

# 2017 Custer County Sheriff's Office



# Year End Report

## **To the Citizens of Custer County,**

It is my privilege to present to you the 2017 Annual Report. It has been an exciting year for the Custer County Sheriff's Office as we continue to grow as an agency. It is hard to believe the second year of my four-year term has come to a close, and reflect on the projects and goals we have completed or are yet to accomplish. The focus of 2016 was to continue fine-tuning many of the changes we made in 2015: providing better service to the community, more equitable treatment of all citizens in the county, and increased visibility throughout the entire county. We made progress on several capital improvement projects, improving the work environment and safety for our employees and decreasing liability to the county. Those projects included eliminating the female jail pod and building a new communications center with that space. New commercial refrigerator, freezer, and stove were installed in the kitchen, and the lobby area was remodeled to make it more friendly to the customers who come in for services. We added a new administrative office to the lobby which has also improved our ability to manage records keeping while assisting the community.

We continue to build additional partnerships with our regional law enforcement partners through participation in multi-jurisdictional task forces and joint training.

As this 2017 report will detail some of the outstanding accomplishments by each division of the Office, I want to share with you what I believe makes our Office special. We live in one of the most majestic places on earth, where individuals are willing to give far more than they ever receive. The volunteerism, donations, and humble acts of the employees of this office are unquestionably the very best. Whether it is participating in National Night Out, Tip-a-Cop, Special Olympics, or any other of the many special events through the year, our staff members are involved in our community. Despite the many hours of overtime each of them work, I am humbled and honored to work alongside each of them.

To the employees of this Office, your commitment to our community despite the negativity projected upon law enforcement across this nation, the pressures of the job, and the challenges you face each and every day, you demonstrate professionalism and a commitment to this county. It is with sincere thanks I express how grateful I am to every member of the Sheriff's Office. I cannot express enough my thanks and respect to the citizens of this county who demonstrate unmatched support and concern for our staff members. I could not be more proud or humbled to be the Sheriff in the most wonderful place on this earth to live.

*Shannon K. Byerly*

Shannon Byerly, Sheriff

# ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF



**Shannon Byerly**  
Sheriff



**Christopher Barr**  
Undersheriff



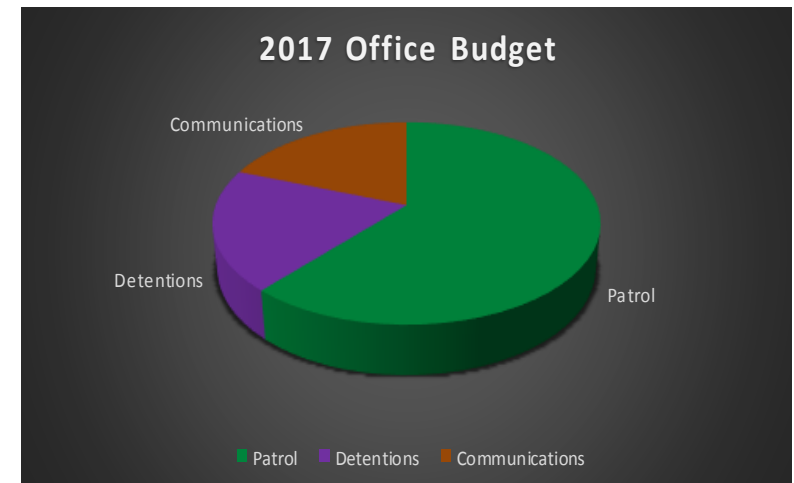
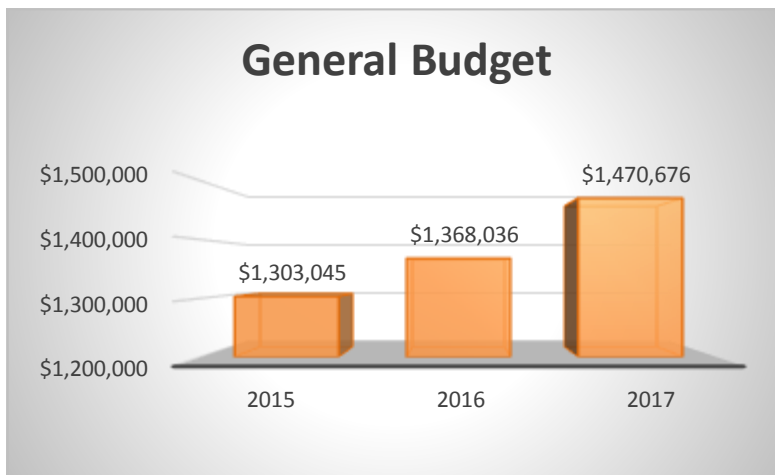
**Paula Mankel**  
Administrative

# 2017 Budget Overview

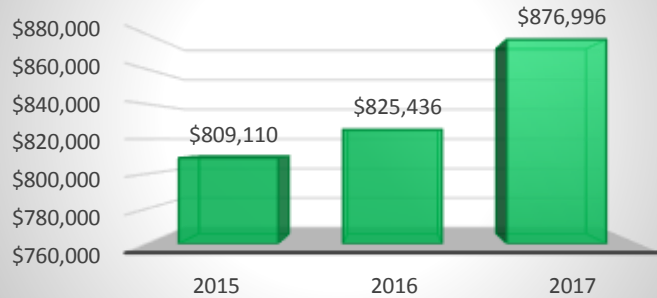
The Sheriff's Office Budget is complex due to the nature of the office as it encompasses four funds and must account for the multiple revenue and expenditures through which the different divisions need to operate successfully. An annual projected budget is submitted to the County Commissioners in October, anticipating the revenues and financial obligations for the following year. The general Sheriff's Office Budget is comprised of three large funds; the Office budget which is generally referred to as the Patrol budget, the Detentions or Jail budget, and the Emergency Services or Communications budget. The fourth budget, is for Fire Services and is entirely dedicated to the Emergency Fire Fund (EFF) we as the county government contribute to the state for wildland fire fighting. Operational costs, inmate populations, and staff turnover all affect actual expenses which provides a challenge to ensure we are good stewards of county dollars. As we continue to update our patrol vehicle fleet, address pay concerns for the staff members, and resolve maintenance issues within the office, the budget reflects the increase needed to solve these issues. The Sheriff and his staff work diligently to balance the safety needs of Custer County while supporting the divisions and operations we conduct around the clock, each day of the year.

