



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. Chellevold
Commander, Correctional Services

MEDIA RELEASE

SHERIFF KNUDSON ANNOUNCES PROMOTIONS AND HIRING OF STAFF

For Immediate Release

Date: December 31, 2019

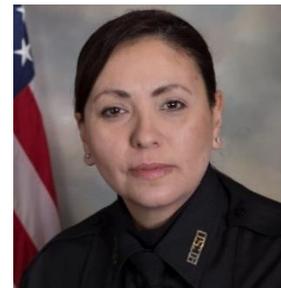
Contact Person

Sheriff Troy Knudson
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Sergeant Kimberly Litsheim will be promoted to Captain assigned to the Correctional Services Division as the Assistant Jail Administrator effective January 6, 2020. She was hired as a Correctional Officer on May 27, 2003. Subsequently, Litsheim was hired as a Deputy Sheriff on January 29, 2005. She worked as a Patrol Bureau Deputy. Litsheim was promoted to Sergeant on December 12, 2010, serving in both the Correctional Services and Law Enforcement Services Divisions. She completed the Northwestern University School of Police Staff and Command in April of 2017. Litsheim earned an Associate Degree in Police Science from Western Wisconsin Technical College and a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from Winona State University. She earned a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Upper Iowa University. Litsheim has served as the leader of the Project Lifesaver Team. She has been a committee chairperson for our annual National Night Out events. Litsheim serves as a leader for the Rock County Sheriff's Office Youth Explorer Post.

Deputy Maria Amador will be promoted to Sergeant assigned to the Correctional Services Division Jail Operations on second shift effective January 5, 2020. She was hired as a Public Safety Utility Clerk on July 31, 2006. She was promoted to Administrative Assistant on September 23, 2007. Amador was promoted to Correctional Officer on April 15, 2012. She was hired as a Deputy Sheriff on February 11, 2013, assigned to the Law Enforcement Services Patrol Bureau. Amador was instrumental in developing the Spanish Language Line. She serves on the Latino Service Provider Coalition. She was recognized as Deputy of the Year in 2019. Amador received two Lifesaving Awards in 2014 and one in 2018. She earned a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from Upper Iowa University. Amador serves as a member of the Community Engagement Team. She also serves on the Officer Wellness IMPACT Peer Support Team.





Deputy Greg Westness will be promoted to Sergeant assigned to the Correctional Services Division Jail Operations on second shift effective January 6, 2020. He was hired as a Correctional Officer on September 8, 2009. Subsequently, he was promoted to Deputy Sheriff on December 31, 2011. He has served as a Police Training Officer tasked with training new deputies in the Patrol Bureau. Westness is a certified instructor in Constitutional Law, Defense and Arrest Tactics (DAAT), Emergency Vehicle Operations Control (EVOC), General Jail, General Law Enforcement, and Vehicle Contacts through the Wisconsin Department of Justice Training and Standards Bureau. He serves as an Instructor for the Law Enforcement Academy at Blackhawk Technical College. He was recognized as Deputy of the Year in 2016. Westness received a Lifesaving Award in 2012 and a Commendation in 2014. Westness previously served as an Assistant Team Leader of the Honor Guard Team. He serves as a member of the Community Engagement Team. He earned a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from American Military University. He is presently pursuing his Master's Degree in Management from American Military University with anticipated completion in 2021.

Deputy Charles Cowan was promoted to Detective assigned to the Law Enforcement Services Division Detective Bureau on December 16, 2019. He is a graduate of Milton High School. Charles was hired as a Correctional Officer on September 24, 2007. He was promoted to Deputy Sheriff on January 23, 2013. Deputy Cowan earned a Bachelor's Degree from Upper Iowa University in Criminal Justice on December 20, 2015. Cowan serves as a Range Instructor, SWAT Team member, member of the Special Investigation Unit, Hunter Safety Instructor, and on the U.S. Marshal's Task Force. Deputy Cowan received a Commendation Award in 2017 and three Lifesaving Awards; one in 2012, 2017, and 2018.



Jacob Arneson was hired as a Deputy Sheriff on December 17, 2019. Jacob graduated from Milton High School in June of 2011. Jacob worked as a Correctional Officer at the Rock County Sheriff's Office from February of 2015 until September of 2015. Jacob attended Blackhawk Technical College for Fire Science. He graduated from the Law Enforcement Academy at Blackhawk Technical College in 2016. Jacob was hired as a Deputy at the Dane County Sheriff's Office in September of 2015 where he worked until September of 2017. Jacob was a City of Beloit Police Officer for two years before being hired as a Deputy Sheriff at the Rock County Sheriff's Office.

Robert Leisher was hired as a Deputy Sheriff on December 18, 2019. Robert is attending the University of Wisconsin – Whitewater working on a Bachelor's in Criminology. Robert served in the U.S. Marine Corps. from 2012 to 2016 and was honorably discharged at the rank of Sergeant. Robert received a Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal (USS Kearsarge), Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Sear Service Deployment Ribbon, Certificate of Commendation (Individual Award), Meritorious Mast, and Expert Rifle Qualification Badge (2). Robert obtained the rank of Eagle Scout in the Boy Scouts of America and received the Robert T. Hornaday Badge. He graduated from the Law Enforcement Academy at Blackhawk Technical College in November of 2019.



Jacob Diaz was hired as a Correctional Officer on December 18, 2019. Jacob graduated from Granite Hills High School in El Cajon, California. Jacob is working towards his Bachelor's Degree in Justice Studies through Grand Canyon University in Phoenix, Arizona.

Melita Jensen was hired as a Correctional Officer on December 21, 2019. Melita graduated from F.J. Turner High School in Beloit, Wisconsin, in June of 2013 and attended Blackhawk Technical College in the Criminal Justice Program.



Taylor Woodman was hired as a Correctional Officer on December 22, 2019. Taylor graduated from Craig High School in June of 2015. Taylor earned a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Wisconsin – Platteville in August of 2019. Taylor was an intern at the Rock County Sheriff's Office in the summer of 2019.

Juan Flores was hired as a Correctional Officer on December 23, 2019. Juan graduated from Thomas Jefferson High School in Rockford, Illinois. Juan served in the Illinois Army National Guard from 2010 to 2016 and the Army Reserves from 2017 until 2018. Juan has received the National Defense Service Medal and the Army Service Ribbon.





Matthew Michalski will be hired as a Deputy Sheriff on January 2, 2020. Matthew graduated from F.J. Turner High School in June of 2004. Matthew earned a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Wisconsin – Platteville on May 16, 2008. Matthew graduated from the Law Enforcement Academy at Southwest Technical College in Fennimore, Wisconsin, in August of 2008. Matthew was hired as a City of Beloit Police Officer in November of 2008 where he worked until January of 2017. Matthew was a part-

time officer with the Town of Beloit Police Department from February of 2019 until October of 2019.

TROY J. KNUDSON
SHERIFF