



The ChapLine

Lewis County
Chaplaincy

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A Word From The President

For the past 24 years Lewis County Chaplaincy Services (LCCS) has been serving the communities in Lewis County. During that time we hope we have served in a way that has helped emergency responders, as well as the citizens. Regardless of which role a person is in, a traumatic call can affect a person throughout their life.

I sometimes wonder if our name is misleading in that some may think we only serve the rural county areas. In fact, LCCS is a county-wide organization that serves both the rural county as well as the cities.

It has always been our desire to have a specific chaplain or chaplains assigned to each of the individual departments. We are well aware of the importance of personnel knowing "their" chaplain and the chaplain knowing the personnel. We have not always been able to do this because of chaplain availability and location. We are gaining, however, and continue to work in that direction.

If you have someone in your area who would serve your department well as a chaplain, let us know or have them contact us. There are numerous benefits for all area chaplains to coordinate efforts to

provide chaplaincy services. We can integrate them into our training, provide backup coverage, and support them so they can better serve your department and community. As the chaplains always respond to the "worst of the worst" calls, they watch out for each other and become the "chaplain's chaplain" when needed.

We thank all of the agencies, churches, community groups and individuals who support LCCS. That support is what makes the chaplain's service to our communities possible.

Kevin Curfman, President



Kevin Curfman, 2C1

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Mission Statement

“Lewis County Chaplaincy Services is committed to assisting emergency agencies throughout the county in meeting the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of emergency crisis victims, their families and the emergency responders.”



These fine young men helped out with the December District 15 fire department Walk-n-Knock food drive. Department members and volunteers went door-to-door seeking donations and picking up grocery sacks filled with food and left on front porches by the community.

Walk-N-Knock is a crucial way of refilling the pantries of food banks throughout the area.

The ChapLine

is a quarterly newsletter of the Lewis County Chaplaincy Services—a volunteer organization dedicated to serving emergency responders and citizens of Lewis County, Washington.

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Story Ideas?

Please feel free to contact me if you have story ideas, calendar items, photos, etc. or any suggestions on what you'd like to see in the newsletter at:

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Terri L. Kistler



Goodbye And Good Luck to Ryan Wilson, 2C7

Chaplain Ryan Wilson received his acceptance to the seminary at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan. He will be leaving in May. Ryan has been an active member of LCCS since March of 2010. He and his wife Erin were blessed with a son (Bradley) in February 2011.

With the addition of Bradley and taking on responsibilities for pastoring of a second church in the past year and a half, Ryan has been very busy. Regardless, he still had time to continue in our chaplaincy. God speed to Ryan, Erin and Bradley! We will miss you!



Ryan Wilson, 2C7



If you are interested in becoming a Lewis County chaplain or know someone who is interested, please contact Kevin Curfman at 360/880-3473 or any of the other chaplains. In particular, there is a need for a chaplain to cover the eastern part of the county as far as Packwood.

Gunner's Ride Along

It was a beautiful Saturday morning in March, and my ever-constant companion, a German Wirehaired Pointer named Gunner, and I were running errands. I had stopped by District 5, Napavine, when a call came in for a chaplain. The call was urgent and close by so I notified central, and Gunner and I headed out, arriving on scene within a few minutes. A father had found his 50-year-old son deceased at home of natural causes.

The parents were sitting outside and I went up and introduced myself to them. They told me how they had come over to his residence to check on him as he had not answered his phone in a couple days. They were in shock and dismayed at their son's sudden, unexpected death. As we waited for the coroner, I listened to stories about their fishing adventures and other personal stories they shared.

Gunner was in my truck with windows down. He tends to whine continuously if he cannot be by my side and was whining in the truck so I asked if it was OK if I let him out. The parents said yes so I opened the truck door and Gunner jumped out and introduced himself. They made a fuss over him, which he liked, then he came back and laid down in the grass at my feet.

After some time the father, looking at Gunner, said "look at how he is laying!" I looked down and Gunner had his paws tucked up under his legs with his head stretched out between them. I said "well you know he is a chaplain's dog; he's praying". We all chuckled over that. This was Gunner's first "tone out", and I think he did pretty good in bringing a few minutes of comfort to two grieving parents.



Grant Kistler, 2C12





LCCO Mock Drill

On August 18, 2012, the Lewis County Coroner's Office (LCCO) held a mock, mass-fatality drill at Adna High School. All deputy coroners and reserve deputy coroners participated. "Victims" were drawn from family members and friends and ranged in age from young kids to adults. Volunteers helped with the moulage process where the victims were made up to look like they had sustained massive traumatic injuries.

The drill was coordinated with the Lewis County Department of Emergency Management (DEM). Ross McDowell and Jill Kangas were on hand to observe and evaluate our plan and how we handled the drill. The LCCO disaster trailer was initiated at this event and used as a mobile command post, as well as for transporting equipment. The exercise went well, and a lot of lessons were learned.

The drill was followed by an awesome barbecue where we fed everyone who participated. We almost had to fight off the Adna High School football team as they were finishing their first day of practice as we began to cook, ha ha.

It was a great day weatherwise and combined fun with learning. Our next plan is to participate in a drill with a fire district or two, then move on to be involved in a countywide mass casualty drill.