The overall budget for 2017 saw a 7% increase in comparison to 2016. This increase was due to several factors including a new air handler for the jail, replacing the flooring in the jail kitchen, and upgrades in the patrol room.

As you can see, the Patrol budget is the largest portion of the overall Sheriff's budget. Day to day functions of the building, staff, and operations require substantial funding to meet the needs of law enforcement activity in the county.



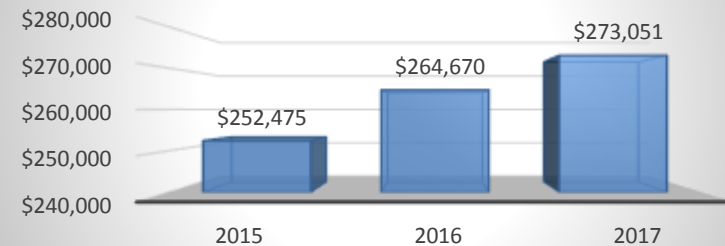
## Patrol



Over the last three years, the Patrol budget has increased by 7.5% as we have updated patrol vehicles, attempted to make the pay more competitive, and improved the working conditions at the office.

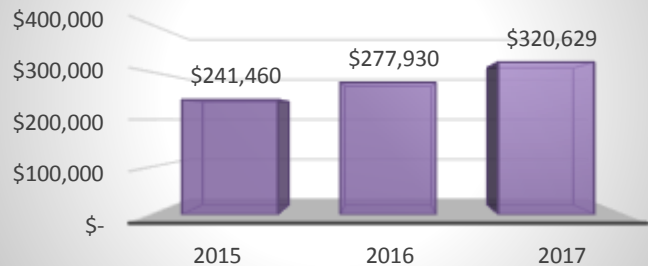
The Communications center has seen a complete renovation in the last year and is now one of the best facilities in the county. The state of the art consoles and equipment have dramatically increased the emergency services these men and women provide to the County.

## Communications



We have begun to upgrade the equipment in the Detention Center to provide a safer work environment as well as the capability to hold more prisoners on a daily basis. This in turn provides additional revenue to the County.

## Detentions



# PATROL DIVISION

The Patrol Division is tasked with the day to day law enforcement duties within Custer County. They perform various assignments such as responding to calls for service for criminal activity, emergency calls, fire calls, traffic enforcement, Vehicle Identification Number verifications, civil service papers, traffic accident investigations, and citizen assistance to name a few. They routinely escort Zoning and Planning, Department of Human Services, and Probation staff into the field to ensure their safety while performing official business. The day to day operations of the Sheriff's Office is unpredictable and the many duties these fine men and women perform are never realized by the general public.

The Court Security Deputy is responsible for the safety of the court staff, the security of the courts and the general safety of all personnel who work within the courts. In addition to Court Security, this Sergeant also assists in report approval and fleet and staff management. The patrol Division is comprised of one Patrol Sergeant, one Court Security Sergeant, seven Patrol Deputies and one Code Enforcement Deputy.

Several changes have been made to the patrol division and their day to day routines. Increased presence throughout the county has resulted in an improved awareness for traffic safety and deterrence to crime. It has also increased public trust, knowing the deputies have made a commitment to being present in the various areas of the county. The most critical element of this strategy has resulted in a 53% decrease in rollover accidents from 2015. Because of this decrease, Custer County had only 1 fatal traffic accident in 2017. These fine men and women continue to work hard to ensure safety for all citizens and visitors to our fine county.

