



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. Chellebold
Commander, Correctional Services

MEDIA RELEASE

Sheriff Knudson Announces Recipients of Annual Awards

For Immediate Release

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Contact Person

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Sheriff Knudson is pleased to announce the recipients of the Rock County Sheriff's Office's 2019 Awards. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Rock County Sheriff's Office decided to replace our annual in-person Awards Ceremony with virtual presentations. Below is an overview of the 2019 Awards and their recipients. Congratulations to these outstanding Sheriff's Office staff for their commitment to public service and to these exceptional community members for making a difference in Rock County!

Deputy of the Year: Deputy Chad Aldrich

Chad Aldrich became a Rock County Sheriff's Office Deputy Sheriff on April 9, 2014. He previously served as a Correctional Officer starting in January 2013. He graduated from a Law Enforcement Academy at Blackhawk Technical College on May 4, 2012. He earned an Associate in Applied Science Degree in Criminal Justice from Blackhawk Technical College in May 2012 and a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from Herzing University on December 23, 2015. Deputy Aldrich currently works in the Patrol Bureau assigned to second shift. He is a training officer for new deputies. Deputy Aldrich also serves as an operator on our agency's SWAT Team. He is a certified Defense and Arrest Tactics (DAAT) Instructor, and he teaches DAAT concepts during our In-Service Training. He completed a major crash study to determine why an abnormal number of crashes occurred at N. CTH H and W. CTH A. He found the need for a "Cross Traffic Does Not Stop" warning sign to alert north and south bound drivers, which the Rock County Highway Department subsequently installed. He received a Lifesaving Award in 2015 for properly deploying an AED and saving the individual. He volunteers at our community events including Gutter Busters Youth Bowling and Special Olympics Wisconsin's Cop on a Rooftop.



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Correctional Officer of the Year: Correctional Officer Jordan Hillis



Correctional Officer Jordan Hillis started at the Rock County Sheriff's Office on January 8, 2008. He graduated from a Jail Academy at Blackhawk Technical College on February 1, 2008. He earned an Associate in Applied Science Degree in Criminal Justice from Blackhawk Technical College in May 2010. He currently works in the Classification Unit assigning inmates to housing locations and obtaining intelligence related to crimes, gangs, and human trafficking. Correctional Officer Hillis conducted numerous criminal intelligence interviews of inmates. He assisted Kenosha County Sheriff's Office Detectives by providing valuable criminal intelligence on a suspect believed to be responsible for the homicide of an off-duty Racine Police Officer. He also obtained information on an inmate with a history of

predatory and assaultive acts on other inmates concealing drugs and weapons. A search of the inmate's cell resulted in the confiscation of these items and improved safety and security in the jail. Correctional Officer Hillis is a Team Leader on our Correctional Emergency Response Team (CERT). He is a certified TASER Instructor and a Jail Training Officer.

Support Staff Person of the Year: Secretary II Regina Holmberg

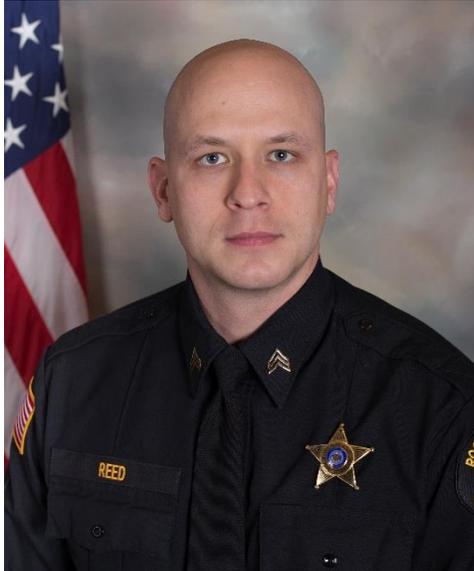
Regina Holmberg became a Secretary II in May 2017. She is a 14-year veteran of the Sheriff's Office, who previously held positions as an Administrative Assistant and a Clerk Typist III. She earned an Associate Degree in General Business from the University of Wisconsin - Rock County and an Associate Degree in Legal Secretary from Blackhawk Technical College. She has worked in the Support Services Bureau assigned to the Front Office and in the Civil Process Bureau. She currently assists the Correctional Services Division as the Secretary II assigned to Commander Erik Chellevoid. Her duties include providing accurate and timely statistics for weekly, monthly, and annual reports. She is vital in the preparation of the Correctional Services Division's annual budget. She serves as our agency's Assistant TIME Coordinator. The TIME System provides criminal justice employees with



