

# Park County Sheriff's Office



## 2022 Annual Report

## Scott A. Steward, Sheriff

"Service, Safety, Security"



#### A MESSAGE FROM SHERIFF SCOTT A. STEWARD



To the citizens of Park County:

Park County Wyoming, established in 1909, is roughly 6,967 square miles and home to about 29,600 people. In 1911 the Park County Sheriff's Office was established, under then Sheriff Henry Dahlem, to maintain order, enforce state statute, and provide safety and security. The goal of the Park County Sheriff's Office has not changed in over a hundred years. It is still here to provide service to the community, to protect all who call it home, and to help those who need help. The department is made up of a diverse staff of individuals with the ability to come together as a team for a common goal. It is arguable that this diversity can be traced all the way back to even 1924 where the unproven rumor of a female sheriff is evident. In the year 2022 the members of the Park County Sheriff's Office made the historical figures that created this office proud. The integrity, honor, and dedication of each individual is what makes the Park County Sheriff's Office an unsurpassed agency with the ability to stay true to its foundation in the past but evolve with the necessity of the future.

The year 2022 saw one transfer from Detention, one resignation, and one retirement from Patrol. Detention had one retirement, two resignations, two transfers to other divisions, two promotions, one transfer in from Patrol, and five new hires. Dispatch had one resignation and two new hires.

Overall, 2022 had a decline in calls for service that were fielded by the Park County Sheriff's Office Communication Division along with a decrease to the number of calls that Deputies responded to. Our Detention Deputies cared for an average of 37 detainees each day with the total bookings for the year staying exactly the same. And the administrative assistants, cooks, and Search and Rescue Volunteers stayed steady in their everyday activities to keep the Sheriff's Office running smoothly, caring for the inmates, and selflessly serving our community

This was also the year I announced my retirement from Law Enforcement. It has been a privilege and honor to serve as your Sheriff for these seventeen years. Faces may change and vacancies are filled, but the Park County Sheriff's Office stays true to its mission; above all else: serve Park County and protect all that it stands for and all that it has the potential to become.

Sincerely,

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Scott A. Steward

Sheriff, Park County, Wyoming

## PATROL

**PERSONNEL** – In 2022 the Patrol Division gained a transfer from the Detention Center and lost a Deputy that transferred into the Detention Center. There was also a resignation and retirement. 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 December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022, a Deputy who worked under three Sheriffs, in two different facilities, but all in Park County, took his retirement from Law Enforcement. Deputy Chris Ivanoff, who became a Deputy on January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1998, spent nearly twenty-five years serving his community



Deputy Ivanoff started his career as a Detention Deputy in 1998 and moved to Patrol in 2000 for the Powell area. During his

career he tackled many assignments and found ways to assist other Deputies. He was on the Sheriff's Response Group (SRG) for fifteen years. SRG is a specific team within the department qualified in responding to incidents demanding an advanced training. To be a member requires extra training and extra time on the parts of its members. Deputy Ivanoff also served as a trainer in multiple disciplines for the department. For eight years he was the Park County Sheriff's Office Custody and Control trainer and served another eight as the Less Lethal Instructor. His Less Lethal Instruction included specialty impact weapons, distraction devices, and chemical munitions. He also served as an investigator in the Powell area for a six-month rotation.

In his time as a Deputy, Chris Ivanoff noted that he had the "privilege and honor," of serving alongside the Powell Police Department, Powell Fire Department, Powell Ambulance, Wyoming Highway Patrol, Division of Criminal Investigation, and Department of Family Services. He also had the unique experience of working with Federal Agencies, like the US Secret Service and awe-inspiring moments, such as providing security for the massive and beautiful Budweiser Clydesdale horses.

Prior to Law Enforcement, Deputy Ivanoff was an interstate pipe welder for Marathon Pipeline. This particular skill set led him to his current passion, creating indoor and outdoor metal artwork, which he intends to continue into his retirement. He also plans to continue teaching Tae Kwon Do, which he has been doing for over thirty-five years, at his Martial Arts School. And when he is not working or creating, he and his wife Mila, an Economics Professor, plan on traveling and exploring both this country and abroad.



