



Behind The Steele Star

Steele County Sheriff's Office
Lon Thiele, Sheriff

Scott Hanson, Chief Deputy **Karen Meier, Administrative Asst**

October 20, 2011

Volume 2, Issue 14

Sergeants

Brian Bennett
Todd Schwanke
Bill Youngquist

Investigators

Troy Matejcek
Gary Okins

Deputies

Milo Dahlin
Chad Forystek
Aaron Guzman
Darrin Helget
Jim Holton
Tony Padilla
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
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204 East Pearl
Owatonna, MN 55060

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co.steele.mn.us

County Website:

[CLICK HERE](#)

www.co.steele.mn.us

THREE NEW DEPUTIES JOINING US

The County Board has approved the hiring of three new deputies. Two of these will be to fill open positions and the third is an additional deputy for us. Next week we will be welcoming the following to our ranks:

Nicholas Donahue **Kari Kalow** **Scott Kochendorfer**

All three probationary deputies will be assigned to the Patrol Division, where they will be provided with our 12 week Field Training Officer program (FTO). During those 12 weeks they will be scheduled with several Field Training Officers. All FTOs have received special training and certification. Working with our new recruits will be Sgt. Brian Bennett, Deputies Aaron Guzman, Darrin Helget, Chad Forystek, Brady Wolhart and Mary Ulrich.

Our FTO program is intended to provide our probationary deputies with instruction, direction, supervision, guidance and experience to assist them to apply critical skills in a variety of situations. They will learn how to quickly and effectively develop sound judgment and provide uniform patrol services to the public. The end desire will be to present three probationary deputies who are ready to be certified and begin their solo patrol assignment for Steele County.

HALLOWEEN TREATS AVAILABLE AT THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Safety is our # 1 concern on Halloween. In order to promote this, the V.F.W. has purchased glow sticks and reflective treat bags that will be available at the Sheriff's Office and a few other locations. These items will hopefully make the children more visible as they are out and about seeking their treats. There will be a news release announcing the details as to when and where these items will be available to the public.

*We Send Our Appreciation To The V.F.W.
For Taking The Initiative To Provide These Items.*

DISASTER DRILL FOR A MASS CASUALTY INCIDENT

Close to 100 individuals gathered at the Fire Hall to participate in a table-top disaster drill involving mass casualties. The meeting provided a time for all entities who would need to be involved in such a rescue situation to prepare and discuss their responses. Having all those representatives in one place at one time is an excellent opportunity to reiterate everyone's issues/needs for that type of situation. Thus, expectations are clear to everyone involved.

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The Steele County Special Deputy Unit will be the benefactor of the December 11th Pancake Breakfast at the V.F.W. Club.



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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Your Steele County Sheriff's Office will be participating in the upcoming National Prescription Drug Take Back Day on Saturday, October 29, 2011, from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm. to provide a venue for persons who want to dispose of unwanted and unused prescription drugs.



National Prescription Drug Take Back Day addresses a vital public safety and public health issue. More than seven million Americans currently abuse prescription drugs. Each day, approximately 2,500 teens use prescription drugs to get high for the first time according to the Partnership for a Drug Free America. Studies show that a majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including the home medicine cabinet. Nearly, 4,000 state and local law enforcement agencies participated in the last two National Prescription Drug Take Back Day, collecting more than 309 tons of pills.

Drop off sites include:

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE 204 EAST PEARL STREET

MEDFORD CITY HALL 408 2ND AVE SE

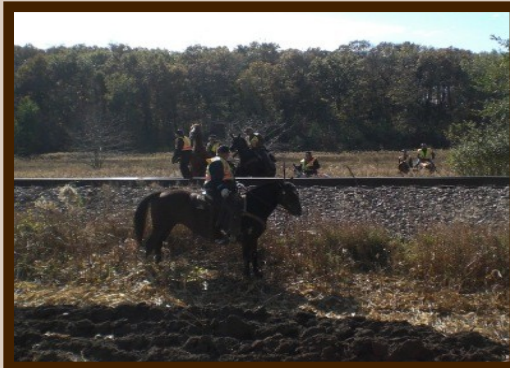
BLOOMING PRAIRIE CITY HALL 138 HIGHWAY AVE SOUTH

SEARCH & RESCUE TRAINING AT THE GAINNEY CONFERENCE CENTER

Sheriff Thiele and 14 members of the Posse met at the Gainey Center on a chilly Saturday morning for Search and Rescue training. The event was planned by Sheriff Thiele, and started out with a short briefing on procedures and then moved on to practicing various search patterns using horses. Then came the practice run ... Sheriff Thiele announced that his partner, Brandon, had gone crazy, jumped out of the car and ran off into the property adjacent to the Gainey Center.