# Patrol Staff



Michael Halpin  
Sergeant, Court Security



H. A. Wenzel  
Sergeant, Patrol



James Barr  
Deputy Sheriff



Brandon Schoch  
Deputy Sheriff



Jason Salbato  
Deputy Sheriff



Kendall Zoss  
Deputy Sheriff



Chelsea Geanetta  
Deputy Sheriff



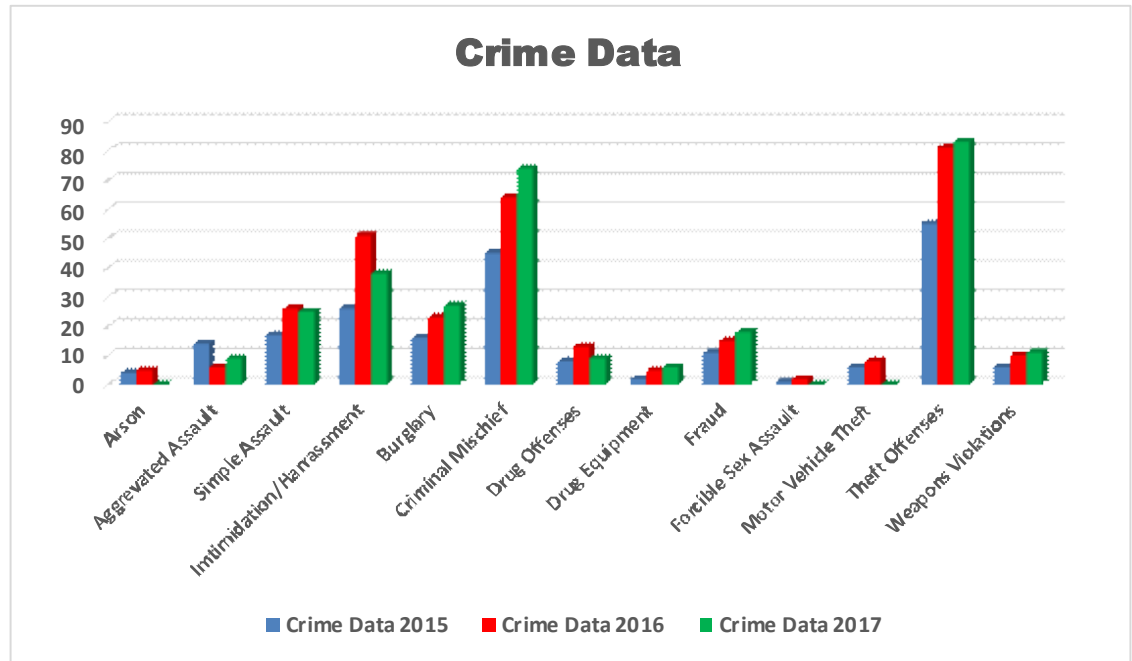
Eric Dunston  
Deputy Sheriff



Charles Cox  
Code Enforcement Deputy

# Custer County Crime Data

Crime Data			
	2015	2016	2017
Arson	4	5	0
Aggravated Assault	14	6	9
Simple Assault	17	26	25
Intimidation/Harassment	26	51	38
Burglary	16	23	27
Criminal Mischief	45	64	74
Drug Offenses	8	13	9
Drug Equipment	2	5	6
Fraud	11	15	18
Forcible Sex Assault	1	2	0
Motor Vehicle Theft	6	8	0
Theft Offenses	55	81	83
Weapons Violations	6	10	11

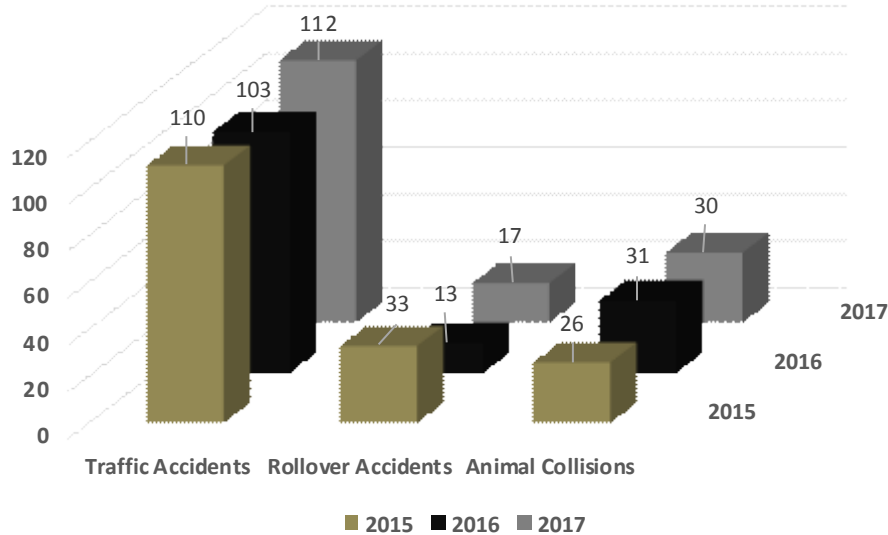


**2015 Crime clearance rates were 37% but we are working very hard to improve on this number. In 2016 we improved to 41% and then to 42% in 2017. Due to the difficulty in solving Criminal Mischief, Fraud, and cold Burglary crimes this number is a challenge to improve upon substantially.**





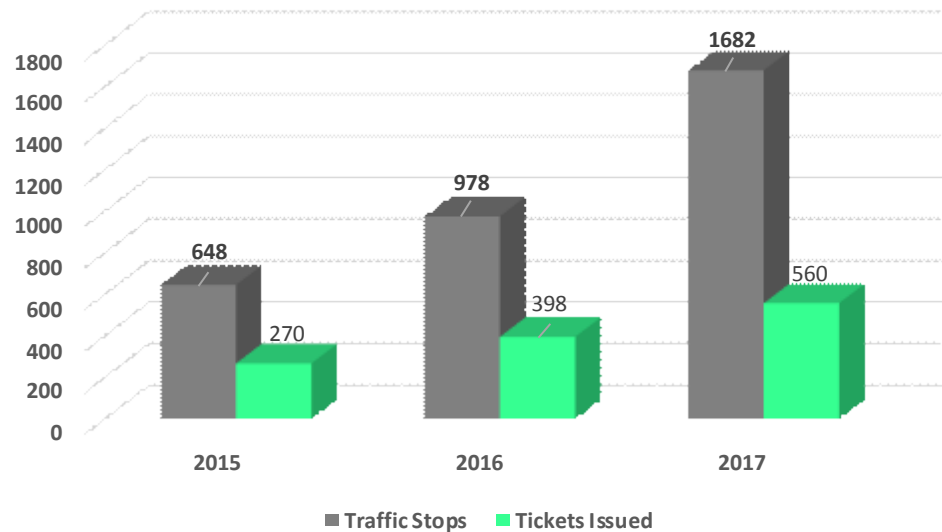
## Traffic Accidents



Traffic Accident numbers remained steady in 2017 with a slight increase in Rollover incidents. This is concerning as we have focused on slowing down driving habits in hopes of continuing the decline we saw from 2015 to 2016. The high number of accidents we are experiencing in the county are slow speed accidents in parking lots and backing violations.

