



# ***Park County Sheriff's Office***



## **2017 Annual Report**

**Scott A. Steward, Sheriff**

***"Service, Safety, Security"***

**ON THE COVER** – During 2017, the Park County Sheriff’s Office and Cody Police Department entered into a project to produce high-quality professional portraits for all of our employees. These portraits are now used for employee-related projects in print and social media, and are intended to project a positive and professional image to our residents and visitors. You will find them throughout this report.



Our thanks to Ms. Renae Gordon of Renaegade Photography who generously donated her time over several months to complete the initial project. Ms. Gordon also continues to volunteer her time in order to maintain up-to-date portraits of our new hires, promotions, and re-assignments. “My family and I are thankful for all that law enforcement does for us,” commented Ms. Gordon. “This is my opportunity to give back to the community and those who work so hard for our safety each and every day.”



**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. In 2017, our personnel experienced their share of triumphs and tragedies; from the investigation of one homicide and one murder suicide, to the investigation into the shooting of a grizzly bear sow in Crandall, to solving a string of burglaries throughout the county, to experiencing the finality of a high-profile homicide in 2014 with the sentencing of three suspects. And as always, our personnel continued to perform at an exceptionally high level with compassion, professionalism and commitment.

Our personnel takes great pride in their work and the countless hours spent serving this community. Our deputies responded to an average of 755 incidents each over the year; our dispatchers answered an average of 3,568 calls each; and our detention deputies cared for an average of 72 detainees each day; a ten-year high. 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 officers maintain a state of readiness at all times.

Our Search and Rescue volunteers also performed at an exceptionally high level in 2017, always under difficult circumstances. They searched the North Fork for six weeks in search of a missing hiker; airlifted a severely injured horse rider from Pahaska; rescued a group of foreign tourists stranded on the Shoshone River after their commercial raft flipped; and were tasked with recovering the bodies of a Cody couple who were killed after tumbling off the Morrison Jeep Trail. These volunteers represent 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 2018, 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott A. Steward".

Scott A. Steward  
Sheriff, Park County, Wyoming

# PATROL DIVISION

**MAJOR INCIDENTS** – The year 2017 saw Park County Sheriff’s deputies responding to two separate homicides in rural Powell. The first occurred the morning of August 7<sup>th</sup> at 818 Jonathon Road. The call came into the Park County 911 Communications Center at 4:30 a.m. reporting an unknown emergency. Upon arrival, deputies discovered two victims, one male and one female, both suffering from apparent gunshot wounds. The female, Mary Ann Bier, age 64 had a gunshot wound to the back of the head and the male, John Charles Bright, age 74, had a gunshot wound to the right temple. A suicide note was discovered at the scene. The investigation revealed that the victims, although not married were involved in a long-time, live-in relationship. Recently the relationship had soured and when Bright discovered Bier’s intent to leave him, he became despondent and shot her before turning the gun on himself.

Then, on August 26<sup>th</sup> at 4:42 am, the Powell Police Department received a 911 phone call originating from 956 Lane 11 from a male caller stating that his “wife is dead, send the cops.” The caller then hung up. Assets from the Park County Sheriff’s Office, Powell Police Department, and Powell Hospital Ambulance were immediately dispatched. Upon arrival, deputies made contact with David Eugene Williamson, age 64 (pictured), who resides at that address. Williamson was calmly sitting on the front porch. When asked what was going on, Williamson replied, "Go inside, you will see. She is in the bedroom." A subsequent search of the residence revealed Williamson’s wife, Shirley Williamson, age 65 lying dead on a bed in the back bedroom with an apparent gunshot wound to the right side of her head. A semi-automatic handgun was lying on the bed at her feet. David Williamson was taken into custody and charged with second degree murder. He is currently being held in the Park County Detention Center awaiting trial.



Sheriff’s deputies also investigated a fatality involving an off-road vehicle in 2017. On August 4<sup>th</sup>, a Cody couple died when their ATV side-by-side tumbled off of the Morrison Jeep Trail. The victims were ascending the trail at approximately 2:00 p.m. with a group of friends when the crash occurred. The call came into the Park County 911 Communications Center at 2:47 p.m. reporting the crash. A deputy was immediately dispatched to the canyon as were members of the

county's Search and Rescue Unit, Clark Fire, Clark First Responders, an ambulance from Powell Valley Hospital and a helicopter from REACH Air Medical Services. At 3:25 p.m., REACH Air



Medical was able to land their helicopter in the canyon ½ mile from the crash scene. Their medical personnel were then able to hike up to the scene where they pronounced both victims deceased. While no one actually witnessed the crash, statements from the victims' companions and evidence at the scene indicated that the couple had attempted to negotiate a hairpin turn in the trail and took the switchback too wide. They then attempted to back up to get a better angle on the turn but in doing so, accidentally backed over the edge and tumbled down four levels of the trail before the ATV came to rest on its top in the middle of the trail below. Both victims

were eventually recovered by members of the Park County Search and Rescue Unit with assistance from Clark Fire.

Also in 2017, the sheriff's office working in conjunction with the Wyoming Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) investigated the killing of an adult female grizzly bear (pictured: file photo) northwest of Cody on October 25<sup>th</sup>. Christopher J. Queen, age 48 of Powell was elk hunting in the Little Sunlight Basin when the incident occurred. Queen, who was off-duty at the time, is a game warden with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. In speaking with investigators, Queen said he was returning to his horses at dusk at approximately 6:30 p.m. when he came upon a grizzly sow with three cubs. Seeing Queen, the sow initiated what he immediately recognized as a "bluff charge." Queen took no action at that time feeling the sow would return to its cubs and move off.