information on wants and warrants, driver's license and vehicle registration information, criminal histories, protection order and injunction files, sex offender and corrections information, stolen property, and missing persons. She maintains documentation on vendor contracts such as food service and inmate healthcare for the jail. Holmberg consistently displays attention to detail and produces high-quality work. She is always

positive and eager to help anyone with whatever assistance she can provide. She is active in our community engagement events including National Night Out and Cop on a Rooftop.

Retired Sheriffs Leadership Award: Sergeant Andrew Reed



Sergeant Andrew Reed is recognized for his leadership and dedication to the Sheriff's Office. He started at the Sheriff's Office as a Correctional Officer in April 2006. He graduated from a Jail Academy at Blackhawk Technical College on August 4, 2006. He became a Deputy Sheriff in February 2009. He graduated from a Law Enforcement Academy at Blackhawk Technical College on May 15, 2009. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Political Science from the University of Wisconsin - Madison on December 23, 2005. He served nine years as a respected Deputy. During that time, he trained new deputies as a training officer. He also worked in the Special Investigations Unit conducting drug investigations. He was a member of our Dive Team, where he rose to the position of Team Leader. He was

promoted to Sergeant on December 21, 2014. He served as a jail sergeant before receiving his current assignment as a second shift patrol sergeant. He is our agency's Spillman Administrator. Spillman is the records management system the Sheriff's Office uses. He established and continues to oversee the Sheriff's Office Police Explorers Post, which provides young adults with firsthand exposure to a career in law enforcement. He regularly recognizes his staff's successes promoting a positive work culture on his shift.

Commendations:

Captain Kimberly Litsheim

On April 28, 2019, then Sergeant Kimberly Litsheim convinced a pregnant female intending to commit suicide to surrender her knife without using force. Sergeant Litsheim provided first aid to the female's previously inflicted knife wound until EMS personnel arrived. Sergeant Litsheim's fast response and sound interpersonal skills allowed this mentally distraught female to receive necessary medical and mental health services.

Captain Kimberly Litsheim, Deputy Lee Jackson, Deputy Anthony Barr, Deputy Adam Scott, and Deputy Joshua Solturas

On May 21, 2019, then Sergeant Kimberly Litsheim and Deputies Lee Jackson, Adam Scott, Anthony Barr, and Joshua Solturas responded to a wooded area for a male who called 911 saying he stabbed himself in the face and wanted to die. While en route, deputies learned that the man was wanted in connection to a burglary in the City of Janesville where two handguns were stolen, one of which had not been recovered. On arrival, deputies formed two teams and entered the woods to locate the male. Deputies

Jackson and Barr found the man holding a knife to his throat and asking to be killed. Deputies Scott and Solturas positioned themselves to cover Deputies Jackson and Barr and prevent the man from escaping. Sergeant Litsheim created a rapport with the man and persuaded him to drop the knife and surrender without the deputies having to use force. The man was subsequently arrested and later charged by Janesville Police for various crimes related to the burglary. Sergeant Litsheim and Deputies Jackson, Barr, Scott, and Solturas demonstrated extreme restraint, sound tactics, and desire to help someone in despair.

