August 20th; Deputy David Yarian (top right) on September 17th; and Deputy Allen Cooper (bottom left) on November 26th. In addition, Jill Shramek (bottom right) was hired as a part-time kitchen staff on October 14th. All hires were the result of resignations or reassignments. There was no increase in staffing levels.



Also in September, Detention Deputy Mike Warner was promoted to sergeant to serve as a first line supervisor in the detention center. Sgt. Warner replaces Sgt. Lisa Cooke who resigned her position in detention to take a road patrol assignment. Mike is a 41-year veteran with Wyoming National Guard having attained the rank of Command Sergeant Major. He served 2 tours in Iraq where he supervised the transport of detainees, so he brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to his new duties. Originally from Sturgis, South Dakota, Sergeant Warner considers himself a lifelong resident of Cody.



REVENUE GENERATED BY THE PARK COUNTY DETENTION DIVISION *

Jail Housing from the City of Cody	\$ 900.00
Fingerprint/Notary/Record fees	\$ 8,185.40
Inmate Phone system	\$16,255.02
Medical Reimbursement	\$ 3,945.97
Court Restitution	<u>\$ 8,246.85</u>
Total	\$37,533.24

* All revenues are returned to the Park County General Fund

SEARCH AND RESCUE

The Park County Search and Rescue Unit (SAR) is comprised of 30 to 35 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 not 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 2019, SAR participated in 16 calls for service, a 41% decrease

from 2018. This year was unusually low for call outs. However, these included several high-profile rescues and recoveries.

NOTEABLE MISSIONS – On Friday, March 8, 2019, at 5:27 p.m., the Park County Sheriff's Dispatch Center received a report of an SOS activation of a SPOT satellite tracking device just east of Beartooth Lake near milepost 19 on Highway 212. Search and Rescue was immediately

activated. Information was received from the three subjects with the device that they were stuck in a deep drainage and that they had no idea how to get it out or how to get back to the highway. They reported no injuries. Two ground teams from SAR were deployed with snowmobiles and a tracked rescue vehicle as well as a team from the volunteer Snow Team. The Snow Team is a group of local



snowmobilers that have lent their experience and expertise in response to emergencies in the Beartooth Mountains. They are closer to the Beartooths than normal SAR resources. At 7:50 p.m., two members of the Snow Team located the three subjects, freed two of their snow machines and escorted them back to their vehicles parked at the Pilot Peak parking area. The remaining stuck snowmobile was left at the scene until morning when Snow Team members returned and aided them in freeing the machine.



On Sunday, May 5, 2019 Park County SAR was called out at 4:30 p.m. for a 13-year-old Cody middle school boy that had leaped off the back side of the Buffalo Bill Dam and fell 350 feet into the Shoshone River. Five SAR teams were deployed to the area to attempt to locate and recover the body. A water team, a lookout team, a drone team, a support team and a K-9 team were deployed to the dam area and assisted by a Bureau of Reclamation supervisor for access to all the dam facilities. At 6:56 p.m. the water team recovered the body in 8 feet of water and turned it over to the Park County Coroner.

On Tuesday, June 11, 2019, a 64-year-old Kentucky woman was safely evacuated from the Rimrock Dude Ranch, 2728 Northfork Highway after she suffered an apparent seizure during a horseback outing. The victim was on a trail ride approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile south of the ranch when she suffered the seizure. She was not on the horse at the time as the group had stopped for lunch. The initial call came into the Park County Sheriff's 911 Communications Center at 10:02 a.m. Search and Rescue (SAR) was immediately mobilized and deployed a ground team to the area. They were accompanied by the Wilderness Medical Team from Cody Regional Hospital. At 11:17 a.m., rescue personnel were able to reach the victim. The Wilderness Medical Team treated and stabilized her while SAR personnel packaged and transported her to a waiting ambulance via a wheeled stretcher. She was then taken to Cody Regional Hospital.



At 09:00 a.m. on July 3, 2017, Park County Sheriff's Dispatch was informed of a missing 56 year old female employee from the Pahaska Teepee. She was last seen on July 2, 2019 at 3:00 p.m. and did not report for work that morning at 7:00 a.m. Employees began a search of the resort. A sheriff's deputy was also dispatched to the area. Her backpack and walking stick was found by employees on shore under the bridge over the Shoshone River east of the resort. Search and Rescue was activated



at 11:15 a.m. At 11:30 a.m. the victim was discovered by employees in the river across from the Pahaska Trailhead 1/2 mile downstream from the resort apparently deceased. SAR members were deployed into the river with their swift water pontoon boat. At 1:30 p.m., the SAR teams were able to reach the victim and evacuate her body to the county coroner.

On Monday, July 8, 2019, a Florida family was safely evacuated from the Whistle Creek area after they became stuck in a creek drainage in their rented 2019 Polaris side-by-side. The victims, all from Bunnell, Florida, were touring the area when they attempted to traverse a creek drainage and became stuck in deep mud.