He slowly backed away, attempting to gain distance from the bears. However, according to Queen, after returning to its cubs, the sow began exhibiting even more aggressive behavior. Suddenly, it lowered its head and went into a full charge directly at Queen. It was then that he discharged his hunting rifle, killing the charging grizzly. It fell only a few feet from where he stood. The sheriff's office was asked to conduct the investigation in conjunction with DCI by

the Game and Fish Department because it involved one of their own game wardens. Investigators were also assisted by members of the Game and Fish Department bear experts. The results of the investigation were turned over to the Park County Attorney for final disposition.

On April 7, 2017, deputies from the Park County Sheriff's Office apprehended a suspect in a series of burglaries in and around Cody and Powell. At 10:29 p.m., they responded to a report of a burglary in progress at an address on Dutcher Springs Trail. The owner of the property who



was out of town at the time, became aware of the burglary through motion sensor security cameras in and around his home that were programmed to send a signal to his cell phone if activated. The owner further reported that he could see “a dark, heavy set female” inside his house and that she had taken several long guns from the home to the attached garage. Upon arrival deputies observed a single female suspect, later identified as Valorie Rae Lamb-Harlan, age 43 of Powell enter the garage area. When

confronted by the deputy, Lamb-Harlan immediately went back inside the house. The deputy then forcibly gained entry to the home and commanded her to come back outside to the garage area. After a short period of time, Lamb-Harlan complied at which time she was taken into custody. Among the items in possession of Lamb-Harlan at the time of her arrest, was a 1911 Kimber handgun which was loaded and the safety disengaged. Upon checking the workshop, deputies found that this building had also been burglarized along with two camper trailers located on the property. Additionally, several vehicles in the workshop had all been damaged with what appeared to have been a hammer-type object. At the time of her arrest, Lamb-Harlan was a suspect in a string of burglaries and break ins at three car washes in Powell as well as four car washes, a laundromat and eleven vehicles in Cody.

The murder investigation of Juan Antonio Guerra-Torres was finally brought to a close in 2017 with the sentencing of the last two suspects involved in the homicide. Pedro Garcia Jr., 31, (pictured right) was sentenced to 25 to 40 years in prison for his role in the slaying and subsequent dismemberment of Guerra-Torres, a Mexican national whose headless, handless corpse, was discovered in a Badger Basin turnoff January 9, 2014. Pedro's sister Sandra Garcia and family friend John Marquez had already been sentenced earlier for their parts in the homicide. Pedro had to wait for Sandra and Marquez's sentences to go through



before his own plea bargain could be finalized. As part of the plea package Pedro pleaded guilty to aiding and abetting in a second degree murder, meaning the act was done purposely and maliciously but without premeditation. Sandra Garcia (pictured left) had previously pleaded guilty to felony counts of aiding and abetting manslaughter and accessory after the fact to second-degree murder in 2016 and was sentenced to 10 to 18 years in prison. Her request for a reduction in her sentence in November of 2017 was subsequently denied. Marquez (pictured right), pleaded guilty to second-degree murder in May, admitting he “purposely and maliciously” shot and killed Guerra-Torres sometime between Dec. 15, 2013, and Jan. 8, 2014. Though it was not brought up in court, prosecutors also alleged that Marquez later dismembered Guerra-Torres’ body with an ax in an attempt to keep his remains from being identified. He was sentenced to 25 to 35 years in prison for his part in the murder. All three suspects are currently serving out their sentences in the Wyoming State Penitentiary system.



**PERSONNEL** – During 2017, the patrol and administrative divisions saw a number of reassignments and appointments as a result of retirements and military leave. The administrative division is charged with the day-to-day support duties that is essential and necessary to maintain the smooth operation of all other divisions within the sheriff’s office.

In July, Communications Officer Charla Baugher-Torczon was transferred from the 911 Communications Center to a position as the sheriff’s executive assistant. Charla replaces long-



time Executive Assistant Annette Rudio after her untimely death (see page #11). Originally from Cody, Charla moved to Chattanooga, Tennessee in 1998 to attend Chattanooga State College where she earned her associates degree in general studies in 2001. She also earned a bachelor’s degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Wyoming in 2005. In 2006, she was hired as a dispatcher for the Chattanooga Police Department where she served until moving back home in 2009. In that same year, she began her career as a communications officer for Park County. In 2013, she was assigned “Terminal Agency Coordinator (TAC)” duties in addition to her dispatcher responsibilities. As TAC she was

responsible for ensuring that the sheriff's office was in compliance with federal and state regulations in the handling of confidential information from the FBI's national databases. "Charla brought a wealth of administrative and law enforcement experience to the position," said Sheriff Steward. "Moreover, during her service with the sheriff's office she continually demonstrated that cares not only about her work but about the sheriff's office as a whole. She will serve our citizens well." Charla is married with 3 children. She and her husband currently reside in Cody.

Also in late 2016, Deputy Phil Johnson was reassigned from patrolling the Powell District to the department's sole investigator. Phil took the position vacated by Investigator Joe Torczon when he was promoted to lieutenant in charge of the detention facility. He is responsible as lead investigator, for major crimes and incidents occurring within the jurisdiction of the sheriff's office. He also oversees the sex offender registration aspect of the department as required by federal and state statutes. Investigator Johnson joined the Park County Sheriff's Office in June of 2007 as a detention deputy and was eventually transferred to the patrol division in November of 2011. In 2014, he was reassigned on loan as an investigator with the Wyoming Division of Criminal Investigations working out of their Powell office, where he served for a little over two years. In March of 2016, Phil transferred back to the patrol division before being reassigned to investigator later that year. Originally from Wisconsin, Phil moved to Park County in 2007. He graduated from Blackhawk Technical College in Janesville, Wisconsin in 2006 with an Associate Degree in Criminal Justice. He also earned his Wisconsin peace officer certification at the same time. In 2011, he earned his Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Phoenix and his Master's Degree in Criminal Justice from Weber State University in 2015. He is married and currently resides in Powell.