Deputy Ryan Montag

During Fall 2019, Deputy Ryan Montag completed an extensive Problem Based Learning Exercise to develop a solution to deputies encountering persons in need of shelter for a day due to temporary homelessness, traveling through the area without resources, or any other need for overnight shelter. Deputy Montag researched hotel voucher programs and contacted ten hotels seeking a partnership. He successfully established a voucher program with the Holiday Inn Express Janesville, and this hotel provided 14 overnight stay vouchers to the Sheriff's Office in 2020. Deputy Montag presented his newly implemented voucher program on December 19, 2019. His outstanding efforts secured temporary shelter for persons in need.

Citizen Awards:

Thomas Livick

Thomas Livick serves as a volunteer dog trainer for the Canine Corrections Academy, which is part of the Rock County Education and Criminal Addictions Program (RECAP). Since 2014, Mr. Livick has helped train 27 dogs who have participated in the program with 18 of those dogs going on to be adopted. Mr. Livick provides direction to the inmates working with the dogs and is directly involved in ensuring the dogs are prepared to pass the Canine Good Citizenship Test. His training involves obedience, socialization skills, and any other areas of need. The Sheriff's Office commends Mr. Livick for his significant commitment to the Canine Corrections Academy.

Mary Ann Strand, Daniel Miller, and Kwik Trip Store #617

On April 10, 2019, a female entered Kwik Trip Store #617 on E Memorial Drive in Janesville and attempted to purchase \$1,450 in Google Play gift cards. Store Clerk Mary Ann Strand recognized this considerable gift card purchase as a potential scam and asked the female why she wanted to buy the cards. The female initially responded for personal reasons. Ms. Strand told the woman she appeared to be the victim of a scam. The woman then relayed a phone call she received from a male instructing her to empty her bank accounts and purchase Google Play gift cards to avoid enforcement action. Ms. Strand encouraged the woman to contact law enforcement. The responding deputy learned that Ms. Strand received scam training from Kwik Trip Store #617 management the previous day. The training provided by Store Manager Daniel Miller prepared Ms. Strand to thwart a scam that would have depleted the victim's financial resources.

Tyler Sailsbery

For the past four years, Chef Tyler Sailsbery, the owner of The Black Sheep Restaurant in Whitewater, WI, has volunteered his time to plan a menu and work with RECAP inmates to prepare a seasonal five-course meal for the annual Farm to Table Dinner fundraiser for the RECAP Garden. His culinary expertise elevates this event and directly contributes to its popularity and success.

Brayden Becker

On September 12, 2019, fifth grader Brayden Becker noticed his friend experiencing a medical emergency during lunch at St. Matthew's Lutheran School in Janesville. Brayden escorted his friend to the floor safely and summoned help from staff in the lunchroom. Recognizing his friend needed medical attention, Brayden ran upstairs, found other teachers, and advised them to call 911. Janesville Paramedics responded and transported the student to UW-Madison Hospital, where the student received treatment for a seizure. Brayden's awareness of his surroundings and swift actions ensured his friend received vital care during a medical emergency.

Theodore Krauss

On September 25, 2019, after witnessing a fatal hit and run traffic crash on W HWY 11 at I39/90 in the diverging diamond interchange, Theodore Krause maintained his composure and obtained vital information on the suspect vehicle including the company name and phone number displayed on the vehicle. This information enabled investigators to locate the vehicle and arrest the operator for negligent homicide. The Sheriff's Office commends Mr. Krause for his resourcefulness as a valuable witness.

Aubree Johnson

On October 15, 2019, Aubree Johnson celebrated her 10th birthday by hosting a fundraiser for the Rock County Sheriff's Office K9 Program at the Chubby Bubba's restaurant on S HWY 51 in Janesville. Chubby Bubba's donated 20 percent of that day's sales. The Sheriff's Office recognizes Aubree for unselfishly giving up receiving birthday gifts in order to raise \$1,100 for our K9s.