Traffic enforcement efforts have increased dramatically in the last two years as the Sheriff has made traffic safety a priority. As you can see by the illustration, in 2017 1 in 3 drivers who were stopped for a traffic violation were cited for the infraction.

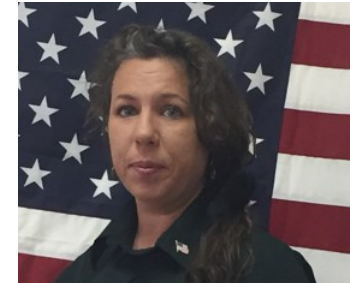
## Traffic Contacts



# Detention Staff



Anne Lowatchie  
Sergeant, Detentions



Dawn Ramsdell  
Detentions Deputy



Logan Winn  
Detentions Deputy



Nathan Wiener  
Detentions Deputy



Mel Vanderhoff  
Detentions Deputy



Paul Maki  
Detentions Deputy

# DETENTION DIVISION

The Custer County Detention Division is a 12 bed, male offender, full service facility. Detentions houses pre-adjudicated and adult offenders who have been sentenced for up to three years. Female offenders who are held for charges in Custer County are currently being housed in the Fremont County Detention Facility in Cañon City, Colorado.

Detention staff have a wide range of duties to include booking and bonding paperwork for offenders and ensuring the housing unit is a safe and secure environment. Deputies conduct security rounds, searches and inspections of offender living quarters, meal preparation, cleaning dishes, laundry, and maintaining a clean and orderly detention facility. Additionally, the Detentions supervisor coordinates the transfer and transport of offenders to court procedures and transfers across the state to and from other jail facilities.

The Detention staff also performs fingerprinting for citizens for concealed carry permits, employment applications, sex offender registrations, as well as for all criminal offenders. They provide drug and alcohol testing for probation and the handling of high risk, complex, or sensitive incidents or cases within the jail and for the courts.

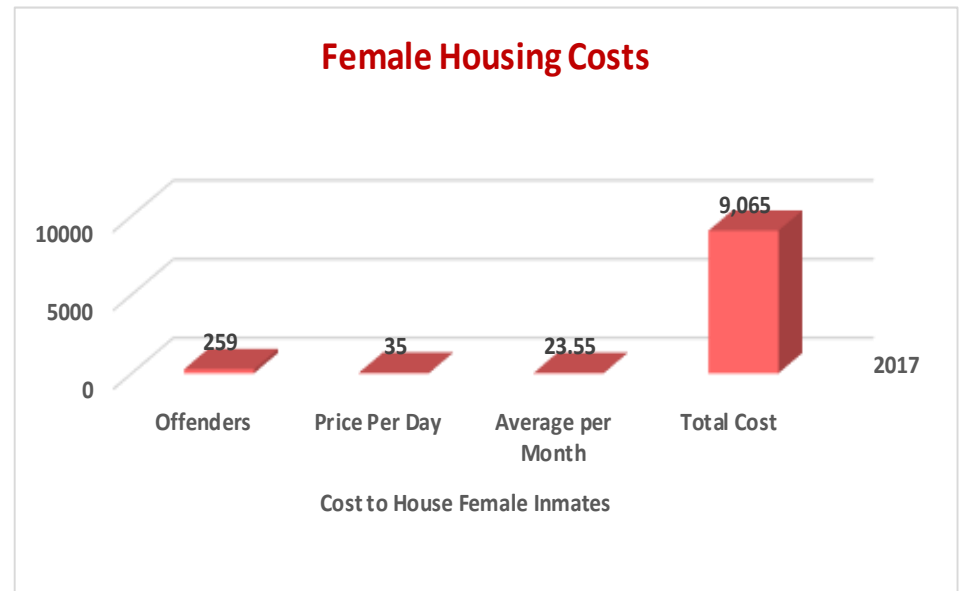
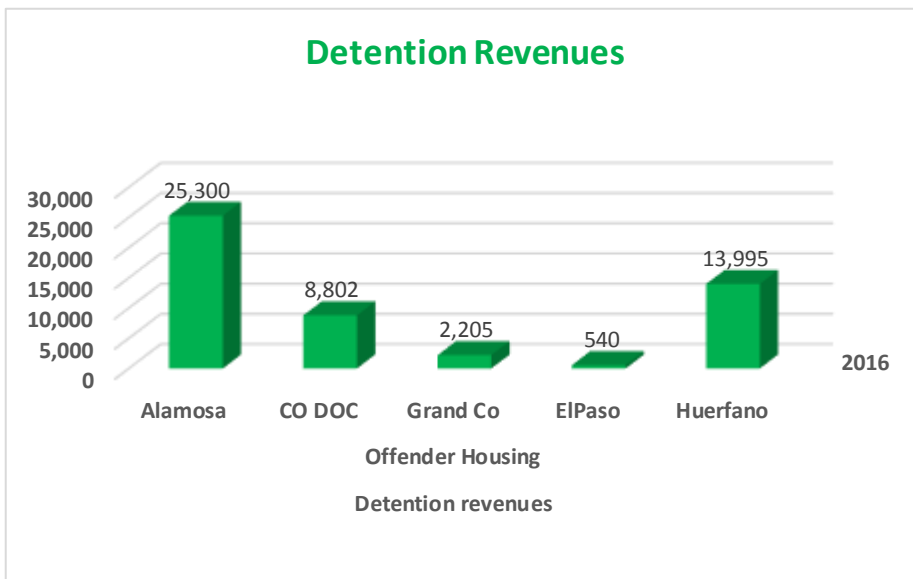
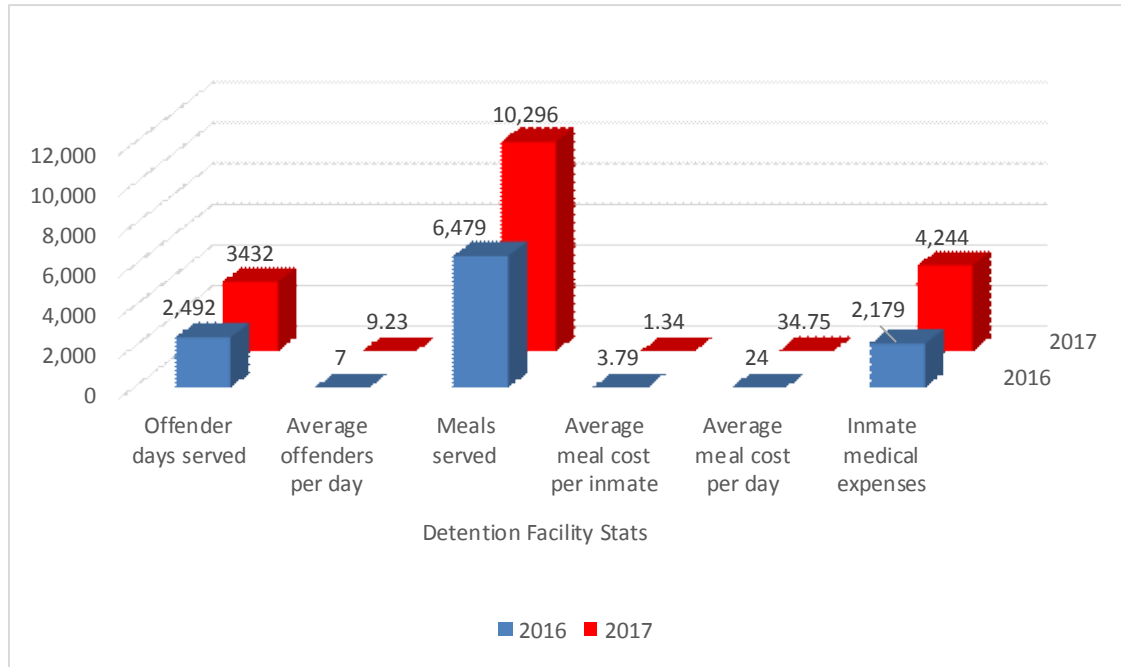
The Custer County Detention Division also houses offenders from other jurisdictions who are over their capacity. This function allows other counties and the state to ease tension in jail populations and in turn produces revenue for Custer County. The Sheriff's Office has agreements with Alamosa County, Huerfano County, and the State of Colorado to house inmates when needed. Custer County then receives payment for the daily housing of those inmates from the various agencies at a dialy charge of \$45 per inmate per day. The average offender population for 2017 was ten offenders per day, 4 from Custer County, the remainder from outside agencies, with a total of 191 offenders housed in Custer County for the year.

