



# The Steele Curtain

"A Look Into Your First Line of Defense"

## Steele County Sheriff's Office

**Lon Thiele, Sheriff**

**Scott Hanson, Chief Deputy Sheriff**

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

March 31, 2011

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### Sergeants

Todd Schwanke  
Bill Youngquist

### Investigators

Troy Matejcek  
Gary Okins

### Deputies

Milo Dahlin  
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

lon.thiele@  
co.steele.mn.us

scott.hanson@  
co.steele.mn.us

karen.meier@  
co.steele.mn.us

County Website:

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



## **CHAOS** **TAKES HOME A** **FIRST PLACE**

Steele County's Canine Deputy, Chaos, took home a first place in the Vehicle Search for Narcotics Trial. Chaos along with his handler, Deputy Brian Bennett (pictured

above) participated in the United States Police Canine Association Trials in Hudson, WI. This is actually the second year in a row that they took first place. The event coincides with the annual recertification for canines. Chaos is pictured at right with all the awards he has brought home to Steele County.



## **HABITAT FOR HUMANITY DONATION**

We at the Sheriff's Office, are officially "Under Construction". We are in the process of relocating and restructuring some of our office space. We will bring you some "before and after" photos when the job is done. In the process though we had some items that we were no longer going to be using, so rather than sending them out with the garbage, we made some donations to the Habitat For Humanity Store. So hopefully they will be re-used with the proceeds going to a good cause.

## **BIKE RODEO**

The Steele County Sheriff's Office will be sponsoring a Bike Rodeo. The event will include Kindergarten thru Sixth graders in Ellendale and Fourth through Sixth graders in Medford. We will encourage the children to bring their bicycles to school to participate in the rodeo. We hope to incorporate a little fun along with a learning experience for them, so in addition to the bicycle course, we will strongly emphasize the importance of riding safety. The event will take place in May as that is Bike Safety Month.



At this time we would like to suggest to any of our readers to consider giving a donation to this program. Your donation will be used to purchase prizes for the participants, which will include safety helmets and bicycles. Feel free to contact Sheriff Thiele for more information on the event.

We truly appreciate your consideration and want you to be assured your donation will be used strictly for this program and the children.

### Special Deputies

Les Abraham, Coordinator  
507-398-3284

- Walt Barfknecht
- Charlie Berg
- Grant Brossard
- Chris Clark
- Matthew DeWees
- Jack Dillemath
- Gene Fisher
- Jodi Francisco
- Christopher Gannon
- Kate Joenks
- Scott Jorgensen
- Jeff Kirchner
- Mark Kreutter
- Andrew Kubista
- Eugene Linse
- Dave Macht
- Randy Mahlman
- Rich Mueller
- Brandon Noble
- Ryan Pankratz
- Marty Rethemeier
- Sean Robbins
- Jason Roncali
- Paul Schneider
- LeRoy Schroeder
- Mark Schultz
- John Standke
- Thomas Stockwell
- John Sweet

### Mounted Posse

Joe Schwering, Captain  
507-528-2423

- Ralph Behne
- Brian Berg
- Ed Berryman
- John Bowe
- Maralou Brose
- Jodie Briant
- Michelle Darrah
- Tine Donahue
- John Gerold
- Tim Hager
- Tom Hager
- Mike Haubenschild
- Dan Hedberg
- Darrin Helget
- William Hildebrandt
- Jake Jacobson
- Leon Kamrath
- Mike Keinz
- Mark Lang
- Monte Mowry
- Del Mullenbach
- Joyce Nelson
- Barrie & Dawn Peterson
- Lynn Pettis
- Ethel Quimby
- Gary Ringhofer
- Marilyn Schwering
- Tony Schwering
- Carl Ulrich
- Troy Utpadel
- Jennifer Waldriff

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## FINANCIAL SUPPORT COMING OUR WAY

The Detention Center will be receiving some financial support through a couple of grants. The first grant is from the South Eastern Minnesota Arts Council. The goal here is to continue on with our successful relationship with Riverland College to create a mural. The students will come up with a theme and then create a piece of art that can be shared in the community.

The second grant that we will be reaping the benefits of is from the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation. This will cover two 12-week parenting classes. The Detention Center has partnered with Owatonna Community Ed and the Center for Family Unity. In addition to working with incarcerated parents, the objective is to involve caregivers / children who have a partner / parent who are incarcerated.

## BOAT & WATER SAFETY GRANT RECEIVED

We have just recently received the word that we have been awarded a grant through the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. It will be used to supplement our Water Patrol expenses. We have been awarded \$2,169.00 this year. We usually employ two or three part-time employees to patrol Beaver Lake for us.



## HURD TRIAL

We have calculated our costs for over-time hours that were put into this trial. The number we came up with was \$8,700. That was strictly over-time hours for the court trial put in by our licensed officers and the special deputies, not the countless hours, both regularly scheduled and over-time, devoted to the crime scene and the following investigation.



"GOOD TIMES SERVED"  
ARTWORK BY DAKOTA COUNTY  
CORRECTIONAL DEPUTY  
JOE ENGESSEER