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 April 25<sup>th</sup>, Sheriff Steward announced the appointment of Deputy Andrew Palmer to the department's patrol division. Deputy Palmer was reassigned from the Park County Detention Facility. He replaced a deputy who is on extended military leave. Deputy Palmer who is originally from State College, Pennsylvania, began his employment with the sheriff's office in March of 2016 when he was employed as a deputy in the detention facility. Before joining the Park County Sheriff's Office, Deputy Palmer spent two years with the Sheridan County Sheriff's Office where he also served as a detention deputy.



On July 3<sup>rd</sup>, Sheriff Steward appointed Deputy Neal Corr from the department's detention facility to the Powell patrol division. Deputy Corr replaced Deputy Phil Johnson who was assigned as the department's investigator late in 2016. Deputy Corr was employed as a detention deputy with the Park County Sheriff's Office from 2004 to 2014 at which time he resigned to become a Greybull, Wyoming police officer. After nearly two and a half years he resigned that position and in October of 2016 was once again employed as a detention deputy with Park County. Originally from Torrington, Deputy Corr relocated to Park County in 1998 where he pursued a career in teaching. He has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Commercial Music with a teaching certificate from Chadron State University in Chadron, Nebraska. He has two grown children and currently resides in Powell.



On Friday, September 1<sup>st</sup>, Deputy Joe Wagers retired from the Park County Sheriff's Office. Joe was one of two deputies serving the citizens of Meeteetse. He joined the Park County Sheriff's Office in April of 2005 after serving 5 and 1/2 years with the Niobrara County Sheriff's Office. Originally from New Mexico, Joe relocated to Douglas, Wyoming when he was 11 years old. He graduated from Douglas High School in 1982, where he was active in rodeo for several years. Joe is married with three grown children. After retirement he went full time cowboy for several ranches in the Meeteetse area. Joe was a fixture around the sheriff's office and he will be missed. We wish him good luck in the future and thank him for his service.



After Joe's retirement, Deputy Rob Cooke was reassigned from Powell to the department's Meeteetse District on October 2<sup>nd</sup> as Joe's replacement. Deputy Cooke has been with the Park County Sheriff's Office since 2005 where he served as a first line supervisor in the detention facility. He was reassigned to the Powell Patrol District in February of 2015. Rob is a 20-year veteran of the United States Army where he completed tours in Operation Desert Storm as well as deployments to Kuwait and Bosnia. While in the Army he attended Military Leadership School and was trained as an Anti-Terrorism Advisor. Rob currently resides in Meeteetse. He has four children: two boys ages 31 and 28 and two girls ages 21 and 15.



Immediately after, on October 4<sup>th</sup>, Sheriff Steward announced the reassignment of Deputy Dan Walker to the department's Powell District. Deputy Walker was reassigned from the Park County Detention Center and replaced Deputy Cooke. Deputy Walker joined the Park County Sheriff's Office in June of this year 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.



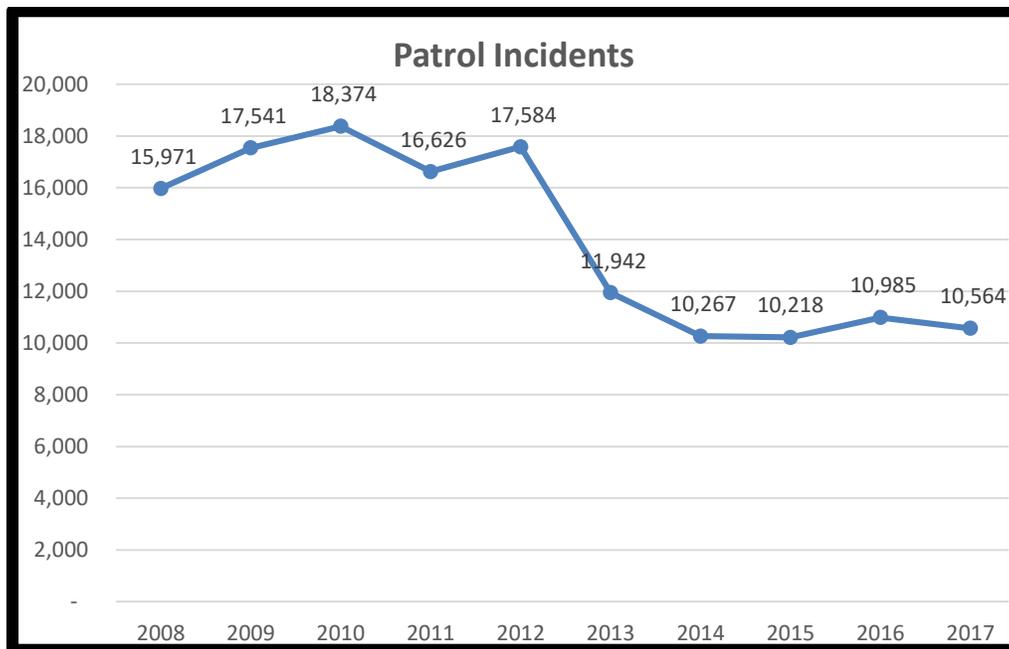
Deputy Walker currently resides in Powell with his wife and four children: a daughter, age 20 and three sons, ages 9 and 15 and 17.

**IN MEMORIUM** - Tragically, on June 19<sup>th</sup>, long-time Park County Sheriff's Office employee Annette Rudio passed away unexpectedly of natural causes. Annette was 57 years old. She served for over 20 years as the sheriff's executive assistant. She was hired initially as a dispatcher in November of 1992 and was elevated to administrative assistant in 1996. She served faithfully under Sheriffs Bill Brewer, David Doyle and Scott Steward. "Annette was a dedicated employee



who was very proud of her ability to serve the citizens of Park County,” commented Sheriff Steward. “She was well-known to many residents and was an excellent ambassador for the sheriff’s office. She was my right hand and my friend and I will miss her.”