This outside revenue averaged approximately 7,000 thousand a month or \$83,000 for the year.

The Detention Facility continues to work toward the concept of rehabilitation and education. We offer Alcohol Anonymous classes and meetings, re-education services, High School GED programs, and are working to collaborate with the school district for material to enhance this process.

In our continued efforts to improve the facility we have replaced critical equipment in the kitchen this year. We replaced three old residential refrigerator/freezers with a commercial refrigerator and freezer resulting in increased food storage capacity and quality temperature stability. This in turn enabled us to save money by purchasing more of our food in bulk and lowered our electricity consumption. Additionally, we purchased a new commercial stove and oven, replacing a 40 year old residential stove which was not serving our needs. Detention Staff also solicited donations from community members to purchase a new commercial clothes washing machine and dryer, saving time for laundry services.

# Detention Facility Stats





# EMERGENCY SERVICES/COMMUNICATIONS

The Communications Division is comprised of one Supervisor, four full time, and one part time dispatcher. They operate out of the newly completed communications center where the working environment for this crew of dedicated personnel has been upgraded to a sophisticated center for emergency dispatching. Communications personnel are responsible for all emergency response in the county and some designated areas in Fremont County. This group of individuals answers the phone and begins the emergency response protocols for all calls made by individuals. They answer the 911 emergencies, the calls for help and assistance, the irate individuals who are angry or frustrated, the parent who has lost their child, and the person who wants to complain about the conduct of a deputy. This group is the core of the emergency responders and everyone in the county depends on them to be there when they call. They are working 24 hours a day, no matter the weather, holiday or time of year. We could not do what needs to be done without them.



# Communications Staff



Joseph McCarthy  
Dispatch Supervisor



Scott Ayotte  
Dispatcher



Katherine Brencley  
Dispatcher/  
Evidence Technician



Samantha Moos  
Dispatcher



Nikki Wiener  
Dispatcher



Kaire Gallegos  
Dispatcher

# Training and Registrations

## STAFF TRAINING

Top Quality on-going training is vital to safe and effective policing and corrections work. All CCSO employees are required to participate in at least forty hours of in-service training related to their specific field of work. Annual in-service classes include refresher classes and hands-on practice to maintain skills and proficiency.