On July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020, Deputy Andrew Tisdale joined the Park County Sheriff's Office. On July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022, he successfully completed the Wyoming Law Enforcement Academy for Peace Officers. Commonly referred to as "Peace Officer Basic (POB)," this is the State-run certification for Peace Officers in the State of Wyoming. Deputy Tisdale also holds the distinct honor of being recognized as "Top Shot," for this graduating class, meaning he achieved the highest shooting score in the class. This Academy's top shot was actually determined in a tie breaker because the

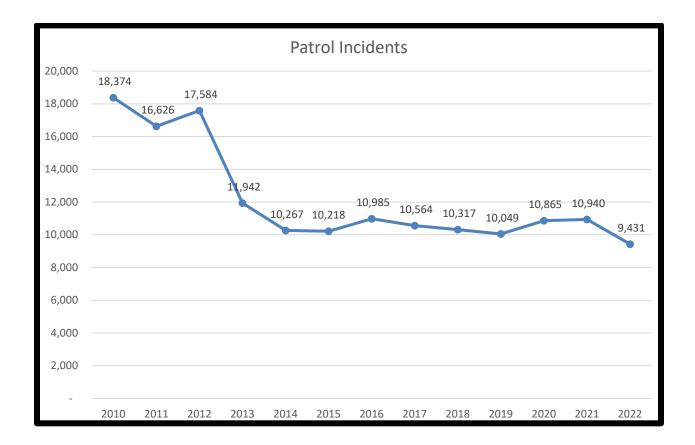
competition, as always in the State of Wyoming, was tough. Deputy Tisdale holds a degree in Criminal Justice from Hilbert College and spent four and a half years serving in the United States Army. He then spent time as a private contractor in the security field.

**PATROL ACTIVITY** – Overall patrol activity decreased in 2022. Total incidents were down by 14% and total arrests were down by 11%. In addition, the sheriff's office saw a 41% decrease in traffic stops and a 16% drop in officer reports. In 2022, Deputies responded to 9,431 patrol incidents which included 889 traffic stops, 302 criminal investigations, 697 non-criminal investigations, 184 felony



and misdemeanor arrests, 118 motor vehicle crash investigations, 94 warrant service attempts, 2,864 motor vehicle inspections, 508 total animal calls, and at least 1,277 civil service attempts.

All of this activity was accomplished by patrol Deputies who are responsible for patrolling nearly 7,000 square miles of rural Park County.



#### INCIDENTS

Total Patrol Incidents	9,431
Calls for Service Incidents	5,592
Deputy Initiated Incidents	3,839
Traffic Stops	889
Other Incidents	2,950
Business/Building/Vehicle Checks	6
Vehicle/Pedestrian Check	1

#### ARRESTS

Total Arrests	184
Misdemeanor Arrests	148
Felony Arrests	136

New Warrants Received Warrants Closed	296 301
CASE INVESTIGATIONS	
<b>Total Case Investigations</b>	1,117
Vehicle Accident Investigations	118
Criminal Investigations	302
Non-Criminal Investigations	696
Unclassified Investigations	1
VIN INSPECTIONS	
Total VIN Inspections	2,864
VIN Inspection Fees Collected *	~ \$29,000.00
CIVIL SUMMONS	
Total Service Attempts	1,277
Total Served	510
Total Attempts with No Service	768
Civil Service Fees Collected *	~ \$18,820.00
CITATIONS	
<b>Total Citations Issued</b>	329
Misdemeanor Criminal Citations	156

Unclassified \* Fees collected are returned to the county general fund / includes work release fees / all fees represented here are an estimate.

