



# Behind The Steele Star

**Steele County Sheriff's Office**

**Lon Thiele, Sheriff**

**Scott Hanson, Chief Deputy**

**Karen Meier, Administrative Asst.**

September 27, 2011

Volume 2, Issue 13

### Sergeants

Brian Bennett with  
K-9 Chaos  
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

### 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**

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

## CELEBRATING WITH DEPUTY ROBBINS

Last Friday was a gathering for Deputy Lee Robbins's Retirement Celebration. It was held at the Law Enforcement Center with Lee's family, court personnel, law enforcement co-workers, county commissioners and prior retirees all coming together to help Lee celebrate. Below Lee is showing the shadow box that was presented by Sheriff Thiele on behalf of Lee's co-workers as an appreciation gift for his many years of service and his friendship. Lee began his career with the Sheriff's Office on November 13, 1989. He has served as a road deputy, court bailiff and a SWAT Member.

**We Wish You**  
**The Best Lee**



### Special Deputies

Les Abraham, Coordinator  
507-398-3284

Walt Barfknecht  
Charlie Berg  
Grant Brossard  
Chris Clark  
Matthew DeWees  
Jack Dillemath  
Gene Fisher  
Jodi Franciso  
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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## GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

As in the past, the garden at the Detention Center not only provided food for the facility itself, but was also able to donate 1072 pounds to the Steele County Food Shelf. Items produced include: tomatoes, potatoes, carrots, squash, beans, and raspberries. This year approximately ten inmates chose to help in the garden planting and maintenance.

Since the start of the project in 2006 there has been 13,400 pounds of food donated to the Food Shelf and Cedarview Care Center. The pumpkins pictured at right will be donated to Big Brothers and Big Sisters and Early Childhood Development.



## WE ARE IN COMPLIANCE

Your Sheriff's Office was recently notified that we have passed the compliance review process from the Minnesota Board of Peace Officer Standards & Training Division. The four areas they look into include: 1) Required policy compliance, 2) Mandatory Training by all licensed deputies in Use of Force and Firearms, 3) Mandatory Training in Emergency Vehicle Operations/Pursuit Driving, and 4) Personnel Files are in compliance with state statutes. After a few tweaks in our Policy Manual we are once again in compliance.

## CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS RECOVERED

Last month your Sheriff's Office was able to arrest two Waseca residents for felony theft of property. The incident began with a property owner calling in the theft of construction materials from a building site N.W. of Medford. That same person called in again saying he was following a truck that had just left his property. The truck, which went through two stop signs and traveled at speeds close to 100 mph, eventually was pulled over by a Waseca County Deputy. The truck was found to have two adult and two juvenile occupants along with stolen materials in the back. Because the initial event took place in Steele County, Deputy Milo Dahlin processed the two adults for theft. Deputy Brady Wolhart was sent to the property to



gather any evidence. Investigators Gary Okins and Troy Matejcek obtained a search warrant for their residence in Waseca. In addition to the previously stolen construction materials, that were in plain sight outside the suspect's trailer, the investigators found items that tied into theft reports from Waseca County also.