In 2016 staff training was expanded to meet new guidelines set forth by the legislature. Staff attended over 800 cumulative hours of training in the areas of professional development, communication, leadership, and skills-based use of force classes. Each employee attended an average of 33 hours of training which is more than is required by national standards.

All patrol staff met or exceeded the Police Officer Standards and Training (POST) annual requirements to keep their law enforcement certifications.

Deputy Chelsea Geanetta, along with the dedicated team of training staff ensure all personnel have access to regularly scheduled, high quality training courses.



## SEX OFFENDER REGISTRATION

Sex Offender registration and management is conducted by Mrs. Paula Mankel as part of her duties as the Administrative Manager. She is responsible for maintaining the Sex Offender Registry for all offenders who reside in Custer County. Convicted sex offenders are required to register either annually or quarterly, depending on the nature of the crime.

Mrs. Mankel schedules address verifications of all registered sex offenders who are registered with this agency. She also monitors court proceedings to remain current on new convictions.

**There are currently 14 registered sex offenders in Custer County.**





# ADMINISTRATIVE ASSIGNMENTS



## ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGER

**Mrs. Paula Mankel** oversees the office operations and records management. She is responsible for releasing records information to the public and other agencies in accordance with State and Federal Statutes and the Colorado

Criminal Justice Records Act (CCJRA).

Criminal Justice records include Offense/Incident case reports, arrest records, jail records, arrest photos, dispatch logs, and Registered Sex Offender management.



## CIVIL PROCESS TECHNICIAN

**Mr. Joseph McCarthy** oversees Civil Process, working with deputies and trained volunteers to ensure documents are legally served. Civil process includes: civil litigation, court orders, subpoenas, garnishments, and writs.

### CONCEALED WEAPONS TECHNICIAN

**Mrs. Katherine Barr** accepts and processes applications for conceal carry permits. In the last four years, the number of citizens seeking to apply for their Concealed Handgun Permits has increased significantly



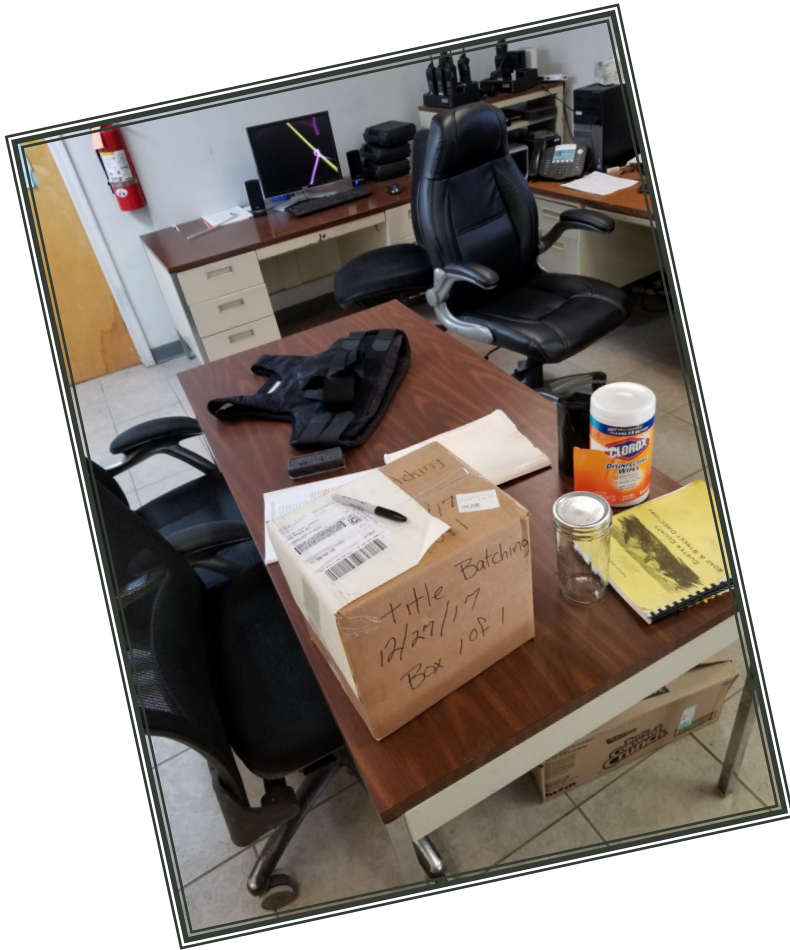
### PROPERTY MANAGER

Mrs. Barr is the custodian of all property entering the Sheriff's Office. She manages and documents the chain of custody for all evidence, found property, or other property as it is recovered or collected by the deputies.

## *VICTIMS ASSISTANCE*

**Mrs. Sandra Hernandez** serves our community as the Victims Advocate for the Sheriff's Office. She responds to victims and/or their families of violent crime, victims in crisis, and family survivors. The victims assistance program provides victims with information on the rights afforded to them through the Victims Rights Act, C.R.S. 24-4.1-301(1) of the Colorado Constitution. The main focus of the VA is to offer victims and witnesses of violent crime/death the support and aid necessary for them to mentally and physically adjust to the situation. The VA provides these services through referral information, community outreach, and assistance with victims compensation.

# EVIDENCE PROCESSING AND CATALOGING



From old ..... To new !!