**PATROL ACTIVITY** – In 2017, 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. Despite an overall decrease of 4% in total incidents in 2017, deputies saw an increase in felony arrests of 34% over 2016. Also, the sheriff’s office saw a 15% increase in traffic crashes investigated. As a result, deputies took a more aggressive stance in traffic enforcement increasing their traffic stops 10% in an effort to combat the increase in crashes. In 2017, deputies responded to 10,564 patrol incidents which included 2,480 motor vehicle inspections, 1,870 civil paper services, 1,368 traffic stops, 707 animal calls, 457 warrant service attempts, 377 felony and misdemeanor arrests (up 2% from 2016), 129 motor vehicle crash investigations, 345 criminal investigations and 1,029 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 755 incidents per deputy.



## **INCIDENTS**

Total Patrol Incidents	10,564
Calls for Service Incidents	5,623
Deputy Initiated Incidents	4,941
Traffic Stops	1,368
Business/Building/Vehicle Checks	10
Other Incidents	3,573

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## **ARRESTS**

Total Arrests	377
Misdemeanor Arrests	287
Felony Arrests	90

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## **WARRANTS**

New Warrants Received	1,024
Warrants Closed	742

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## **CASE INVESTIGATIONS**

Total Case Investigations	1,374
Vehicle Accident Investigations	100
Criminal Investigations	345
Non-Criminal Investigations	928
Unclassified Investigations	1

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## **VIN INSPECTIONS**

Total VIN Inspections	2,480
VIN Inspection Fees Collected *	\$24,480.00

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## **CIVIL SUMMONS**

Total Service Attempts	1,870
Total Served	845
Total Attempts with No Service	1,025
Civil Service Fees Collected *	\$30,065.00

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## CITATIONS

Total Citations Issued	465
Misdemeanor Criminal Citations	169
Traffic Citations	289
Unclassified	7

\* Fees collected are returned to the county general fund

## PATROL INCIDENTS BY TYPE

INCIDENT TYPE		INCIDENT TYPE	
911 HANG UP CALL	47	MENTAL PROBLEM	4
ABANDONED VEHICLE	50	MESSAGE DELIVERY	6
ADMINISTRATIVE DUTY	2	MISCELLANEOUS ASSISTANCE	358
ALARM-INTRUSTION/HOLDUP	121	MOTOR VEHICLE CRASH	129
AMBULANCE-AIR MEDICAL	3	NCIC WARRANT ENTRY	105
AMBULANCE-DEPUTY ASSIGNED	12	NOTIFY CITY DEPARTMENTS	54
ANIMAL-BITE	13	NUISANCE COMPLAINTS	3
ANIMAL-DECEASED	6	OPEN DOOR/WINDOW	4
ANIMAL-LOST	137	OTHER ACCIDENT	9
ANIMAL-NOISY	2	OTHER LAW VIOLATIONS	22
ANIMAL-OTHER	125	PARKING PROBLEM	13
ANIMAL-ON ROADWAY	259	PATROL-EXTRA	47
ANIMAL-STRAY	165	PERSON LOST	1
ANNONYMOUS TIP	2	PHONE RELATED COMPLAINT	1
ASSIST OTHER AGENCY	577	PRISONER TRANSPORT	10
ASSAULT	24	PROBATION VIOLATION	6
ATTEMPT TO LOCATE	23	PROPERTY DAMAGE	79
AUTO BURGLARY	2	PROPERTY FOUND	54
BAD CHECKS COMPLAINT	1	PROPERTY LOST	45
BARWALK	6	PROTECTION ORDER	23
BODY FOUND	30	PROWLER	10
BUILDING BURGLARY	19	REDDI REPORT	55
COUNCIL COMMUNITY SERVICES	1	ROAD HAZARD/BLOCKAGE	82
CHILD WELFARE	17	SEARCH AND RESCUE CALL	20
CITIZEN/BUSINESS CONTACT	69	SECURITY CHECK	6
CIVIL ATTEMPTS	1,870	SEXUAL ASSAULT	11
CIVIL DISPUTE	53	SEXUAL OFFENDER RECORD	22
CIVIL STANDBY	54	SEX OFFENDER REGISTRATION	58

CUSTODY DISPUTE	9	SEX OFFENDER REPORTING	150
DISTURBANCE	29	SPECIAL INCIDENT- Undefined	9
DOMESTIC	57	STOLEN VEHICLE	6
DRILL/EXERCISE	3	SUICIDE ATTEMPT/THREATS	32
DRUGS RELATED	12	SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY	142
EXTRA PATROL REQUEST	22	SEARCH WARRANT	1
FIRE CALL-DEPUTY ASSIGNED	17	THEFT	63
FIREWORKS COMPLAINT	7	THREATS	35
FLAGDOWN OF DEPUTY	30	TRAFFIC COMPLAINT	91
FOLLOWUP INVESTIGATION	90	TRAFFIC STOP	1,368
FRAUD RELATED	78	TRAINING/ INSTRUCTION	6
HARASSMENT	23	TRESPASS COMPLAINT	84
HAZARD TO SAFETY	4	UNKNOWN CALL TYPE	8
HOMICIDE	2	US FOREST SERVICE PATROL	78
INCORRIGIBLE JUVENILE	15	VIN INSPECTIONS	2,448
INFORMATIONAL CASE	126	WARRANT SERVICE	457
INTOXICATED SUBJECT	4	WEAPONS OFFENSE	17
LIQUOR LAW VIOLATION	1	WELFARE CHECK	107
LITTERING	6	<b>TOTAL PATROL INCIDENTS</b>	<b>10,597</b>

# 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 2017, seven total dispatchers handled 24,976 calls for service, including 7,838 calls received via the 9-1-1 emergency phone system. This equates to over 3,568 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.