Traffic Citations

#### PATROL INCIDENTS BY TYPE

Description	Count	Description	Count
911 Hang-Up Call	45	NCIC/WCJIN Related	154
Abandoned Vehicle	63	Notify City Departments	13

159

14

AIR MEDICAL AMBULANCE	1	Nuisance Complaint	10
Intrusion/Holdup	69	Open Door/Window	4
Ambulance Call	9	Other Accident	3
Animal Bite	20	Other Law Violations	17
Animal- Deceased	3	Parking Problem	14
Animal-Lost	80	Patrol-Extra	34
Animal-Noisy	1	Pedestrian Stop	1
Animal Call - Other	130	Person-Found	0
Animals on Roadway	160	Person-Lost	5
Animal-Stray	114	Phone Related Complaint	2
Assist other Agency	714	Prisoner Transport	13
Assault	12	Probation Check	0
Attempt to Locate	27	Probation Violation	2
Auto Burglary	2	Property Damage	50
Bar Walk-Through	1	Property-Found	54
Body Found	35	Property-Lost	45
Bomb Threat	0	Protection Order	8
Building Burglary	9	Prowler	2
Child Welfare	18	Reddi Report	56
Citizen Contact	77	Road Closure	7
Civil Attempt	1277	Road Hazard/Blockage	72
Civil Dispute	127	Runaway Juvenile	10
Civil Standby	54	Search & Rescue Call	30
Custody Dispute	7	Security Check	2
Disturbance	25	Sexual Assault	16
Domestic	67	Sexual Offender Notification	2
Drill/Exercise	1	Sexual Offender Record	4
Drug Related	14	SEX OFFENDER REGISTRATION	70
Escort-Funeral	1	SEX OFFENDER REPORTING	88
Extra Patrol Request	21	Special Incident 1	16
Fire Call	10	Stolen License Plates	1
Fireworks Complaint	3	Stolen Vehicle	10
Officer Flagged Down	29	Suicide Attempt/Threat	22
Followup	69	Suspicious Activity	114
Forgery/Counterfeit Complaint	1	Theft	70
Fraud Related	58	Threats	31
Harassment	36	Traffic Complaint	103
Safety Hazard	3	Traffic Stop	889
Incorrigible Juvenile	17	Training Duty	52
Informational	73	Trespass Complaint	86
Intoxicated Subject	3	USFS Patrol	21

Littering	7	Vehicle Inspection	2864
Mental Problem	11	Warrant Service Attempt	94
Deliver Message	5	Weapons Offense	25
Miscellaneous Assistance	384	Welfare Check	130
Motor Vehicle Crash	169		9431

### DETENTION

**PERSONNEL** - In 2022 the detention facility hired five new Deputies, had one transfer from Patrol, had two transfers out to Patrol and Dispatch, promoted two Sergeants, and assigned a new Field Training Officer (FTO). All new hires were the result of resignations, retirements, or reassignments. There was no increase in staffing levels.



In 2022 both Cathy Thomas (left) and Terry Fish (below) were promoted to Sergeant. Sergeant Thomas on January 2<sup>nd</sup> and Sergeant Fish on July 6<sup>th</sup>. Both have experience in leadership and a desire to serve. The position of Sergeant in the Park County Sheriff's Office is a challenging one. As a first line supervisor the balance is between leading the team and working alongside them. The Sergeants each have a squad of five members, and they report directly to the Lieutenant of the Park

County Detention Center. They work a twelve-hour shift that rotates every twenty-eight days. They must always see to the safety and security of the facility, are responsible for their squad's duties, communicate with the other Sergeants to ensure smooth transitions between shifts, and keep up with policy and changing laws. Arguably one of the more challenging jobs in the facility both Sergeant Thomas and Fish have proven to be assets and rise to the challenge.