The Posse assembled, maps were handed out, teams formed and a game plan was formed. Three teams of 4 members went out to search specified areas, going through the river, dense woods, swampy flood plain, over railroad tracks and through tall grass. It was a search through complicated terrain, and yet the Posse was able to locate Brandon within 1 ½ hours of commencing the search. Upon return to the command center, there was a debriefing, where the exercise and any problems were discussed. Horses and Posse members all benefitted from this exercise and the Sheriff put on a very realistic scenario, from which everyone gained some very valuable experience.



*A Big "Thank You" Goes Out To
The Gainey Conference Center
For Letting Us Use Their Property*

(MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 4)

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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
Paul Prissel
Dick Wandrey

Corporals
Anthony Buttera
Randy Hanson
Joyce Prusha
Troy Stockwell

Corrections Officers

Travis Ardolf
Travis Avelar
Mark Barrie
Drew Bartelt
Nathan Boysen
Crystal Chappuis
Steve Clark
Elisha Degrego
Chad Fisher
Kristin Freese
Steven Gjerard
Dawn Grunklee
Matthew Gwin
Alicyn Hinze
Luis Irizarry
Shannon Jes
Jason Krohn
Al Kubat
Adil Lebgue
Jed Loftus
Shari Luedtke
Roderick Rees
Richard Smith
Shelley Thom
Carl Wheeler

Nursing
Joyce Drake
Leah Kent

Records Staff
Nancy Gjerard, Lead
Erin Edwards

A SELFLESS ACT FINALLY RECOGNIZED

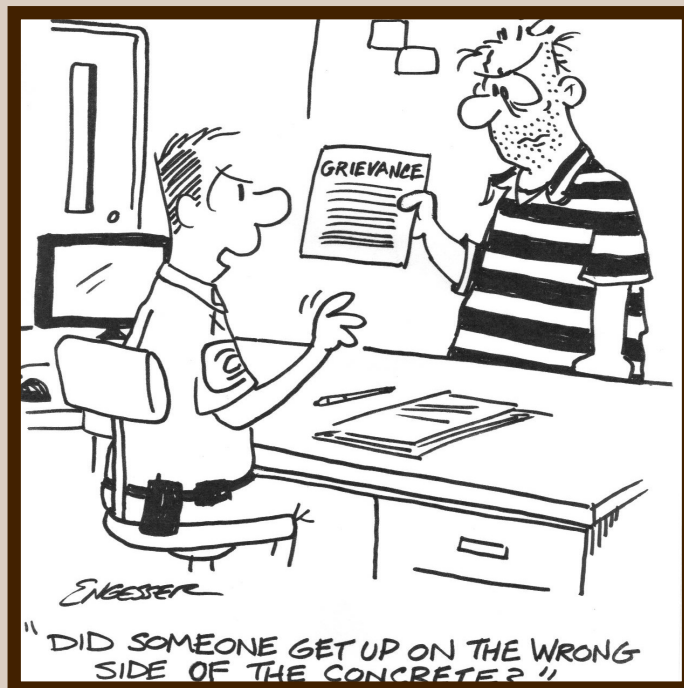
Recently I received the following from Detention Center Officer Shannon Jes: "I just wanted to bring a possible topic for the Steele County Newsletter to your attention. Recently my father, James Wilker of Waseca County was awarded a Silver Star for his heroic actions 43 years ago in Vietnam! I'm very proud of him and want everyone to hear his story!"



I have to agree Officer Jes, here's the verbiage on the citation that Mr. Wilker received: For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action against the enemy while serving as a member of 1st Reconnaissance Company, 1st Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Marine Division in the Republic of Vietnam on 15 July 1968. Corporal Wilker's patrol was ambushed by a superior enemy force and was awaiting extraction in the cover of a bomb crater. Without regard to his own personal safety, he left the cover of the crater to retrieve a fallen Marine in close proximity of the enemy force. After reentering the crater, an enemy grenade landed in the middle of his squad. Corporal Wilker selflessly retrieved the grenade, throwing it back at the enemy force, resulting in enemy casualties. Corporal Wilker then volunteered to be the last Marine extracted and laid down suppressive fire, killing several enemy combatants while the rest of his squad was lifted to safety.

Corporal Wilker's heroic actions that were selflessly conducted regardless of the risk to his own personal safety saved the lives of his fellow squad members and allowed the valuable intelligence his squad had gathered to be reported to his superiors. By his bold initiative, undaunted courage, and complete dedication to duty, Corporal Wilker reflected great credit upon himself; "and upheld the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service."

KEEPING THOSE WHO SERVE IN OUR THOUGHTS



**"GOOD TIMES SERVED"
ARTWORK BY DAKOTA
COUNTY CORRECTIONAL
DEPUTY
JOE ENGESSER**

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Posse photos and training information was submitted by Tine Donahue. Thanks for your cooperation Tine.