In 2017, the Park County Sheriff's Office welcomed Jessi Rose Gail Colegrove to our dispatch team. Jessi replaces a long-time dispatcher who was recently promoted to the position of sheriff's executive assistant. "Jessi brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to our 911 Communications Center," commented Sheriff Scott Steward. "Her professionalism and enthusiasm will only add to the quality of our current dispatch staff." Originally born and raised in Colorado, Jessi moved to Teton County, Wyoming in 2012 where she served as a dispatcher in the Teton County Sheriff's Office Communications Center for a little over a year and a half. In August of 2013, she moved to Powell where she dispatched for the Powell



Police Department until being hired by Park County. She has a Bachelor of Science degree in sociology from Metro State University in Denver and a Master's Degree in education from Colorado State University in Ft. Collins, Colorado. Jessi and her husband currently reside in Cody.

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## COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION CALLS FOR SERVICE (% Change from 2016)

Park County Sheriff's Office	10,564 ( -03.83%)
Cody Police Department	11,778 ( +10.76%)
Cody Fire Department	311 ( -18.37%)
Clark Fire Department	66 (+106.25%)
Powell Fire Department	222 ( +11.00%)
Meeteetse Fire Department	30 ( -16.67%)
West Park Hospital Ambulance	1,985 ( +05.70%)
Park County Search and Rescue	20 ( -54.55%)
<b>Total Calls for Service</b>	<b>24,976 ( +03.25%)</b>

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### Controlled Burn Permits

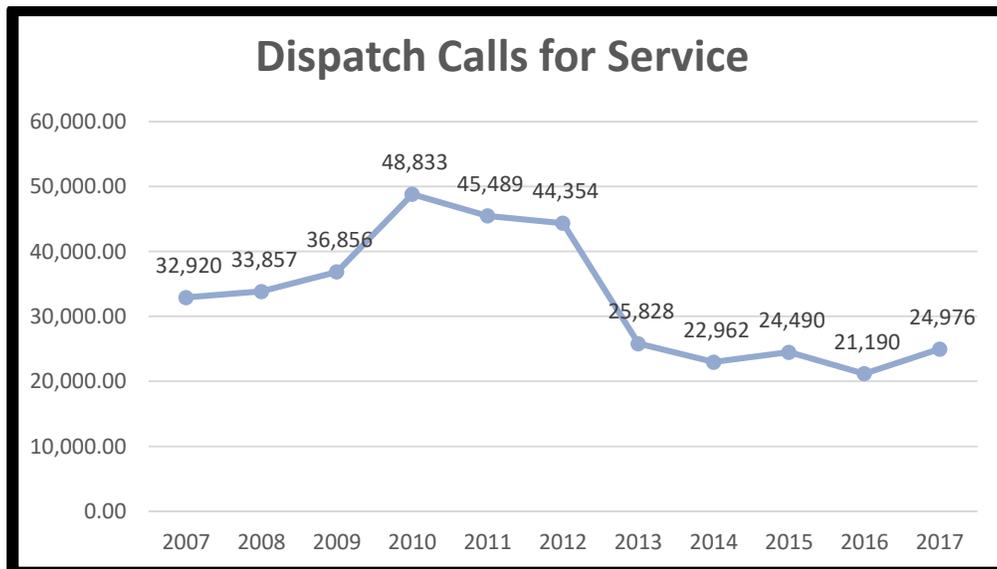
Total Permits Issued	3,007
Cody/Meeteetse Area	1,363
Powell/Garland/Ralston/Clark Area	1,642

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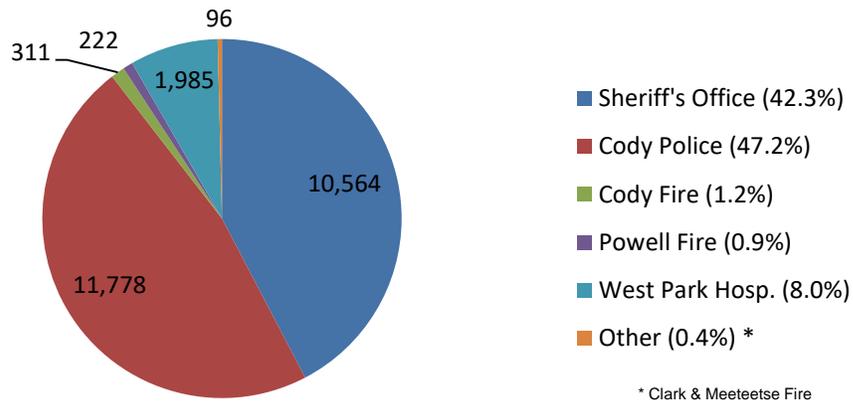
### Fire Calls Dispatched

Cody Fire Department	311
Clark Fire Department	66
Powell Fire Department	222
Meeteetse Fire Department	30
Total Fire Calls	629

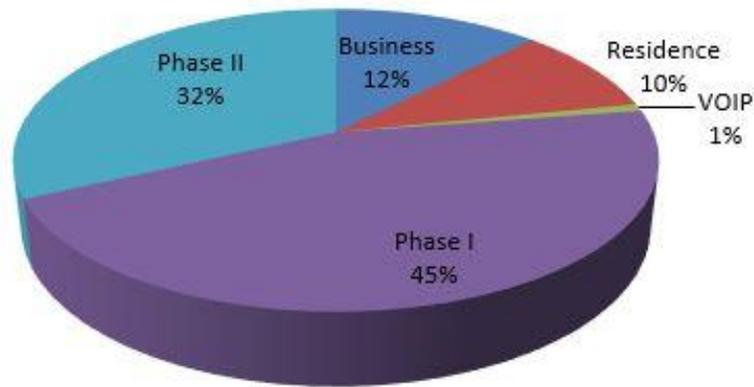
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## Calls for Service by Agency



