



The Informer

Wausau Police
Department

The Informer
September 2016

September News

“We are only as strong as we are united, as weak as we are divided.”

J.K. Rowling

Is there no doubt that law enforcement is experiencing a very challenging time? I think all would agree that the law enforcement profession is under extreme scrutiny with many questioning police tactics and police training. People are wondering why police don't or can't use less than lethal options; or why police don't shoot the weapon out of a suspects hand rather than shoot the suspect.

Law enforcement agencies are desperate to achieve legitimacy in their communities.....to build partnerships, to educate stakeholders, and to solidify their support system that is vital for a successful law enforcement agency.

J.K. Rowling writes that we are only as strong as we are united. With all that has happened in the past few months, it would appear that our nation is divided. Let's scan the nation to get a glimpse of recent incidents:

- A police shooting (black officer shoots black male) in Charlotte, North Carolina. Police claim suspect got out of a vehicle with a gun and refused to drop the weapon and was shot. Protestors say the black male was carrying a book and not a gun. Riots ensued for the next couple days with looting, burning, and much damage. 16 police officers were injured during the violent protests. The Governor declared a state of emergency and the National Guard was called in.
- A police shooting (white female officer shoots black male) in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Officer says the male was not cooperating or obeying police commands and walked towards a vehicle and placed hands inside the vehicle when officer shot. Civil activist, Al Sharpton, holds press conference and claims police brutality. Tulsa Police Chief says the black male did not have a gun.
- Steve Kerr (Coach of Golden State Warriors) makes a public comment reference to these latest incidents.....“No matter what side of the spectrum you're on, I would hope that every American is disgusted with what is going on around the country.”
- Cam Newton (quarterback of the Carolina Panthers) also waded into matters of race relations and social injustice saying, “It's embarrassing for things to just keep happening.”
- An explosion rocked a crowded Manhattan neighborhood and injured 29 people. Another IED device was discovered blocks away and was safely removed.
- Five IED's were reported and recovered in Elizabeth, New Jersey, in a back pack.
- An explosion at a Military fun run in New Jersey.
- Terrorist bomber, Ahmad Khan Rahami, responsible for all three of the above pressure cooker IEDs, shoots two officers as they attempt to arrest him.
- An ISIS terrorist stabs nine people in a St. Cloud mall before an off duty officer shoots and kills him as the terrorist attacks the officer.
- Three Phoenix officers standing next to their squad car debriefing from a recent call were targeted by Marc LaQuon Payne who used his vehicle as a battering ram and attempted to drive into and run over all three officers. Two of the three officers received significant injuries.
- Officers are attacked with one officer being struck with a meat cleaver to his head as they investigated reports of an erratic male shouting “Allahu Akbar” at a Brooklyn synagogue.
- During a Black Lives Matter protest in Dallas, Texas, a man targeting police, shot 14 officers, killing five. The suspect saying he wanted to kill white officers for they were killing black people.
- Colin Kaepernick kneels during the National Anthem and claims, “I am not going to stand up to show pride in a flag for a country that oppresses black people and people of color. To me, this is bigger than football and it would be selfish on my

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“We are only as strong as we are united, as weak as we are divided.” Continued from previous page

part to look the other way. There are bodies in the street and people are getting paid leave and getting away with murder.” This stance fuels many others around the NFL to do the same thing during the National Anthem. This action is copied by the Indiana Fever, a WNBA team, as the whole team knelt in protest during the National Anthem.

The list of incidents could continue but you get the idea....we do not appear to be a Nation that is united. Strength is achieved through unity and in order to have the strength necessary to overcome these obstacles, we must unite as a Nation and work together. **Robert H. Schuller** said, *“Tough times never last, but tough people do.”*

We must engage our community, listen, educate, understand, self-assess, implement best practices, and guard against personal bias or predetermined ideas that cloud our judgement and reason. We must not be judgmental. We must not lump all incidents together or paint a picture with a broad brush. We must not claim racial bias when the circumstances don't support the claim. And we must hold ALL accountable. This includes officers when deadly force is not necessary and those who muddy the waters by making police brutality claims when officers are justified to use deadly force.

We (police) must be the pillars of strength that generate a movement that unites us all. We must model ourselves in a way that invites trust, that grows community support, and energizes people to want to work together for a better future, a better society, no matter what their race. These are clearly tumultuous times. We must remain strong, steadfast, and vigilant, for others will see how we respond and be encouraged to unite and make a difference in society. I'll end with quote that I feel is appropriate for these times. **“Ships don't sink because of the water around them. Ships sink because of the water that gets in them. Don't let what's happening around you get inside you and weigh you down.”**





Congratulations Detective Kurtzhals!