The Field Training Officer or FTO is a position within Law Enforcement responsible for the training and supervision of new hires. In the structure of the Park County Detention Center, they also serve as Officer in Charge (OIC) to the Sergeant of their respective squads. The FTO must prepare the new hires for the Wyoming Law Enforcement Academy, be knowledgeable of standard operating procedures and policy, be able to convey this information to others, follow a training program, and potentially supervise the rest of the squad to cover for the Sergeant. The FTO is a position that requires knowledge, leadership, and resolve. On July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Deputy David Yarian became the newest FTO for the Park County Detention Center. His positive drive and care for detail make him an excellent choice for this position.

Along with promotions came new hires and retirements. Sergeant Jona Harris (below) retired on

July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022, after a long and dedicated career in Law Enforcement. She leaves behind a legacy of leadership, advancements in training, and standard for other Sergeants. The Park County Detention Center also welcomed aboard Deputies Matthew Rathbun, Henry Greenfield, Robert Donaldson, Taryn Sciortino, and Chris Aldrete (not pictured).



**DETENTION ACTIVITY** - In 2022, the Park County Sheriff's Office Detention Division booked a total of 689

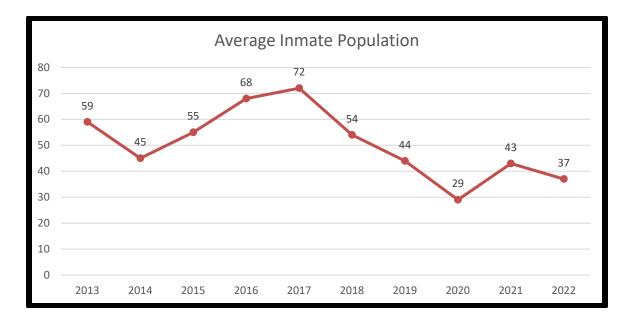
prisoners into the holding facility, the same as 2021. However, the average inmate population decreased to 37 from 43 in 2021. The inmate population has been on a steady decline since 2017 when the average hit a 10-year high of 72.

Agency	2017	2018	Change from 2017	2019	Change from 2018	2020	Change from 2019	2021	Change from 2020	2022	Change from 2021
Park County Sheriff	219	212	-3.20%	158	-25.47%	135	-14.56%	130	-3.70%	124	-4.62%
Cody Police Dept.	469	553	17.91%	509	-7.96%	305	-40.08%	297	-2.62%	291	-2.02%
Powell Police Dept.	296	377	27.36%	183	-51.46%	118	-35.52%	99	-16.10%	80	-19.19%
Wyoming Highway Patrol	29	42	44.83%	52	23.81%	27	-48.08%	37	37.04%	30	-18.92%
Other Agencies *	5	4	-20.00%	20	400.00%	5	-75.00%	9	80.00%	6	-33.33%
New Bookings /Charges **	1,014	1,027	1.28%	794	-22.69%	590	-25.69%	646	9.49%	646	0.00%
Total Bookings	1,182	1,192	0.85%	922	-22.65%	716	-22.34%	689	-3.77%	689	0.00%

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

\* Division of Criminal Investigation, Bureau of Land Management, & Probation and Parole

\*\* Includes "weekender" where someone comes to serve time on weekends only.



**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 must utilize force against a non-compliant inmate. This can be in the form of compliance holds such as a wristlock 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.

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Use of Force Incidents *	6	14	8	11	13	9	21	13
Inmate Assaults	5	8	15	3	4	4	6	6

\* Force is used to gain compliance only

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

Miscellaneous**	\$11,078.55
Inmate Phone system	\$18,020.23
Medical Reimbursement	\$7,580.29
Court Restitution	\$11,641.21
Total	\$48,320.28

\* All revenues are returned to the Park County General Fund/all fees represented here are an estimate.

\*\* Fingerprint/Notary/Record fees/CCW fees/SOR Registration Fees

The fight for those suffering from mental health problems continues. A Title 25 (WSS 25-1-109) hold is a hold placed on an individual in order to detain them for the protection of themselves or others, placed by a mental health professional, licensed physician, or law enforcement officer. In 2021 twenty-one (21) Title 25 holds were in the Park County Detention Center. These twenty-one individuals occupied either the padded cell or an alternate protective housing (to accommodate multiple mental health holds simultaneously) for 230 of 365 days in 2021. In 2022 there were fourteen (14) inmates that occupied either the padded cell or an alternate protective housing for 447 days. Some of these numbers represent multiple rooms simultaneously per day, reflecting as multiple days.