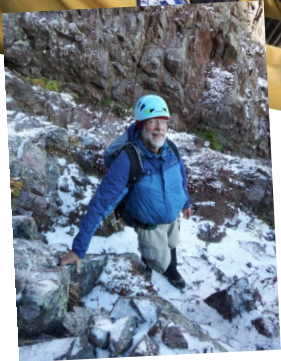
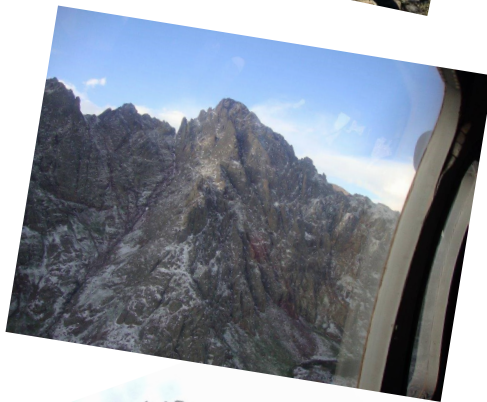
# SEARCH AND RESCUE



The Custer County Search and Rescue (CCSAR) members responded to 22 missions, totaling 1,355 hours in 2017. The missions included medical responses, searches, rescues and two recoveries. Our SAR team's volunteers responded to three missions in the Great Sand Dunes Park Preserve, including the recovery of a New York man who had been missing for 7 weeks, despite widespread prior searches. Two other missions in the Preserve involved air evacuations for trauma patients in the popular Sand Creek Lakes area. Among the most technically and medically challenging missions of the season were a dramatic rescue off of Crestone Needle in July when the Colorado Air National Guard and Vail Mountain Rescue Group assisted CCSAR by successfully hoisting

a New Mexico man with an open lower leg fracture from the mountain, a technical rescue of stranded climbers on Kit Carson's "Prow" in 5<sup>th</sup>-class terrain, and the overnight body recovery of a Wyoming physician from Challenger Point. CCSAR also assisted Fremont, Saguache, Pueblo and Alamosa counties with missions within their jurisdictions this year and received the assistance of the Colorado State Rescue Board, the Air Force Rescue Command Center, Colorado National Guard, Flight for Life and Reach Air.

In 2018 we hope to establish a team Medical Director and are pursuing a possible helicopter landing pad near our building in Westcliffe. We also would like to improve the landscaping and parking area of our aging facility. Of course, we always have many projects and upgrades in progress in addition to training expenses, equipment costs and vehicle repairs and maintenance.



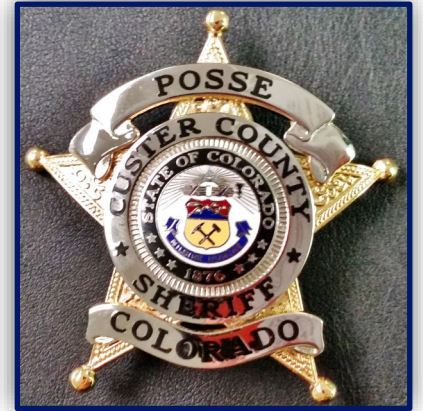
# NEW SHOULDER PATCHES

Sheriff Byerly organized a community contest to develop a new shoulder patch for the Sheriff's Office. Lisa Frank and Katie Johnson's artwork was selected to build the foundation of the design. The proud winners of the contest were presented with a certificate and examples of their art is on display at the Sheriff's Office, as well as being adopted into use with all uniforms worn by Sheriff's Office personnel.



# CUSTER COUNTY SHERIFF'S POSSE

The Sheriff's Posse is an invaluable part of Custer County and the various functions the Sheriff's Office conducts with minimal resources. The Posse assists the Sheriff's Office by providing 21 additional staff members to conduct a myriad of tasks. The Posse is trained to meet the same standards the sworn deputies in the critical skills areas; Firearms, Driving, and Arrest Control. Posse members, provide security for the school district, they assist in prisoner transports, special security details, house watch patrols, campground patrols, parade control and management, and other duties as assigned. The group of members dedicated over 2,500 hours of service to the community in 2017 and conducted 1,500 hours of training.



# NEW DEPUTIES AND PROMOTIONS

In 2017 the CCSO welcomed a new Deputy Sheriff and promoted one of our Detention Deputies to a Detention Sergeant. Welcome Deputy Eric Dunston! Congratulations Sergeant Anne Lowatchie!





# SAFER COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

In 2017 the Custer County Sheriffs Office partnered with TakeMedsBack.Org to offer 24 hour a day access for citizens to dispose of prescription medications. Since obtaining the bright green medical disposal box and having it displayed in the lobby has resulted in over 40 pounds of medications in the last 5 months. This service to the community is part of the commitment we have made to make drug disposal safer and easier.



Also, in 2017 the Custer County Sheriffs Office began to promote safe firearm handling and storage education by partnering with Project Childsafe to distribute firearm safety locks. The locks are located in the lobby of the Sheriff's Office and are free to everyone and given anonymously.

<http://projectchildsafe.org/> provides information, training and quizzes for parents to teach their children to be responsible gun owners.

# SENIOR CLASS BBQ

In partnership with the Custer County Consolidated School, the Sheriff and his deputies helped congratulate the senior class by cooking hamburgers, hot dogs, and baked beans for the soon to be graduates.

CONGRATULATIONS!