The initial call came into the Park County Sheriff's 911 Communications Center at 6:05 p.m. when they received an activation from an unregistered PLB (Personal Location Beacon) indicating coordinates in the McCullough Peaks area near Whistle Creek. The location was very close to the Big Horn County line. A Park County deputy as well as a deputy from Big Horn



County responded. Search and Rescue (SAR) was also mobilized and deployed a ground team with off-road vehicles to the area. The Park County Search and Rescue aircraft was also deployed to search the area. At 7:15 p.m., the aircraft located the family and guided rescuers to them. At 8:12 p.m., SAR reached the family and began preparations to for evacuation. They were cold and tired but otherwise unhurt. At 8:40 p.m. the family was safely brought to the trail head where they were met by representatives of the ATV rental company who then took them back to Cody. The company also made preparations to remove the side-by-side.

At 6:55 p.m. on Tuesday, August 20, 2019, Cody Police officers responded to the Paul Stock



Nature Trail off Spruce Drive in Cody for a report of a male who had attempted suicide by throwing himself off of a cliff along the trail. Sheriff's deputies also responded as the location was ultimately determined to be in the county. The 19-year-old victim was walking along the trail with his sister when he made some type of suicidal statement to her. He then jumped off the

embankment, near the edge of the trail. However, where he chose to jump only had a short 8 foot free fall after which there was a steep embankment. The victim rolled down this embankment ultimately landing near the Shoshone River. He had numerous scrapes and minor lacerations but no apparent major injuries. Medical personnel from Cody Regional Hospital were able to reach the victim and treat him however, because of his location, Search and Rescue were summoned to the scene in order to transport him downriver to the 12th Street River Access. At 7:45 p.m., SAR reached the victim and began preparing him for transport. At 8:30 p.m., SAR reached the 12th Street Access and transferred him to a waiting ambulance.

On Saturday, August 24, 2019, a 22-year-old Northwest College student was safely evacuated from the summit of Heart Mountain after she severely injured her knee and could not hike down from the mountain top. The Brazilian student was participating in an organized run/hiking event when the accident happened. The initial call came into the Park County Sheriff's 911 Communications Center at 11:42 a.m. from a Powell EMT who was working the event, requesting a Search and Rescue response. Three SAR ground teams immediately responded to the Nature Conservancy trail head. After it was determined that the victim was only 15 – 20 feet from the summit, a helicopter from



Tip Top Search and Rescue out of Sublette County was requested to evacuate her. At 2:35 p.m., a SAR ground team as well as members of Cody Regional Wilderness Medical Team arrived at her location and began preparations to for evacuation. At 3:15 p.m., the helicopter arrived and performed a reconnaissance flyover of the summit. At that time, the pilot made the decision to land on top of the mountain. At 3:48 p.m., the helicopter landed and maintained power while SAR loaded the victim. She was then flown to the trail head and taken to Powell Valley Hospital by ambulance for further treatment.

At 8:24 a.m. on September 30, 2019, the Park County Sheriff's Dispatch was advised via satellite phone of an injured 46 year old male hunter in the Woody Creek Camp in the Thorofare. The 46 year old male from Pawleys Island, South Carolina fell from his horse the night before and suffered

a 4-inch cut to his head. This morning, he began to lose eyesight in one eye. The location was 24 miles into the Thorofare from the Deer Creek Trail Head. A medical helicopter from Guardian Flight was requested however due to low cloud cover the helicopter could not launch until 12:40 p.m. At 13:55 p.m., the medical helicopter evacuated Hudson to Cody Regional Hospital.



TRAINING - 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.



On March 26, 2019 SAR participated in a mass casualty drill this morning in conjunction with Cody Regional Health. The surprise scenario was designed and implemented by Cody Regional to test their preparedness for such incidents. The drill involved a response to a major rock slide in the Shoshone Canyon west of Cody where multiple victims were injured.

One of the patients was non-ambulatory up the hillside about 100 yards. Search and Rescue was tasked to stabilize and evacuate this patient. We appreciate being asked to participate. Exercises like these foster inter-agency cooperation and preparedness to insure that Park County first responders are ready should the need arise.

On May 17th members of the Park County Search and Rescue as well as participants from Big Horn and Fremont Counties participated in a 3-day Swift Water Rescue Course conducted by Black Fox Rescue, Inc. out of Jackson, WY. The training consisted of classroom work each morning on the theories and physics of swift water rescue. Each afternoon, the class moved outdoors at various locations to practice swift water rescue techniques in actual rescue scenarios.