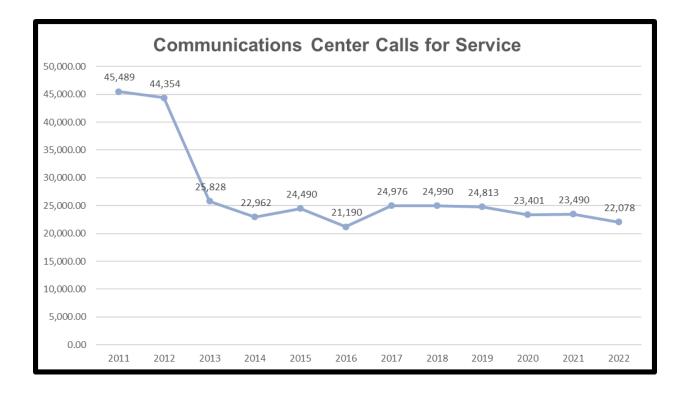
## COMMUNICATIONS

**PERSONNEL** - In 2022, the Park County Sheriff's Office Communications Division experienced two resignations and two new hires. There was also approval for a new dispatch position granted this year. After a Detention Deputy transferred in a new hire was brought on named Savannah Wilson (not pictured). Her background is in emergency medical, and she has already shown the tenacity and intelligence needed to be a dispatcher. Dispatchers are a rare breed to say the least. The ability to multitask and stay calm are not just learned in training but a part of their general nature. When advertising for this position it is often opened with "*Do you have what it takes*?" Some do and those few are the glue that holds together all the calls for help in Park County.



**DISPATCH ACTIVITY** - 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, Cody Regional Health Ambulance, and the Cody, Powell, Meeteetse and Clark Fire Districts. In 2022, eight total Communications Officers handled 22,078 calls for service, including 5,563 calls received via the 9-1-1 emergency phone

system. Park County 911 Communications Officers play many roles: therapist, doctor, teacher, weatherman, guidance counselor, psychologist, priest, secretary, supervisor, politician, travel agent, 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 Communications Officers accept these responsibilities with expertise and confidence.

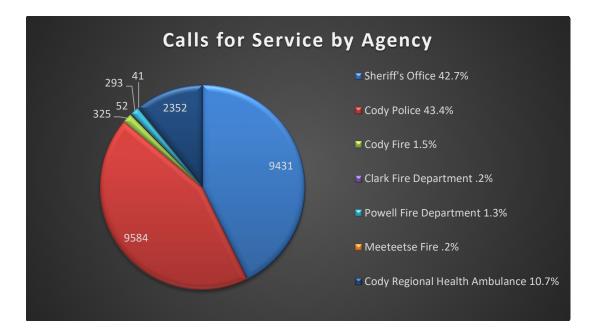


#### COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION CALLS FOR SERVICE (% Change from 2021)

Park County Sheriff's Office	9,431	(-13.79%)
Cody Police Department	9,584	(3.23%)
Cody Fire Department	325	(-4.97%)
Clark Fire Department	52	(-1.89%)
Powell Fire Department	293	(5.02%)
Meeteetse Fire Department	41	(13.89%)
Cody Regional Health Ambulance	2,352	(-3.53%)
Park County Search and Rescue	30	(3.45%)
Total Calls for Service	22,078	(-5.74%)

#### **CONTROLLED BURN PERMITS**

Total Permits Issued	2,938
Cody/Meeteetse Area	1,107
Powell/Garland/Ralston/Clark Area	1,649



## **SEARCH AND RESCUE**

**SAR ACTIVITY -** 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



2022, SAR received 30 calls for service with 25 of those evolving into actual missions for Search and Rescue Personnel. From stranded motorists to water rescue this diverse and dedicated team of individuals is highly regarded as one of the best in the state. Lead by Deputy Bill Brown, this team trains tirelessly to remain sharp, skilled, and ready in the event of an emergency.