Lifesaving Awards:

Correctional Officer Jorge Guajardo

On June 2, 2019, while conducting a security check in C-Unit, Correctional Officer Jorge Guajardo observed an inmate attempting to commit suicide by hanging. Correctional Officer Guajardo untied the sheet from the inmate's neck and monitored the inmate until medical staff arrived. His quick actions saved the inmate's life.

Deputy Ryan Bittorf

On June 7, 2019, Deputy Ryan Bittorf responded to a residence in the City of Beloit for a pulseless non-breather medical emergency. Deputy Bittorf took over administering CPR and due to his actions, the male regained a pulse. Beloit EMS personnel arrived and transported the man to a hospital, where he made a full recovery. Deputy Bittorf's chest compressions saved this man's life.

Natalie Gould, Ashlyn Oren, Travis Lauer, and Andrew Lyga

In the early morning hours of July 5, 2019, Natalie Gould and Ashlyn Oren saw a glow on the horizon while driving. As they entered The Woodlands subdivision, they discovered a garage fire at a residence on E. Meadow Circle in Edgerton. The women immediately dialed 911 and began laying on the car horn desperately hoping to wake up the residents inside. Off-duty Wisconsin State Patrol Inspector Travis Lauer and off-duty Wisconsin Department of Corrections Lieutenant Andrew Lyga heard the commotion from a couple houses away and bolted to the residence to help evacuate the occupants. Both men forced entry into the residence and woke up two young boys, their aunt, and their grandparents. The men escorted all five occupants and the family dogs out of the residence safely. The residence's smoke detectors did not activate until evacuation was underway. The fire eventually spread throughout the entire home rendering it a total loss. The Sheriff's Office commends these brave individuals for their heroic response in saving five people from a blazing residential fire.

Correctional Officers Jorge Guajardo, Justin Behm, James Gajdosik, and Timberly Wulf

On July 17, 2019, while conducting a security check in C-Unit, Correctional Officer Justin Behm observed an inmate attempting to commit suicide by hanging. Correctional Officer Behm and Correctional Officer Jorge Guajardo entered the cell. Correctional Officer Guajardo untied the sheet from the bunk. Correctional Officers James Gajdosik and Timberly Wulf arrived to assist. Correctional Officer Gajdosik ripped the sheet away from the inmate's neck while Correctional Officers Behm and Wulf supported the inmate. These officers monitored the inmate until EMS personnel arrived. Their swift actions saved the inmate's life.

Correctional Supervisor Cory Reilly, Correctional Officer Kalyn Collins, and Nurse Justin Baker

On September 21, 2019, Correctional Supervisor Cory Reilly and Correctional Officer Kalyn Collins responded to a radio call for an inmate in D-Unit cutting himself in a suicide attempt. Correctional Supervisor Reilly and Correctional Officer Collins entered the inmate's cell and observed a deep cut on the inmate's forearm and considerable blood on the floor. They secured the resisting inmate and prevented him from harming himself further. Nurse Justin Baker entered the cell to assist. Correctional Officer Collins and Nurse Baker made a makeshift tourniquet with clothing found in the cell and placed it above the inmate's wound. Correctional Supervisor Reilly directed a rover to bring a SOF Tactical Tourniquet, and Correctional Officer Collins and Nurse Baker applied it in place.

of the makeshift tourniquet. Their quick thinking and tourniquet applications controlled the inmate's blood loss until EMS personnel arrived and contributed to the inmate's survival.

Deputy Christopher Lochner and Deputy Bradley London

On January 29, 2020, Deputy Christopher Lochner responded to a residence in the Town of Harmony to check the welfare of an individual who posted concerning comments on Facebook and was believed to be suicidal. Deputy Lochner found the residence locked, and no one answered the door. He checked the back door of the garage and through a window observed a vehicle running in the closed, locked garage. Deputy Lochner saw an apparently unconscious person in the driver seat of the vehicle. He radioed for additional deputies and EMS personnel. Deputy Lochner forced the back door open and dragged the individual out of the garage to provide aid. The individual did not have a pulse and was not breathing. Deputy Lochner applied an AED and performed CPR. Deputy Bradley London arrived on scene and assisted with CPR. The individual started breathing. EMS personnel transported the individual to a hospital, and after a few days in the ICU, the individual regained consciousness and recovered. The actions of Deputy Lochner and Deputy London saved the individual's life.