On September 4, 2019, the Park County Search and Rescue hosted a 5-day back country Technical Rope Lab in the Crandall area of the Beartooth Mountains. The emphasis of this workshop was lightweight and practical rigging for rope rescue operations in hard to get to remote locations. It



focused on hands on practice and demonstrated theory of the physics involved in a rope rescue system. The K-Bar-Z guest ranch hosted the workshop which included students from Park County, Big Horn County, Teton County and Fremont County SARs. The course was taught by world renowned rope technician, Richard Delaney

of Australia. Richard has worked professionally with ropes since 1992. Understanding and teaching the physics of rigging is a core passion of Richard; one based on his experience and his prior professional life as a qualified engineer. Initially, a multi-pitch rock-climbing instructor, he quickly moved into specialized rescue instruction and rope access work.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH – SAR also participates in numerous community outreach events throughout the year. By participating in health fairs, high school mentoring, pre-school programs, and other various community interactions, Search and Rescue can better educate and serve the citizens of Park County to the level that has become the norm.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

PUBLIC AFFAIRS - In 2019, 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 33 media releases issued during the year on a variety of topics including 26 news-related media bulletins. In addition, 7 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 6 media releases of an informational nature. These include information on new personnel, new technology or how to avoid being the victim of a crime.



FACEBOOK & TWITTER - The Park County Sheriff's Office continued to utilize social media in 2019 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 2019, the Facebook page grew from slightly over 8,000 followers to over 12,000. Several postings received tens of thousands of “hits” nationally including one receiving nearly 160,000 views.

Also in 2019, utilizing Facebook the Park County Sheriff’s Office continued their weekly feature



titled “Warrant Wednesday.” Each Wednesday, a current fugitive with an outstanding warrant from either District, Circuit or Municipal Court is featured on the page in an attempt to either locate the suspect or encourage them to voluntarily surrender or do what is necessary to clear their warrant(s). These post are infused with a subtle humor that is designed to increase circulation of the posts and thereby increase community awareness. The first several posts garnered over 30,000 “hits” and over 250 “shares.” The location of the

majority of the suspects featured on the posts were determined thanks to information obtained from the community which speaks to the success of the program.

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 2019 included the department’s participation in the annual 4th of July parade and donkey basketball. 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 the annual Halloween walk in downtown Cody where deputies were on hand to pass out candy. Also, in 2019, we participated in several high school “career days” by allowing



students to ride with deputies and Search and Rescue. And we had numerous speaking engagements and tours of the law enforcement center by Cub Scout groups and preschoolers.

SHOP WITH A COP – On Tuesday evening, December 10th, law enforcement officers from all over the Big Horn Basin participated in the “Shop with a Cop” program at the Cody



Walmart. “Shop with a Cop” provides a fun filled day of shopping for children in need throughout the basin while at the same time creating a positive relationship between the child and law enforcement that hopefully will last throughout their lives. Officers from the Wyoming Highway Patrol, Park County Sheriff, Big Horn County Sheriff, Cody Police, Powell Police, Yellowstone National Park,

and Lovell Police Departments participated in the event. It was organized by retired Trooper Rodney Mears of the Wyoming Highway Patrol.

Each officer was paired with a child selected by their respective school jurisdictions. Using donations from Walmart and some private donors, they embarked on a Christmas shopping spree. They were also assisted by Walmart associates. The children were permitted to shop for their family as well as themselves. It was up to them. After the



shopping, the children and their “partner for the day” returned to the Cody Auditorium where they wrapped their gifts and enjoyed a pizza party provided by Papa Murphy’s.

KIDPRINT-ID – In 2019, the Park County Sheriff’s Office continued with their child safety program titled “Kidprint-ID.” Kidprint-ID, which involves the creation of a child identification card, is a simple yet effective tool to help families maintain a current image of and descriptive information about their children. “One of the most important and effective tools for law enforcement when searching for a missing child is an up-to-date, good quality photo along with the child’s descriptive information,” commented Sheriff Scott Steward. “Kidprint-ID accomplishes both.” The Kidprint-ID cards are provided at no cost to parents in order to enhance their ability to quickly provide law enforcement essential information immediately if the need ever

arises. And they're fun for the kids too! The information displayed on the card includes the child's name, date of birth, height, weight, hair, and eye color along with a picture and thumb



print. Once created, the card will be printed immediately on site and sent home for parents to keep. The information is not stored or maintained, but rather is deleted upon the card being generated. And parents are encouraged to obtain a new card for their child as often as necessary to ensure the most up-to-date information. The sheriff's office offers this service to parents on a set schedule on the first

Thursday of every month at the sheriff's office. Special arrangements may also be made for groups of children by contacting the sheriff's office ahead of time to schedule.

REFUSE TO BE A VICTIM – In 2019, The Park County Sheriff's Office teamed with the Cody Firearms Experience to offer several four-hour seminars titled, "Refuse To Be A Victim." The single most important step toward ensuring your own safety is having a personal safety strategy in place before you need it. The NRA's "Refuse To Be A Victim" program teaches the tips and techniques you need to be alerted to dangerous situations and to avoid becoming a victim. These seminars are held across the nation and are open to men and women of all ages. Today, hundreds of federal, state and local law enforcement officials from across the nation utilize this popular program in their crime prevention and community policing initiatives. Corporations, educational institutions and community centers have also adopted the program. All told, more than 100,000 people have benefited from these seminars.