**PERSONNEL** – The men and women who volunteer their time to Park County Search and Rescue are a varied group of individuals. They are medical professionals, law enforcement, business owner/operators, educators, and more. It is a rare thing to have so many volunteers that there has at time been a waiting list. Founded by Sheriff Harley Kinkade in 1970, he appointed, still active member, Kirk Waggoner to build a formal Search

and Rescue team. The team utilizes skills such as first aid and CPR; wilderness search; aircraft and emergency locator transmitter (ELT) search; urban search; search management; swift water and ice rescue; mountain rescue; K-9 search; Incident Command System; wilderness travel; land navigation; avalanche search; and critical incident stress management. Some of the team members

are extensively trained in emergency medicine and other specialized rescue techniques and many of them are community instructors of various outdoor skills and safety programs.























































While the technologies and times have changed the absolute dedication and expertise of the team has not. Park County Search and Rescue is regarded as one of the best in the state and has training and expertise that make them formidable in their field.

**NOTABLE MISSIONS** – On Monday, June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at 3:07 P.M. the Park County Sheriff's Office Communications Division received a report of a possible downed aircraft in the Franc's Peak Area from the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center (AFRCC). They were receiving a distress signal. As Park County Search and Rescue (PCSAR) was being deployed and in the planning stages more information continued to come in, it was determined that the signal was a



Personal Locator Beacon (PLB) at a high altitude. Due to the location of the signal PSAR Air – 1 and a Guardian Medical helicopter were launched. A UH-1H Huey from Sublette County SAR was also summoned to assist in transporting a PCSAR ground team to the remote location.

A 68-year-old-male from Buffalo, NY, on a multi-day backpacking trip, had encountered a grizzly bear and was severely mauled. The attack had happened too quickly to deploy bear spray, which he did have. The patient was quickly loaded in the Huey and flown to a landing zone in the Wood River area, where he was transferred to the Guardian Medical Helicopter and

transported to Billings for treatment. The incident was investigated by Wyoming Game and Fish.

A PLB is a beacon characteristically seen in maritime applications and not typically carried by hikers in recent years. Most outdoor enthusiasts carry a device which communicates with satellites to triangulate a position to within a few feet. However, a PLB transmits on a radio frequency which is typically associated with downed aircraft Emergency Location Transmitter (ELT). The AFRCC monitors ELT activations for the entire United States and reports them to the Sheriff's Office in whatever jurisdiction they occur. While the signal was initially perceived as a down aircraft it was quickly realized to be a PLB. They assisted in translating the coordinates of the PLB, which resulted in a faster rescue. Thankfully the AFRCC was diligent in their efforts to identify this signal even after it was determined to not be aircraft related. PCSAR and the Park County Sheriff's Office are grateful to all agencies participating in this joint rescue effort as it took each one of them to make this a successful operation. On Monday September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at 8:46 P.M. the Park County Sheriff's Office Communications Division received a call for assistance in rescuing a stranded climber.

In the climbing area on Highway 14-16-20 west, just outside of the first tunnel near mile marker forty-five, and across the river, is an area called "I'll tell you what's cool" which is a multi-pitch rock climbing route. A 19-yearold-male climber's rope had become stuck approximately three hundred feet from the ground, at the sixth of eight pitches. A "pitch" in climbing terminology is the measure of the climb that is protected by one rope length.



Park County Search and Rescue (PCSAR) was paged out, along with Cody Regional Health EMS, and several field teams were deployed. Additionally, a local climber, who is very familiar with the area, was requested to help PCSAR find the top of the route which is difficult to locate in the daytime and it was already dark. The male victim did have on a headlamp to help with his location, but PCSAR employed all of the resources at their disposal. The team also utilized the rope expertise that they have been diligently training in for the last few years.