Detective Jillian Kurtzhals with husband
Officer Mark Kurtzhals and family

Join us in congratulating Jillian Kurtzhals on her promotion to Detective!

Detective Jillian Kurtzhals was hired in 2004 and assigned to patrol duties. Detective Kurtzhals has participated in the DART program since it began in 2008. Detective Kurtzhals represents the department and sits on the board of the Marathon County Domestic Abuse Intervention Team (MCDAIT). She has devoted much of her career to working with victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

Congratulations Detective Jillian Kurtzhals!



Congratulations Kristen Spiegel-Berg!

2016 Outstanding Achievement in Supporting Domestic Violence Victims Award

Congratulations Kristen for receiving the above award. Kristen has an office at the Wausau Police Department which makes it easy for us to see the value that Kristen brings to our department and to this community. We take pride in Kristen's accomplishments and we are pleased when others realize the value that Kristen brings to our community. Kristen is a great team member and is well deserving of this award.

The community is invited to honor Kristen and the Women's Community at its annual Block Party held at the Women's Community at 3200 Hilltop Ave, Wausau, WI on October 1, 2016. The Award Ceremony starts at 12:00 pm. We hope you will attend to help applaud her outstanding work! There will be food, K-9 dogs, firetrucks, and activities for children and families to enjoy.



Kristen Spiegel-Berg



First Responders Celebration Mountain Terrace Senior Living

Mountain Terrace invited all First Responders, but specifically, Wausau Police and Wausau Fire, to their first annual Public Safety day. Mountain Terrace had a ceremony where officials thanked public safety workers for all they do for the Wausau community. Guest speakers were introduced, the National Anthem was played, and many of us were able to meet the staff and residents of Mountain Terrace. Once the ceremony was complete, lunch was served. Wausau Police and Fire provided an opportunity for those interested to tour some of our vehicles and demonstrate some of our equipment. Everyone enjoyed themselves and we look forward to a great partnership with Mountain Terrace. Wausau Police and Fire give a big thank you to the folks at Mountain Terrace.



1ST ANNUAL FIRST RESPONDERS APPRECIATION BLOCK PARTY

First Responders Appreciation Day

- Free Food
- First Responders
- Music
- Truck Tours
- K-9 Demos
- Opportunity to say "Thank you" to area First Responders

11am-2pm

- ✦ Bring your camera for great photo opportunities with local fire and law enforcement!
- ✦ Open to all ages!
- ✦ All First Responders Invited

Join us as we celebrate our first responders
September 9, 2016
11am - 2pm

Mountain Terrace Senior Living
3312 Terrace Court
Wausau, WI 54401



Officer Zander & K9 Bak demonstrating for the residents.



A number of department members attended the ceremony and lunch.



Jacob's Wish

Some of you may remember the email we received from Appleton Police Department regarding Jacob. Jacob, who is 16 years old, was having surgery to remove a tumor. The Appleton Police Department, through Make a Wish foundation, was able to grant Jacob's wish of becoming a police officer for a day come true.

Appleton PD asked various police departments throughout the State of Wisconsin to gather as many cards, patches, challenge coins, or other police items and send them to Appleton PD. These items would then be shared with Jacob as he recovered from his surgery and when he spends the day as an "Honorary Officer".

Wausau Police Department sent Jacob a care package and received the below thank you.

Thank you for helping to make Jacob's wish come true!



Officer Jacob Frerking #9275



September 9th, 2016





Meet the Celebrity Guest Judge For the United Way Event at North Central Health Care

Captain Bliven was one of the judges for an employees soup contest at North Central Health Care. Ben was very impressed with the quality of the soup and how much he was able to eat. I heard Ben tell coworkers he hopes this turns into a full time gig.





The City of Wausau's Appreciation Lunch

Mayor Mielke, along with City Management, said Thank You to city employees by preparing a grilled lunch. A good time was had by all.





A Special Note to the Community From the Wausau Police Department

Community Invite

The Wausau PD wants to show our appreciation to the Wausau Community for their support.

Officers will provide brats, hotdogs, Beverages, & other goodies

Tuesday, August 30, 2016
Between 11:30 am to 1:00 pm
On the 400 Block



Due to the tremendous outpouring of support from our community over the past few months we wanted give back to the community for all their support.