Correctional Officers Josue Echeverria, Michael DeRosier, Juan Flores, Kaitlyn Finco, Brent Larkins, Jenise Lucas, Korey Nugent, and Michael Rear

On February 16, 2020, Correctional Officer Michael Rear observed that an inmate in C-Unit had obscured the view into his cell by placing a bedsheet over the cell-door window. Correctional Officer Korey Nugent approached the cell and removed the bedsheet from the cell-door. The inmate made aggressive and suicidal statements and proceeded to tie another bedsheet around the upper bunk and his neck. Correctional Officer Jenise Lucas tried to de-escalate the inmate while Correctional Officer Nugent radioed officers to respond to a possible suicide attempt. The inmate forcibly lowered himself, causing him to hang from the bedsheet. Correctional Officer Rear retrieved the emergency safety cutting tool from C-Unit's local control and entered the section with Correctional Officers Josue Echeverria, Michael DeRosier, Kaitlyn Finco, and Brent Larkins. Correctional Officer Juan Flores operated the unit controls allowing a quick response. The responding officers worked as a team to subdue the inmate and rescue him from the hanging position. Once officers removed the bedsheet, they escorted the physically resistive inmate to the medical unit for evaluation. The swift actions of the above officers saved the inmate's life.

Deputy Bambi Stoikes

On February 17, 2020, Deputy Bambi Stoikes was stopped at a red light in Janesville when a motorist flagged her down yelling that somebody in her vehicle was not breathing. Deputy Stoikes found the male passenger unresponsive and administered CPR. EMS personnel responded and took over. The male recovered from his cardiac arrest. His wife contacted the Sheriff's Office a few days later and expressed her appreciation for Deputy Stoikes' quick actions which saved her husband's life.

Correctional Officer Shannon Techmeier, Correctional Officer Dennis Meyer, Nursing Supervisor Brandi Malcook, Nurse Justin Baker, Correctional Supervisor Cory Reilly, and Sergeant Nick Brown

On February 19, 2020, Correctional Officer Shannon Techmeier radioed staff to inmate housing unit E-West for a medical emergency. A male inmate was unresponsive on the floor. Nursing Supervisor Brandi Malcook, Nurse Justin Baker, Correctional Officer Dennis Meyer, Sergeant Nick Brown, and Correctional Supervisor Cory Reilly responded. They administered multiple doses of Narcan, performed CPR, and applied an AED. When EMS personnel arrived, the inmate was breathing and responsive. EMS personnel transported the inmate for further medical attention. The responding staff worked together in a commendable manner to save the inmate's life.

Community Service Award: Denny Luster

Since November 2008, Denny Luster has served as the Licensed Professional Counselor for the RECAP Program. Mr. Luster has been invaluable to the program through his professionalism, leadership, and compassion for the inmate participants. His consistent improvements to the program benefited countless inmates. Mr. Luster is a true expert in his field, and he is sought out by others for advice and encouragement. Throughout his tenure, Mr. Luster mentored many University of Wisconsin - Whitewater graduate students completing practicum and intern positions with the RECAP Program. The Sheriff's Office commends Mr. Luster for his dedication to the development of the RECAP Program, for his skill in counseling inmates, and for his willingness to share his knowledge with future mental health professionals. Mr. Luster embodies community service.