A PCSAR member contacted the male at 11:40 P.M. and he was able to assist in his own rescue. At 12:30 A.M. both the male and the PCSAR member made it back to the top of the route and all began walking out. The entire incident wrapped up at about 2:00 A.M.

On October 15, 2022, at approximately 1700 hours, the Park County Sheriff's Office Communication Division was notified of a Grizzly attack involving multiple victims. The



persons were located a few miles west of the Bobcat-Houlihan trailhead. The attack was still in progress help was being as summoned. Cody Regional Health EMS, Park County Sheriff's Office Deputies, Park

County Search and Rescue, Guardian Air, and Wyoming Game and Fish were all contacted immediately to respond.

There were four male subjects and two were attacked, one was injured with at least a broken arm and other superficial injuries, the other was potentially critical with head wounds. Rescue personal began to arrive on scene. All individuals involved were picked up by good Samaritans in the area in side-by-side ATVs and transported away from the mauling area.

While EMS was treating the victims, the Deputies began setting up a landing zone (LZ) for the Guardian helicopter. They were given permission by a landowner to have the helicopter land in a hay field approximately 300 yards west of their location. One victim was transported via ground ambulance with Cody Regional Health EMS, and one was transported via Guardian Helicopter. Both victims survived the attack and continue to recover.

## **HOMELAND SECURITY**

**PERSONNEL** - Park County Homeland Security and Emergency Management falls under the Park County Sheriff's Office and is directed by Jeff Martin. Martin is former law enforcement who brings multiple facets of experience to the office, he conducts trainings, oversees emergency operations, and collaborates with the state office. He is ready and able to respond for emergency and hazard mitigation 24 hours a day. That was tested this summer.

**HOMELAND SECURITY ACTIVITY** - Park County Homeland Security maintains a trained and prepared Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). The team, which is comprised of volunteers from our own community, can be activated to assist in manpower and to quickly mitigate the identified areas needing response. Park County CERT are local volunteers who are educated and trained for disaster preparedness. The training is tailored to fit our region based on



the hazards faced as a community. Each team member attends a basic training course, held locally, which teaches basic disaster response skills, such as, fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. CERT is a program that builds resident teams through a consistent, nationwide structure that can be counted on by professional responders during a disaster, allowing first responders to focus on more complex tasks. Team members have also received Storm Spotter Training through the National Weather Service (NWS). This training provides the tools to give accurate reports regarding tornadoes, flash flooding, wall clouds, funnel clouds, lightning, winter weather, and wind. The information collected from spotters is a critical link in NWS severe weather operations as they provide immediate, real-time reports to the NWS.



Park County CERT did just that this summer as flood threatened and damaged this area in June. CERT arrived at a designated check-in location and received a situation briefing. The team was divided up into smaller groups each with the task of gathering intel in specific geographic regions of Park County.

The assignment involved documenting hazards (downed power poles, debris collecting at bridges, washed out roads/bridges), locating areas of high water, and any other issues they identified as a threat to the community. The documentation was collected and disseminated to the appropriate agencies to aid in the response and recovery efforts.

CERT members receive detailed briefings and safety reports, but the job does not come without challenges. Weather events are often unpredictable and flash flooding can occur



quickly. They will constantly evaluate their surroundings and make decisions to ensure the safety of the team. Minimizing risk is a crucial component of CERT operations. Therefore, routine safety training and threat assessment are always included in team activities.

Communications can be difficult in some parts of Park County. Several members of the team are HAM radio operators and lend their skills to the team's operations. The team communicates with each other via handheld radio and provides regular updates to the command post.

CERT became a national program in 1993 and there are now programs in all 50 states, including many tribal nations and U.S. territories. Each CERT is unique to its community,

and all are essential to building a culture of preparedness in the United States. There are over 2,700 local programs nationwide and more than 600,000 people have trained since CERT became a national program.