On August 30, 2016 the Wausau Police Department held an appreciation lunch for the community.

The Community Thankyou Event was a huge success! We fed approximately 800-1000 people. Officers provided instructions & demonstrations of our evidence van, K9's, and squads cars. We are definitely looking forward to hosting this event next year.

Email from Alderperson Peckham

Definitely very well received in the community, chief. It was a solid idea, well executed and everybody seemed to be having a good time. Congrats!





Officer Appreciation for Lt. Pauls, Detective Kurtzhals, Officers Reince & Piskoty Letter from Jody Disher from Rib Mountain Bloodhounds

I would like to take a minute of your time to commend the actions of your officers. On September 5, 2016, I received a call from Lt. Pauls to assist with the use of my bloodhounds in the location of a missing person. Upon arriving I was met by Officers Jill Kurtzhals, Anthony Reince and later joined by Officer Paul Piskoty. They were professional, courteous and dedicated to the task at hand. In a day and age when police are criticized it is nice to hear good things about them. Not only does it reflect on them personally but on your department as a whole. Keep up the good work.



Lt. Melinda Pauls



Detective Jillian Kurtzhals



Officer Anthony Reince



Officer Paul Piskoty

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### Officer Appreciation for Officer Carr Note card delivered from an appreciative citizen

To whom it may concern -  
On Friday evening about 9 o'clock I was stopped on Mexico Avenue and was told my lights were out. It was so light on the Avenue. I didn't know I was turning knobs trying to find out why the light didn't go on when I opened the door. I must have turned off the lights then. The officer was very nice and I was glad he told me I would have noticed when I turned on our street as it was dark.

After I left I was upset with myself for not thanking him & all the men in blue who do good work. I don't like the bad wrap the police have been given.

Thank You! Thank you!



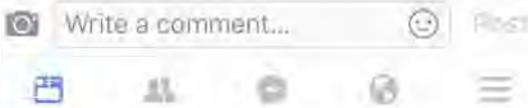
Officer Garrett Carr



### Officer Appreciation for Officer Buchkoski

#### Facebook Posting

I had a very notable experience tonight...I got pulled over by the Kronenwetter PD a few blocks from my house, embarrassing, I know, (for a missing front license plate)...I kept my hands in sight as the officer and I greeted each other, and when he asked for my ID I explained it was in my purse on the seat next to me before getting permission to turn away from him to dig for it...he went back to his suv and a few mintues after running my info he came back to my window to apologize for his printer being glitchy and unable to print my warning...Addie was screaming in the back seat, and had just spit up on herself...I apologized for the noise, and he apologized for the wait...he then allowed me to head home, where I got her cleaned up and in her jammies...a few minutes later there was a knock on my door, a hand-delivered written warning, and a compliment on my puppy...and THAT is respect. Thank you Officer Buchkoski for your patience and manners...I've never been more pleased to receive a citation ha ha



#### Email from Captain Bliven to Officer Buchkoski

I received this Facebook message over the weekend. You stopped this woman during a traffic grant for not having a front license plate. This contact put more trust into the trust bank in our community. Thank you for your diligent effort to model our core values of professionalism and respect. Continue striving for excellence in all that you do. Thanks



Officer Kyle Buchkoski



### Appreciation for Communications Specialists Ganski & Thao-Kong Email from Lt. Dachel to Sheriff's Lieutenant Hanousek



Julie Ganski

I wanted to take a moment to advise you of the great job a couple off your communications specialists did yesterday. I made a traffic stop for a seatbelt violation and almost immediately I was advised that the vehicle/ subject I stopped was wanted for questioning in regards to a burglary in the town of Plover. Julie Ganski and Nong Thao-Kong were the ones advising me of this but Nong said Julie was the main one.



Nong Thao-Kong

Because of their heads up work we recovered several thousands of dollars in stolen items from the Town of Plover burglary and gained as suspect and recovered and item in a burglary from the City of Wausau.



**Officer Appreciation for Officers Martin & Meyer  
Email from Citizen to Chief Hardel**



Officer James Martin

Normally, I seldom take time to voice an opinion on such matters, but I felt compelled (in today's world) to express my sentiments concerning this recent local law enforcement action:

Last Friday (or was it Saturday) eve, while working in my garage, I just happened to look out the window and observe one of the WPD officers stop to confront a couple of individuals who had been noted riding bikes through the neighborhood on several occasions that day; this particular instance heading North on 7<sup>th</sup> St near the intersection of Winton; they appeared to be a middle-aged man and a youth of approximately 4-years.