Unit Citations:

Sergeant Doug Coulter, Sergeant Mark Thompson, Detective Darrell Knutson, Detective Corene Bilhorn, Detective Luke DuCharme, Detective Brent Reilly, Deputy Beau Douglas, and Deputy Jason Wescott

On September 25, 2019, deputies responded to a fatal hit and run traffic crash on W HWY 11 at I39/90 in the diverging diamond interchange where a semi-truck driver struck a motorcyclist. Sergeant Doug Coulter contacted the Detective Bureau and the Accident Reconstruction Team and requested their services. Deputy Beau Douglas, a crash reconstructionist, identified the semi-truck driver and determined the semi's location in Summit, IL. Sergeant Mark Thompson, Deputy Jason Wescott, Detective Darrell Knutson, Detective Corene Bilhorn, and Detective Luke DuCharme traveled to Summit, IL, to preserve, process, and arrange for the return of the semi to Rock County for evidentiary purposes. Detective Brent Reilly and Deputy Douglas met with the semi driver and his attorney and arrested the semi driver. The investigative contributions of the above Sheriff's Office staff resolved this complex case.

Captain Aaron Burdick, Detective Corene Bilhorn, Detective Darrell Knutson, Detective Brent Reilly, Detective Luke DuCharme, Detective Charlie Cowan, Sergeant Doug Coulter, Deputy Dwayne Shaw, Deputy Ross Wenger, Deputy Jason Wescott, Deputy

Bryan Hanthorn, Analyst Andy Lamendola, Secretary I Sandy Hill, and Secretary I Nicole Barrington

On December 7, 2019, the Detective Bureau became aware of a shooting that occurred in Rock Township. At that time, the victim had not been located, and there was little information available. Over the course of the following month, the Detective Bureau in conjunction with the Special Investigations Unit and the Bureau of Identification located the victim, identified all parties involved, developed a prosecutable case, and apprehended all suspects. This complex investigation required the use of many investigative techniques and resources as well as coordination with several other law enforcement agencies. The efforts of the above Sheriff's Office staff resulted in the resolution of this case as well as identifying four other open violent cases attributed to these suspects. This thorough investigation is a fine example of a unit's hard work, dedication, leadership, and collaboration of resources and personnel.

Correctional Officers Rory Ruble, Tim Mauerman, Jaysen Cleasby, Andrew Arneson, James Schuler, Christopher Simon, Daniel Banks, Elizabeth Donovan, Andrea Pepper, and Aaron Morris

In 2019, the Rock County Sheriff's Office experienced a significant shortage of Correctional Officers due to retirements, promotions, and resignations. Because of the staff turnover, the Sheriff's Office required Correctional Officers to work a considerable number of overtime shifts to fill openings. The Correctional Officers assigned to third shift worked significantly more overtime shifts than the other Correctional Officers. Many days every third shift Correctional Officer worked a 12-hour day. The Sheriff's Office acknowledges the impacts of mandated overtime on Correctional Officers' personal lives and recognizes the above third shift Correctional Officers for their substantial contributions to maintaining staffing levels in the jail during a difficult staffing transition.

Sheriff's Award: Captain Brent DeRemer, Re-Entry Case Manger Amy Evans, Psychiatric Technician Verence Sandoval, and Nursing Supervisor Brandi Malcook

In early 2019, Rock County Sheriff's Office implemented a program to provide opioid-addicted inmates nearing their release date with a Vivitrol injection. Vivitrol blocks receptors in the brain so individuals do not feel the effects of opioids and do not crave them for thirty days. This Medication Assisted Treatment gives individuals time to obtain further addiction services for their substance use disorder. Captain Brent DeRemer, Re-Entry Case Manager Amy Evans, Psychiatric Technician Verence Sandoval, and Nursing Supervisor Brandi Malcook were instrumental in securing Vivitrol injections for opioid-addicted inmates. This program increases the likelihood that individuals maintain sobriety and thus potentially reduces jail recidivism.

TROY J. KNUDSON
SHERIFF

By: Nicole Barrington