



Sheriff
Don Gudmundson

Chief Deputy
Dave Bellows

Dakota County Sheriff

The Front Row

"A front row seat to the greatest show on Earth..."

June 13, 2005, through June 19, 2005

Welcome to the Dakota County Sheriff's weekly newsletter titled, "The Front Row"

The title is derived from the Ringling Brothers Circus, which has long been promoted as "The Greatest Show on Earth." Working in law enforcement and corrections puts all of us in the front row seat of life. Many times, it is the tragic events that we witness in our jobs and having to deal with the aftermath for families and loved ones, but we are also fortunate to see first-hand some of the funniest and most unbelievable things in people.

"A Front Row Seat" will also let you know what is going on within the Dakota County Sheriff's Office and introduce you to our members. With over 180 employees, it is difficult to list everyone, so each week we will list groups of employees within the Sheriff's Office on the left side of the newsletter. Let us know what you think of our efforts.

Some Breathing Room...

We are finally feeling some reprieve in the jail, with the June daily inmate census below 250 inmates. This is a stark change from the 300 plus daily inmate counts we experienced during much of the first half of 2005. Congratulations go to all of the jail staff for their hard work in processing and housing the large number of inmates. At their June 7th meeting, the Board of Commissioners authorized an additional \$430,000 for boarding inmates this year. We are hoping this downward trend continues, at least for a while.

Results From the Boating Fatalities...

The Hennepin County Medical Examiner and the Dakota County Coroners Office have released the blood alcohol results from the three individuals killed in the boating accident on May 29th on the Minnesota River. Melissa Burns and Thomas Schwake, both 25 years old, were transported to a Hennepin County hospital after the accident, where they died. The Medical Examiner listed Burns' BAC at .088 and Schwake at .22. The third person, Michael Rimnac, .21 BAC, was recovered the following day by members of the Sheriff's Parks, Lakes and Trails (formerly called Recreation Safety) Division. All three individuals lived within five houses of each other on a street in Bloomington. The investigation continues, but we may never be able to determine who was operating the watercraft at the time it struck the barge. This is another example of how alcohol and machines are never a good mix.

Other News...

Sheriff Don Gudmundson had the privilege of meeting **Vice-President Dick Cheney** during a visit to Dakota County last fall. A photo of the two men was recently sent to Sheriff Gudmundson by the White House. See picture at right.



Featuring Sheriff's Jail Staff:

Commander
Barak Bjorge

Captains
John Kane
Mike Scott

Lieutenant
Ken Tolonen

Sergeants
Judy Burrows
Scott Fuchs
Lawrence Hart
Kathy Reineke
Jodi Rolloff

Corporals
Deb Fyten
Sheila Hamilton
John Heger
Gary Millbach
Trudi Sibbald

Deputies
Craig Altendorfer
Lonna Broze
Dale Clausen
Greg Croucher
Mike Curry
Kevin Engel
Joe Engesser
Ryan Fitzgerald
Tchad Guckin
Al Heikkila
Mike Holzemer
Muhammed Jackson
Steve Jenkins
Cheri Johnson
Jeremy Johnson
Virginia Jones
Dan Kreager
Rita Kordell
Tara Maves
Darin McGowan
Anthony Miller
Al Ochocki
Joshua Otto
Lisa Peterson
Pio Pilimai



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Antoni Przybyla
Matt Regis
Nancy Russell
Matt Schepers
Tim Schnorr
Regina Shepherd
Chuck Stemig
Jacob Swartout
Erik Tate
Vic Teuber
Kent Themmes
Marvin Turner
Benjamin Verby
Mariann Warner
Jae Wiese
Joshua Williams
Timothy Zwetow

Programs Staff
Phil Draskowski
Loren Hanson
Hal Palmer

Chaplain
Paster Jim Bzoskie

Support Staff
Sandy Burke
Desiree Chartrand
Theresa Ford
Melanie Heltne
Holly Ruiz
Fay Wallin
Betsy Winter

Questions?
Comments?

Please contact the
Dakota County Sheriff's
Office at 651.437.4211.

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Our Condolences...

To **Detective Rob Hosking** on the passing of his mother. Services were held on Tuesday, June 21st, in Apple Valley.

Golfing, what better way to relax!!!

Deputy Brent Lohmann responded to the Elmdale Golf Course on a report of an assault between golfers. A 55-year-old grabbed and shoved a 22-year-old over a disagreement on the course. This incident had all the makings of a scene from Caddyshack.

A Big Change in Communications is Coming...

Dakota County and all municipalities have agreed to participate in the county-wide 800 MHz radio project. As a result, the present six Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP's) will become one. The location for the single PSAP has yet to be determined, but it is anticipated it will be located near the intersection of County Road 46 and Highway 3 in Empire Township. Dakota County has been a leader in moving the 800 MHz system forward. The end result will allow all of public safety to better communicate with one another. The system and new center is expected to be up and running by mid 2007.

ATV Fatal Accident...

Patrol deputies and investigators responded to an all-terrain vehicle (ATV) accident on June 17th in Castle Rock. The 24-year-old victim was driving his ATV on 275th Street east of Highway 3, being followed by a female in her car. The ATV created such a large dust storm that the driver of the car did not see him fall off the machine and she ran over him. The man was pronounced dead at the scene. This is the second ATV fatality we have investigated in the last 18 months.

It doesn't pay to mess with Meth...

Between January and May, the Dakota County Drug Task Force has arrested 533 persons for drug-related crimes. This is nearly an 18 percent increase compared to this time last year. Over 50 percent of the arrests now made by the task force are for Meth drug offenses. The Sheriff's Office has four deputies assigned to the task force, including the Agent in Charge, **Sergeant John Grant**. Nice work to all the agents assigned to the task force.

Speaking of Meth, **Special Duty Deputy Jim Schnoor** was bitten in the hand by a Pit Bull Terrier while delivering an eviction notice at a residence in Lakeville. Why would they have a Pit Bull? It so happens that the Drug Task Force served a warrant at this address within the last several weeks, recovering over five grams of Meth. The homeowner had also installed cameras and microphones outside the home to warn him when people approached the home. Jim received 12 stitches from the bite and the dog received a fatal gunshot wound. Nothing is ever easy.

Law Enforcement Torch Run...

Deputy Jen Lenarz was instrumental in this year's Law Enforcement Torch Run to raise money for the Special Olympics. This year, the Torch Run was held on June 21st, and started in Apple Valley. Jen and **Sergeant Bruce Kammen** participated in this year's Grandma's Marathon held in Duluth last weekend.

Special thanks to **Julie Ecker** for all her work in putting together the format for this newsletter. This was no small task.

