



# The Steele Curtain

"A Look Into Your First Line of Defense"

## Steele County Sheriff's Office

**Don Gudmundson, Sheriff**

**Milo Dahlin, Chief Deputy Sheriff**

**Karen Meier, Administrative Ass't.**

December 3, 2010

Volume 1, Issue 28

### Sergeants

Todd Schwanke  
Lon Thiele  
Bill Youngquist

### Investigators

Scott Hanson  
Troy Matejcek  
Gary Okins

### Deputies

Chad Forystek  
Aaron Guzman  
Darrin Helget  
Jim Holton  
Tony Padilla  
Lee Robbins  
Greg Skillestad  
Mary Ulrich  
Brady Wolhart

### Civil Process

Tony David  
Jeanne Willmott

### K-9 Unit

Brian Bennett  
With Partner Chaos

### Law Enforcement

Center Records Staff  
Barbara Rupprecht,  
Lead  
Renee' Babcock  
Dianne Johnson  
Sidni Larson

### Questions/Comments

Contact The Steele  
County Sheriff's Office  
at 507-444-3800 or  
204 East Pearl  
Owatonna, MN 55060

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co.steele.mn.us

Milo.Dahlin@  
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Karen.Meier@  
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County Website:

[CLICK HERE](http://www.co.steele.mn.us)  
[www.co.steele.mn.us](http://www.co.steele.mn.us)



Pictured from left to right: Steele County Commissioner, Tom Shea; Sheriff-Elect, Lon Thiele; Teresa Padilla and Tony Padilla.

## NEW DEPUTY IS SWORN IN

Steele County's Newest Deputy, Tony Padilla, was sworn in at the November 23rd meeting of the Steele County Board. Sheriff-Elect, Lon Thiele, made the introduction and Commissioner, Tom Shea had the honor of swearing him in, in the absence of Sheriff Gudmundson. In addition to his wife Teresa, two of Deputy Padilla's children were there.

Deputy Padilla has entered our twelve-week Field Training and Evaluation Process as a probationary officer. The process is

intended to provide instruction, direction, supervision, guidance and experience to assist our new hires on how to apply critical skills in a variety of situations, learn how to quickly and effectively develop sound judgments and provide excellent uniform patrol services to the public.

Throughout the twelve weeks Deputy Padilla will be assigned to Deputy Chad Forystek, Deputy Aaron Guzman and Deputy Darrin Helget. These three deputies, along with FTO Coordinator, Sgt. Todd Schwanke, are Steele County's Field Training Officers and have all received special training and certification prior to their FTO assignments.

## LORETTA COUFAL

Our sympathies are extended to the family of Loretta Coufal, who was the wife of the late Sheriff Bernard "Bud" Coufal. Loretta passed away December 1st. Her services are scheduled for Monday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at St. Joseph's Catholic Church with burial to follow at Sacred Heart Cemetery.



Sheriff Coufal was the Steele County Sheriff from 1958 to 1978. He and his wife Loretta lived at the County Jail for twelve years. With limited personnel, Loretta Coufal was the head jailer. She took care of the cooking, laundry, and secretarial duties. Loretta stated that they were also bankers, as some of the clients would come in and borrow money from them and in two weeks the money would return. Loretta stated that she loved to play bridge but couldn't leave the jail, so her friends would come to the jail and play bridge.



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### Detention Center

507-446-7000  
2500 Alexander St.  
Owatonna, MN 55060  
Dan.Schember@  
co.steele.mn.us

### Administrator

Dan Schember

### Assistant Admin.

Pam Otto

### Programs

Jennifer Pfeifer, Coor.  
Cindy Fowler  
Jessica Meyer

### Business Manager

Debra Lesmeister

### Sergeants

Ron Hammann  
Justin Hebel  
Richelle Olson  
Dan Petersen  
Paul Prissel  
Dick Wandrey

### Corrections Officers

Travis Ardolf  
Travis Avelar  
Mark Barrie  
Drew Bartelt  
Nathan Boysen  
Anthony Buttera  
Crystal Chappuis  
Steve Clark  
Jessica Lynn Lara  
Cortez  
Elisha Degregio  
Chad Fisher  
Kristin Freese  
Steven Gjerard  
Dawn Grunklee  
Matthew Gwin  
Randy Hanson  
Luis Irizarry  
Shannon Jes  
Jason Krohn  
Al Kubat  
Adil Lebgue  
Jed Loftus  
Shari Luedtke  
Joyce Prusha  
Amber Reinhart  
Richard Smith  
Troy Stockwell  
Shelley Thom  
Tina Tyler  
Carl Wheeler

### Nursing

Joyce Drake  
Leah Kent

### Records Staff

Nancy Gjerard, Lead



## JAIL JARGON

Jail population last week ranged from 128-133 with an Average Daily Population of 130. Revenue from other counties and the State of Minnesota was \$27,220. Forty inmates were booked into the Jail during the week. Transport officers traveled 1805 miles last week; another week with huge mileage totals.

## CHECK US OUT ... WE'RE NOW ON FACEBOOK

Many law enforcement agencies throughout America have used social networking sites as a way to connect with citizens and especially young people. The Steele County Sheriff's Office now has a Facebook page thanks to the efforts of Jail Administrator Dan Schember. Just type in Steele County Sheriff's Office in your web browser and it will come up. County employees will note that our filters do not allow social networking sites, so you will have to view it on your home computer. We hope you will find it interesting.

## HOW DO YOU CELEBRATE THANKSGIVING ??

Deputy Brady Wolhart made two DWI arrests. On November 27<sup>th</sup>, he made a traffic stop by the Ellendale High School and arrested a 16-year-old Geneva boy. You would hate to pay the insurance rates in that household for the next five years.

And then on November 28<sup>th</sup> he arrested a 40-year-old West Concord man in the City of Medford after he stopped the man for an equipment violation. Sadly, Thanksgiving weekends have become a major drinking weekend in Minnesota. The State Patrol alone made more than 70 DWI arrests throughout the Thanksgiving weekend.



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ARTWORK BY  
DAKOTA COUNTY  
CORRECTIONAL DEPUTY  
JOE ENGESSER