## **COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

The Community Outreach Program ensures 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. The Sheriff's Office has always taken pride in the services provided to this community. In 2021 the Park County Sheriff's Office participated in



parades, town events, Christmas programs, and received a huge outpouring of love and support from the local communities.



**STAMPEDE PARADE** – The Park County Sheriff's Office participated in the Stampede Parade again this year. As always, there were staff, volunteers, and their families on hand to celebrate independence with Park County. The turn out this year was huge, despite the heat, and this time-honored tradition is looked forward to by many of the staff.

**COFFEE WITH A COP** – Not once, but twice this year the Park County Sheriff's Office had the distinct honor of having Coffee with a Cop hosted by Pardner's Café in Cody. Once on April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022, and then on the official Coffee with a Cop Day October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022. This fantastic occasion was for multiple agencies to be available to the public in an informal and



casual atmosphere to hold discussions, ask questions, get to know each other, and create relationships within the community. There were no agendas or speeches – just a chance to "chat" in an informal setting. It was also an excellent opportunity to support the Pardner's Café, which

can be read about here: <u>www.Facebook.com/CodyPardners</u>. The coffee is provided by local sponsors who help support the Pardner's Café.

**WITH HONOR** – In 2022 the Park County Sheriff's Office continued participating in a tradition for the Special Olympics Wyoming held in Cody, they were privileged to offer support in the

Torch Run. A favorite activity amongst many in this Department. There were also players for the annual Back the Blue Golf Tournament. And an annual awards banquet hosted by the local Elks Club. And last, but certainly not least, the Park County Sheriff's Office lost in Donkey basketball. An eventful and spectacular year to be sure.



**SHOP WITH A COP** - On December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022, local Law Enforcement agencies, including the Park County Sheriff's Office, participated in this year's "Shop with a Cop" program. Hosted by the Highway Patrol Association and Wyoming Highway Patrol, the program helps support



community relations with local agencies and offers a chance for the children involved to meet their local officers. The kids' evening included shopping for gifts with their assigned Deputy, wrapping gifts with a visit from Santa Claus, and baskets of food from the First Ladies' Hunger Initiative program. None of this could have been done without local donations and the cooperation of local businesses. The Park

County Sheriff's Office was once again honored to share in this tradition and look forward to participating in the future.

On November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Sheriff Scott Steward brought full circle an honored tradition that will once again be a part of the Park County Sheriff's Office. New Deputies, as they begin their Law Enforcement careers, will be asked to take an "Oath of Honor," for the Park County Sheriff's Office. While an Oath of Honor is utilized in many aspects of the United States Government a Law Enforcement Oath of Honor specifically speaks to the duty, integrity, and standard of serving and protecting. The public declaration of an Oath is meant to establish an ethical standard and instill pride in the work that our local Law Enforcement Officers do. A Law Enforcement Oath of Honor is a standard Oath across the Country for Law Enforcement Officers. The Park County Sheriff's Office Oath of Honor is as follows:

I, Deputy First Last, accept the responsibility, duty, and authority of my position.

I am consciously aware of how my behaviors and choices affect others, the reputation of the Park County Sheriff's Office, and my profession.

On my honor, I will never betray my badge, my integrity, my character, or the public trust.

*I will always have the courage to hold myself and others accountable for our actions.* 

*I will always uphold the constitution, the values of the community I serve, and the Park County Sheriff's Office.* 



The Deputies participating in taking the Oath of Honor on this day are Deputies Gunnar Hill, Challen Heuser, Nicholas Heuser, Henry Greenfield Robert Donaldson, Sasa Starkjohann, Christopher Aldrete, Taryn Sciortino, Matthew Rathbun, Tanner Quick, and Jerimiah Ringler, all new Deputies hired within the last two years. Sheriff Scott Steward and the Deputies all signed a formal copy of this Oath as well. A physical symbol of this vow to carry with them throughout their Law Enforcement careers.