## 911 Calls by Type of Phone Used



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

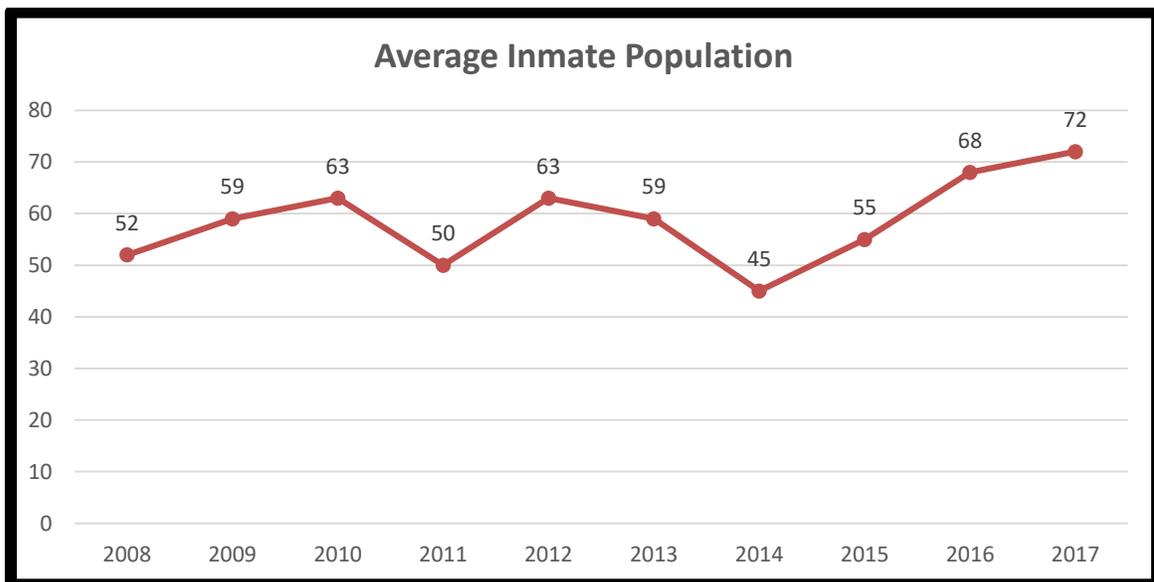
# DETENTION

In 2017, the Park County Sheriff’s Office Detention Division booked a total of 1,182 prisoners into the holding facility. This number represents a 6 percent increase in total bookings from 2016. The average inmate population also increased from 68 in 2016 to 72 in 2017, also a 6 percent increase. In fact this number represents a 10-year high. The one-day inmate population ranged from a high of 99 to a low of 49.

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

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Park County Sheriff	256 (-5%)	265 (+4%)	244(-8%)	257 (+5%)	219 (-15%)
Cody Police Dept.	480 (+12%)	474 (-1%)	400 (-16%)	472 (+18%)	469 (-1%)
Powell Police Dept.	278 (+43%)	331 (+19%)	264 (-20%)	336 (+27%)	296 (-12%)
Wyoming Highway Patrol	47 (-10%)	44 (-6%)	43 (-2%)	38 (-12%)	29 (-24%)
Division of Criminal Invest.	9 (-36%)	6 (-33%)	3 (-50%)	6 (+100%)	5 (-17%)
New Bookings on New Charges *	833 (-12%)	920 (+10%)	784 (-15%)	918 (+17%)	1,014 (+5%)
Total Bookings	1,083 (-6%)	1,132 (+5%)	962 (-15%)	1,112 (+16%)	1,182 (+6%)

\* Includes “weekender” and voluntary bookings, where someone comes to serve time on weekends only or voluntarily surrenders themselves in on a warrant.



**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.

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Use of Force Incidents *	13	21	19	6	14	8
Inmate Assaults	7	7	2	5	8	15

\* Force is used to gain compliance only

**PERSONNEL** - In 2017, the detention facility hired six new deputies: Deputy Amber Mason on March 24<sup>th</sup> (top left); Deputy Ethan Robinson on April 3<sup>rd</sup> (top middle); Deputy James Kincade on May 16<sup>th</sup> (top right); Deputy Chris Williams on September 5<sup>th</sup> (bottom left); Deputy Terry Fish on October 15<sup>th</sup> (bottom middle) and Deputy Tyler Patterson on November 15<sup>th</sup> (bottom right). All hires were the result of resignations or reassignments. There was no increase in staffing levels.



Also in June of 2017, Detention Deputy Lisa Randol was promoted to squad sergeant in the detention facility replacing a former sergeant who took a voluntary demotion. Lisa is one of six



female detention deputies employed by the sheriff's office. In fact, 38% of our total jail staff and two of the four shift sergeants are women. Sergeant Randol joined the Park County Sheriff's Office detention staff in January of 2009. Originally from South Dakota, Lisa moved to Riverton at the age of 13. She graduated from Riverton High School after which she attended Northwest College in Powell. She was hired by the Sublette County Sheriff's Office in 1999 as a dispatcher. She then transferred to their detention facility as a deputy and eventually became a road patrol deputy before leaving in August of 2008. Lisa currently lives in Meeteetse with her teenage son.

**INMATE WORK CREWS** – In 2017, Park County Detention inmates picked up hundreds of pounds of litter along county roads including trash, beer cans, whisky bottles and car parts. Residents were also solicited for county roads or facilities that could use a good cleaning. However, the decision to clean a certain area of litter is solely up to the discretion of detention supervision and were evaluated on a case-by-case basis. The use of inmate work crews is dependent on many factors such as jail population, staffing, weather, etc.




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**REVENUE GENERATED BY THE PARK COUNTY DETENTION DIVISION \***

Jail Housing from the City of Cody	\$ 4,650.00
Fingerprint/Notary/Record fees	\$ 7,671.15
Inmate Phone system	\$17,670.26
Medical Reimbursement	\$ 6,552.70
Court Restitution	<u>\$ 6,045.76</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$42,589.87</b>

\* 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 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 2017, SAR participated in 16 calls for service, down 44% from 2016. However, these included several high-profile rescues and recoveries, one of which was the most difficult search the unit has ever been involved.