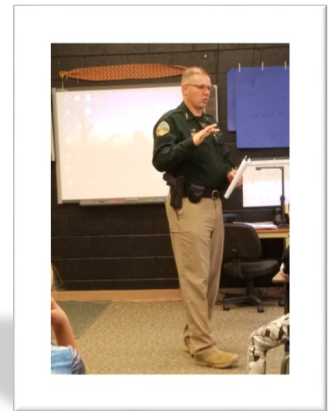
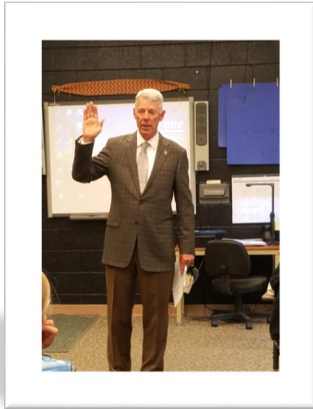


GO BOBCATS



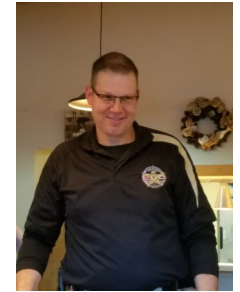
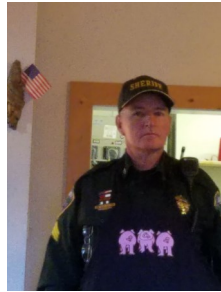
# BACK TO SCHOOL

Sheriff Shannon Byerly, Posse Member Bob Hollingsworth and Kit Shy attended 5th grade at the Custer County School and spoke to the kids about our Constitution.



# TIP-A-COP

Custer County Sheriff's Office gave a whole new meaning to "Protect and Serve" in November at the Tip-A-Cop Event held at the Silver Cliff Mountain Inn. Deputies, Posse Members and the Sheriff himself came in ready to work to earn tips to benefit the Toys for Kids Ride coordinated by "Wild Bill" and Courtney Curtis. \$500 was raised and donated to this special cause.



# SPECIAL OLYMPICS POLAR PLUNGE

On a sunny day in February, 14 members of the Sheriff's Office braved the cold and raised over \$1,700 for this great cause! It was a very fun day and helped five young athletes attend the Special Olympics. (We won Best Costumes!!)



# NATIONAL NIGHT OUT (Against Crime)

National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live. August 1st, the Custer County Sheriff's Office invited our neighbors to a community-wide picnic and the turn out was several times larger than we anticipated! We had a fantastic time cooking burgers and hot dogs, serving our friends and neighbors, dancing to the great music and getting to know everyone a little better!







**Posse Member of the Year**

**Ivan Brooks**



**Terry Napolitan retires from the Posse after 8 years of service.**



# Custer County Sheriff's Office

## 2017 Award Recipients

### **Meritorious Service**

*The Sheriff or his designee may, at his discretion, bestow the Sheriff's Award of Merit upon any employee deemed deserving of recognition for any outstanding act or Performance.*

Charles Cox  
Bill Mazurek

Leslie Kramer  
Rich Smith

Rich Kramer  
Shannon Byerly

### **Sheriff's Commendation**

*Sheriff's Commendation is awarded to any employee or member of the agency whom exceeds expectations during a rating period by self-initiated acts of service or dedication.*

Katherine Barr  
Jason Salbato

Kaire Gallegos  
Brandon Schoch

Dawn Ramsdell  
Kendall Zoss

### **Letter of Commendation**

*Letter of Commendation is awarded to any employee for an outstanding act or achievement which brings credit to the Agency and which involves performance above and beyond that required by the employee's basic assignment.*

Eric Dunston

Kendall Zoss

### **Meritorious Service by a Citizen**

*To be awarded to any citizen who provided outstanding assistance to the agency in preventing crime or apprehending criminals, or who rendered an outstanding service to the agency which would be worthy of recognition, or who performed an outstanding heroic act, at considerable personal danger to himself/herself, which culminated in the saving of human life or the apprehension of a dangerous criminal.*

Roger Camper



## Friend of the Sheriff Award

This award is presented for selfless generosity to the entire staff of the Sheriff's Office. True friends to all whom carry a badge and represent law enforcement in the community.

Sandy Hernandez      Donna Hood      Ed and Cody Lyons  
Willie Quinney and Cheryl Jenkins  
Sue Menz      Ron Taylor



## Posse Awards

Ivan Brooks Posse Member of the Year  
Terry Napolitan Retirement  
Meritorious Service by a Citizen  
Roger Camper



# Enjoying the Awards Banquet and Dinner





## MISSION STATEMENT

We provide the citizens of Custer County, in partnership with our communities, effective and efficient public safety services. We deliver these services with *Character, Integrity, Respect, Accountability and Professionalism*.

## VALUES OF THE DEPARTMENT

**We *value* the principles of the constitutions of the United States and the State of Colorado...**

**We *value* the system of laws which governs us . . .**

We respect the dignity and rights of the individual. We are governed by a set of laws, not men; as such, we value the system of laws of the United States, the State of Colorado, and Custer County. We recognize that our role as a member of the Executive Branch of government is to uphold the Constitution and laws.

**We *value* human life . . .**

We expect employees to perform their jobs professionally which emphasizes Accountability and Respect, minimizing the risk of unnecessary injury or death to any person.

**We *value* the communities we serve . . .**

We believe that the purpose of our organization is to serve our communities. We must be open and responsive to changing conditions and needs. We believe it is our responsibility to keep the peace not only by enforcing the law, but also by working with communities to reduce problems by identifying and addressing causes. We believe community and problem oriented policing is an ongoing process, and not a program with a beginning and an end.

**We *value* the person . . .**

We value the diversity of the individual which stems from differences in race, age, sex, religion, sexual orientation, handicap, or socio-economic status. We will treat all individuals with courtesy, respect, and dignity.

**We *value* organizational excellence . . .**

We value a working environment in which individuals working as a team strive for superior professional performance focused towards achieving the organizational mission and goals.

**We *value* the strength of personal character in our employees . . .**

We value open and honest communicators who display high moral and ethical conduct, integrity, adaptability, and sound judgment. We believe each employee must be a leader in the office and community. We expect employees to be result-oriented problem solvers who are responsible and accountable..