Officer Shawn Meyer

I just wanted to commend the engaging officer on the apparent professional manner in which he had confronted, treated and managed the situation until the backup officer arrived. Initially, I was concerned for the, perhaps frightened, youth as he / she patiently stood by while the man was under deliberation, and then eventually took a seat several feet from the man, who was also seated at this time. Once the man was eventually escorted into the cruiser, I was impressed at how the engaging officer subsequently appeared to comfort the youth until the backup officer arrived, and who also appeared to do an admirable job in questioning and comforting the youth; even as the time was approaching 45 minutes or so after the initial engagement, and as darkness was setting in.

Having lived in this area for 40+ years, I am grateful for your continued presence in our neighborhood and, in general, your service to the community.

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**Officer Appreciation for Officer Buchkoski
Email from Captain Bliven to Officer Buchkoski**

I spent some time reviewing your video from a recent incident. This incident could have went sideways in a hurry. When this veteran decided he wanted to speak with you rather than your trainee, your immediate response was to tell him that you wanted to get him some help. It wasn't so much what you said, in terms of how you handled this incident, it was how you said it.

As you began to speak, the compassion in your voice made all the difference. You immediately put this man at ease and comforted him when he had clearly stated his intentions to commit suicide.

Kyle, I'm so impressed with the progress you've made as a police officer. You're making a difference in our community by demonstrating our core values. Excellent work and thank you for your continued professionalism.



Officer Kyle Buchkoski



Officer Spotlight Officer Snow Thao

Nyob zoo (Hello), my name is Snow Thao, badge number 3163. I am currently finishing up my phase 3 training. I was born in Illinois, but raised in Wausau. I was the first child in my family born in the States. My family was sponsored over by a wonderful family from Wilmette, IL. They have been a huge part of our lives and we have had continued contact with them for the last 37 years.

I come from a large family. I have ten siblings, twenty-one nieces and nephews, and six step-siblings. I have one step-brother here in Wausau and the rest of his siblings are in France. Believe it or not, we all get along very well!!! I have been blessed with a wonderful husband, Vincent and one son, Cole.

I graduated with a Wausau West diploma through Northcentral Technical College – Alternative High School in 1998. Most of my adult work has been in Health Care. I have had the privilege of working in many settings of health care such as, Nursing Homes, Home Care, Assisted Living, and Clinics. I decided to continue on with my education in the summer of 2007 part-time. I enrolled at UWMC-Marathon with hopes of getting my Nursing degree.

After a couple of years at UWMC, I had a change of heart in my career goal. I wanted to do something different but yet still be involved with the community. Law Enforcement had always been a “what if” for me. I discussed this possible career change with my husband and before I knew it, I was enrolled at Northcentral Technical College for Criminal Justice with a start date of January 2011.

My next two years at NTC was an amazing experience. During my time at NTC, I did volunteer work through the Criminal Justice Club as well as volunteering for the Wausau Emergency Police. I made new friends who are now also co-workers. I was able to participate in their Advance Standing Certification Track program, which gave me the opportunity to be certifiable (meaning, I was able to work in LE and not have to take the academy separate) at the end of my schooling. I graduated in December 2012 with my Associates Degree and with honors.

The last two and a half years I worked for Marathon County Sheriff’s Department. I spent one year as a Reserve Deputy doing Court Security and one and half years working as a full-time Correctional Officer. I loved my positions there, but when I was accepted for the process with Wausau Police Department, I could not pass that up. Working the road as patrol was always my end goal in school. I am very excited and proud to be working in my hometown. I believe this is a great community and I am honored to be given an opportunity to work with this department. I look forward to a long career with Wausau.



Officer Snow Thao





Be safe, always appreciate your blessings, and never take things for granted.

Jeff Hardel
Chief of Police
Wausau Police Department

Leadership Quotes:

In prosperity, our friends know us; in adversity, we know our friends.

John Churton Collins

Going through difficult times augments our capacity for pleasure: it keeps us from taking pleasure for granted, reminds us to be grateful for all the large and small pleasures in our lives.

Tal Ben-Shahar

Times of great calamity and confusion have ever been productive of the greatest minds. The purest ore is produced from the hottest furnace, and the brightest thunderbolt is elicited from the darkest storm.

Charles Caleb Colton