**NOTEABLE MISSIONS** - On February 3rd, 2017 at 11:00 a.m. a trooper from the Wyoming Highway Patrol discovered an abandoned pickup truck on Highway 14-16-20 west approximately ½ mile west of the Wapiti Campground on the Shoshone National Forest. Subsequent investigation revealed that the truck belonged to a 61-year-old male who was last



seen on Tuesday, January 31st. He was seen on that day by a mail carrier possibly taking photographs from his truck. The victim was described by his friends as an avid hiker and photographer who often frequented the North Fork. Members of Park County Search and Rescue immediately began a ground and air search of the area with no success in locating the victim. The

search teams were having to wade through heavy waist-deep snow in which search dogs could not even get through. The search was further complicated by the fact that searchers had no idea what happened to him, his intentions, or direction of travel from his truck. The area of the search already had snow covering up to 2 feet in depth on Tuesday when the victim was last seen. A

subsequent winter storm on Wednesday and Thursday deposited an additional 12 to 14 inches of snow in the area, covering up any trace of the victim's direction of travel. The search continued for 36 days with members logging over 800 man hours searching for the victim. On March 11th, a local resident who was riding horseback on the Elk Fork Trail discovered the victim's body 2.2 miles south of the trailhead. His body was evacuated by Search and Rescue and released to the county coroner who ruled the death was due to hypothermia. The victim showed signs of being wet in his lower extremities. We assume that at some point the victim slipped or fell through the ice into Elks Fork Creek and succumbed to the below freezing temperatures after night fall. A senior member of the Search and Rescue Unit who has been a member since 1970 commented that this was the most difficult search he had ever been involved due to the ever changing conditions and lack of verifiable information on the victim's direction of travel or intent.

On Saturday, July 8th, the Park County Search and Rescue Unit (SAR) working in conjunction with Tip Top Search and Rescue out of Sublette County and REACH Air Medical, safely evacuated an injured horseback rider from the Red Creek area of the North Fork approximately 6 miles north of Pahaska Teepee. The victim, a 61 year old female from Barrington, Rhode Island



was participating in a trail ride when her horse stumbled and fell on top of her. She suffered a compound fracture of the lower left leg, several broken ribs and a possible bruised lung. The call came in to the Park County Communications Center at 4:37 p.m. Park County SAR was immediately activated and deployed to the area along with a helicopter from REACH Air Medical. At 6:08 p.m.,

REACH was able to locate the victim, however due to thick tree cover and uneven terrain they were unable to land safely. Instead they were forced to land over a mile from her. Their medics then hiked in to stabilize her injuries. At that time, it was decided to summon a second helicopter with "short haul" capabilities from Tip Top Search and Rescue in Sublette County. "Short haul" is a means of patient evacuation with one or more rescuers and litter suspended beneath the helicopter. Tip Top SAR arrived on scene at 7:43 p.m., and was able to safely evacuate the victim at 8:31 p.m. She was flown to the REACH helicopter and subsequently airlifted to Billings Clinic in Billings, Montana.

On Tuesday, July 18<sup>th</sup>, at 10:13 a.m., Park County Sheriff's Dispatch Center received a report of a 73-year-old male fisherman who had slipped and fell into the Shoshone River on the North Fork 1/2 mile west of Gibbs Bridge and broke his right ankle. The victim was stranded on a small gravel bar. Search and Rescue immediately responded to the area with a swift water team and two spider boats. A SAR aircraft was deployed to direct and observe. The patient was stabilized and eventually evacuated down river to the Gibbs Bridge boat ramp and to an awaiting ambulance.



Tragically, some of SAR missions involve a recovery rather than a rescue. A Cody couple died on Friday, August 4<sup>th</sup>, when their ATV side-by-side tumbled off of the Morrison Jeep Trail. The call came in at 2:47 p.m. reporting the crash with one confirmed fatality and one critically injured. A Park County deputy was immediately dispatched to the canyon as were members of the county's Search and Rescue Unit, Clark Fire, Clark First Responders, an ambulance from



Powell Valley Hospital and a helicopter from REACH Air Medical Services. At 3:25 p.m., REACH Air Medical was able to land their helicopter in the canyon 1/2 mile from the crash scene. Their medical personnel were then transported to the scene where they pronounced both husband and wife deceased. While no one actually witnessed the crash, statements from the

victim's companions and evidence at the scene indicated that the couple had attempted to negotiate a hairpin turn on the trail and took the switchback too wide. They then attempted to back up to get a better angle on the turn but in doing so, accidentally backed over the edge and tumbled down four levels of the trail before the ATV came to rest on its top in the middle of the trail below. Both victims were eventually recovered by Search and Rescue with assistance from Clark Fire.

On Thursday, August 24<sup>th</sup>, the Park County Search and Rescue Unit (SAR) responded to the report of a commercially guided raft that had flipped over on the Shoshone River stranding its occupants on the shoreline. The call came into the Sheriff's 911 Communications Center at 5:46 p.m. A group of rafters became stranded on the shore across from the Trout Ranch just downstream from the junction of Idaho Creek. Their raft had overturned and became pinned against a rock in the swift current. The shoreline in that area was too steep for the victims to climb. Search and Rescue immediately responded and floated two swift-water pontoon boats across the river to the shoreline where the victims were located. They were able to quickly evacuate the victims, floating them down river to the "take out" point beneath the Corbett Bridge. The victims included eight adults and four children in three separate parties from Iowa, England and Australia. They were cold but otherwise unharmed.