LCSO New Mobile Command Unit Field Trip

By Cathy Compton, 2C15

One of the things that I love about my job at KIT1 and Live 95 is that we stay close in touch with the Lewis County Sheriff's office. In addition to being on the air, I'm also the Public Service Announcements director and I get regular updates from Chief Deputy Stacy Brown.

So when I got the email from her regarding the open house to see the new Mobile Command Unit I was very excited! Until I read that the hours for the media and public to view the new vehicle were from 10am to noon. That is when I am on air at Live 95, and I knew I wouldn't be able to be absent at that time.



Cathy Compton,
2C15



Luckily, since I have built a relationship with several of the wonderful people at the Sheriff's department, I was able to make an appointment to see the Mobile Command Unit a little earlier.

I arrived at the motor pool parking lot and immediately located the vehicle. It was huge and clearly marked. The truck is 40 feet long, equipped with a 15kw generator, only has 7,500 miles and is in great condition. Amazingly, this vehicle was obtained through Federal Surplus at no cost. I walked up to the 1998 freightliner truck and noticed that there were several people inside

waiting for me.

Deputy Gene Seiber and Sheriff Mansfield greeted me at the door and invited me to come inside for the tour. Deputy Seiber told me that the vehicle was originally built for the US Navy and used as a mobile dental office. He then showed me pictures of what the inside used to look like, complete with a dental chair. He told me that before they acquired it, the vehicle was sitting unused in a field with vegetation growing on it!

He then showed me how they have updated the truck to make it operational. Deputy Seiber told me that they used volunteers from the Sheriff's office and inmate labor-





ers to do the work. One of the inmates was a carpenter by trade and utilized his skills to help. Approximately \$15,000 of grant and seizure funds were used to outfit the vehicle. Additional grant funds in 2013 will be used to purchase other necessary equipment for the vehicle.

The Mobile Command Unit replaces two aging vans used for the past 20 years and houses everything in one unit. It has a refrigerator for storing crime scene evidence. Plus it has a restroom and can now go anywhere and be self-contained.

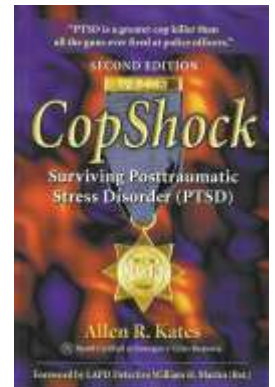
Sheriff Mansfield added that the multi-purpose vehicle will not be used just by the Sheriff's department, but also by other law enforcement agencies and fire departments. He said it will be used for "fun" purposes too, like being able to see it at the Southwest Washington Fair and other events around the county. This was a fun and informative field trip experience!

Book Review—Cop Shock, Surviving (PTSD)

"PTSD is a greater Cop killer than all the guns ever fired at police officers"

Author Allen R. Kates, board certified in emergency crisis response, spent several years interviewing police officers. Through their own words, Kates takes the reader into the law enforcement world offering a brief glimpse of the stresses police officers are routinely exposed to.

The first two thirds of the book cover 10 case-study subjects and their stories. Each subject describes in detail the various incidents they endured, including the World Trade Center attack, shootings, family issues, working on the bomb squad and serving as police dispatchers. The officers talk about how being involved in these events/occupations affected their lives and the lives of those around them. No two stories are alike, but one common thread seems to run through them all: initial denial and suppression of their feelings. The officers all cope with their post-traumatic stress disorder in compulsive, destructive ways and do not think anyone else is going through what they are going through. They tend to think of themselves as weak or defective in some way, and refuse to seek help or even talk to anyone about it.



The last third of the book discusses how to recognize the signs of someone with post-traumatic stress disorder and what to do about it. It suggests things that family members and friends can do, including peer support, seeking professional help, how to find a good therapist and how to build resilience. There also is a chapter dedicated to 20 specific support services. These organizations were screened by the author for their usefulness to law enforcement and their families.

The Appendix consists of six self tests that you can use to gauge your level of: resiliency, anxiety, stress, panic disorder, PTSD and depression.

This book is recommended reading by the International Association of Police Chaplains and is in its second edition. It was used as the basis for an A&E Television documentary that is used in police academies and peer support groups. I highly recommend this book to anyone who deals with traumatic situations and their family and friends.

Grant Kistler, 2C12



Community Service Fair 2013

By Betty Kitchen, 2C5

The Community Service Fair was held on Saturday and Sunday, February 16-17th at Bethel Assembly of God Church. Pastor Scott Collins acted as coordinator. There were approximately 400 adults who attended three services that weekend.



Betty Kitchen, 2C5

Approximately eleven vendors had set up displays within the foyer. The networking with church member and guests was a great experience. Surprisingly, many had questions that we take for granted. The statement I heard loud and clear was that the majority did not understand the chaplains are as involved in the community as we are. One woman in particular shared, "I recognize that there are needs, but had no idea that it was a chaplain who would be called to assist a family. I thought it just happened".

Fire District 5, Napavine, were next to the chaplain display in the fair, and they shared needs and services with the people, as well as a few great stories.

What I hope people attending the fair learned was that members of our community can anticipate well-trained and skilled department personnel, including chaplains, to meet their needs, no matter the emergency, whether that's a fire, an act of violence or a medical emergency. Our police and fire departments have access to well-trained, prepared chaplains to assist them.





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