On Sunday, August 27<sup>th</sup>, SAR working in conjunction with medical personnel from West Park Hospital and REACH Air Medical, safely evacuated an apparent heart attack victim from the



Mormon Creek area of the North Fork approximately 1/2 mile north of milepost 6 on Highway 14-16-20 west. The victim from the University of Utah was participating in field trip in an extremely rugged area of the North Fork when he suffered symptoms indicating a possible heart attack. The call came in to the Park County Communications Center at 3:38 p.m. Park County SAR was immediately activated and deployed to the area along with medical personnel from West Park Hospital. At 3:57 p.m., responding personnel was able to reach the victim and assess his condition. At that time, medical personnel on

scene requested a helicopter from REACH Air Medical respond rather than attempting to evacuate the patient using a wheeled litter down an extremely steep drainage. At approximately 4:31 p.m., REACH was able to land and evacuate the victim directly to a Billings hospital.

On September 26<sup>th</sup>, at 10:01 a.m., Park County 911 Dispatch Center was notified via satellite phone of a male hunter possibly having a heart attack in the back country. The reporting party could not give their exact location but stated they were off the Ishawooa Trail at the head waters of Pass Creek. Search and Rescue was activated to assist in getting a better location of the victim in



order to launch Guardian Air Medical helicopter. The helicopter launched and after researching available maps and terrain, SAR personnel was able to give Guardian the approximate coordinates of the victim. At 11:04 Guardian was able to locate the victim. They landed, treated the victim and then transported him to the Billings Clinic Hospital in Billings, Montana.

**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.



**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

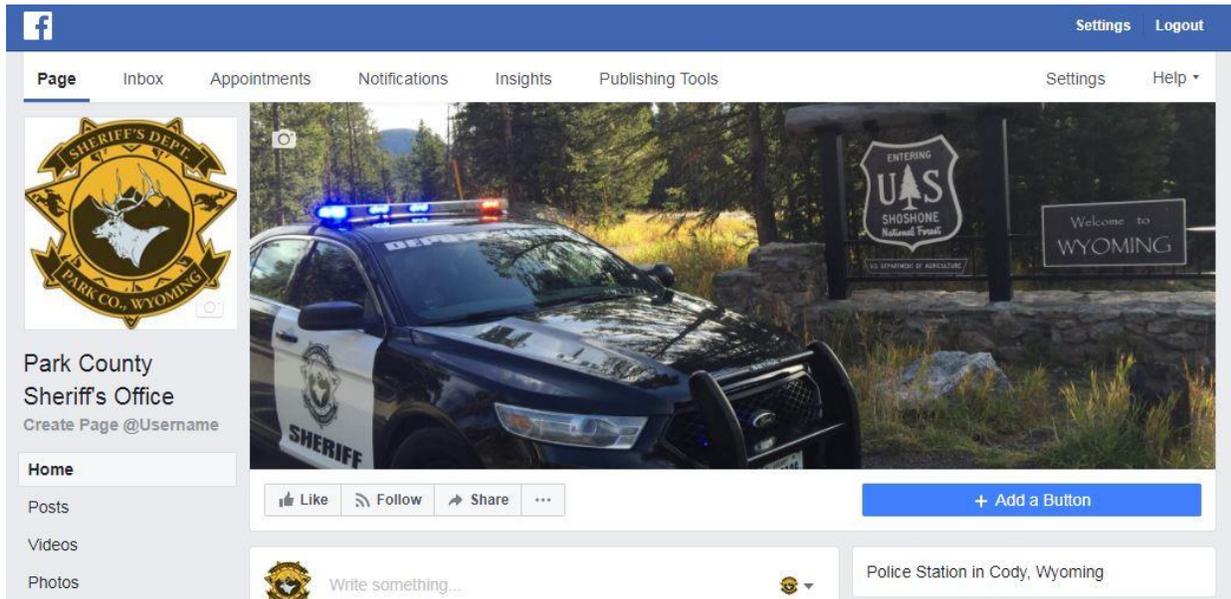
**PUBLIC AFFAIRS** - In 2017, the Park County Sheriff's Public Affairs Office remained active in promoting positive relations with the media and coordinate community involvement through proactive program implementation all while maintaining the goals and objectives of the



department. There were a total of 47 media releases issued during the year on a variety of topics including 23 news-related media bulletins. In addition, 4 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 20 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 2017 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 2017, the Facebook page grew from nearly 4,800 followers to 5,773. 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 2017 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 the annual Halloween walk in downtown Cody where deputies were on hand to pass out candy. Also, in 2017, we participated in several high school "career days" by allowing students to ride with deputies and Search and Rescue. And we had numerous tours of the law enforcement center by Cub Scout groups and preschoolers.



**SHOP WITH A COP** – On Monday evening, December 11th, twenty 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, and Lovell Police Departments participated in the event. It was organized by Trooper Rodney Miers 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 Law Enforcement Center where they wrapped their gifts and enjoyed a pizza party provided by Papa Murphy’s.

**COFFEE WITH A COP** – Deputies from the Park County Sheriff’s Office in conjunction with the Cody Police Department also participated in several “Coffee with a Cop” events in and



around Cody. Coffee with a Cop is an opportunity for the community to join their law enforcement officers for an informal “chat” about issues that may be of concern. There is no agenda or speeches – just a chance to ask questions, voice concerns, or simply get to know the officers in an informal setting. The coffee was provided by local vendors who hosted each event.

  
**COFFEE**  
*WITH A COP*

**Wednesday, March 15<sup>th</sup>**  
8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

  
**McDonald's of**  
**Cody**

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**JOIN US FOR COFFEE AND CONVERSATION**

In conjunction with the Cody Police Department, the Park County Sheriff's Office will be participating in the “Coffee with a Cop” program on Wednesday March 15<sup>th</sup> at the Cody McDonalds. Please join your neighbors, police officers and county deputies between 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. for coffee and conversation! Dining room customers can enjoy a free cup of coffee while they visit with a cop. No agenda or speeches—just a chance to ask questions, voice concerns, and get to know your local law enforcement personnel.

