



HUGO

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | MARCH-APRIL 2026



K9 Odie



K9 Rogue



K9 Penny



K9 ROUNDUP

Some of Washington County Sheriff's Office furry partners have been in the news lately. Here's a quick roundup:

First, K9 Odie has retired after 3½ years working with the Washington County Drug Task Force and the Drug Enforcement Agency Task Force Group. Throughout his time at the Sheriff's Office, K9 Odie helped seize approximately 900 pounds of methamphetamine, 400 pounds of cocaine, 5 pounds of heroin and more than \$300,000 cash. Odie will enjoy retirement with handler Sgt. Justin McDonough. K9 Rico remains active with the narcotics unit and has been joined by K9 Rogue, a 1-year-old black lab who will be certified in narcotics detection. K9 Rogue will be assigned to the DEA Task Force Group with his handler, a WCSO narcotics detective.

Also, K9 Penny, a 6-month-old golden retriever who has quickly become an office bright spot, continues her training to become certified as a therapy dog on the Coordinated Response Team. K9 Penny will work with her handler, Det. Julia Weegman, when responding with social workers to calls involving mental health and people in crisis, providing a calm, comforting presence.

Finally, WCSO's award-winning K9 Unit recently received a \$10,000 donation from a Dellwood resident in memory of his late wife, a dog lover. This generous donation will be used for equipment needs such as K9 ballistic vests; first aid kits; 6-foot nylon obedience leads, 15- and 30-foot tracking leads and tracking harnesses; agitation muzzles and pinch/correction collars; bite suits, bite pillows and sleeves; scent training aids; and crates and kennels. Since 2026 began, WCSO has already logged 30 K9 deployments, with incidents that involved building searches, warrants, vehicle pursuits, narcotics detection, burglaries and assaults.

NUMBER OF
INCIDENTS

300

TRAFFIC
STOPS

193

CITATIONS

49

WC26013766

VANDALISM

5XXX UPPER 146TH STREET N

At 5:40pm on March 24, deputies got a report of two teens spray-painting the skateboard area of Lions Park. A witness described the two teens to arriving deputies and said they had left quickly, leaving their skateboards behind. A deputy found the skateboards and placed them in the back of a squad, then went to check on the vandalism. The deputy found magenta paint around the circumference of a circular tabletop. While speaking with the witness, two teens approached the park on bikes; the witness told the deputy they were the perpetrators. The teens approached the deputy to ask about the skateboards and were told they could get them back after providing their names and information about the vandalism. After getting the teens' names and addresses, the deputy asked who had used the spray paint. One teen admitted it was him alone. The deputy returned their skateboards and the teens left. The deputy spoke with the offending teen's mother, who said she wanted the legal process to play out, hoping for community service. The teen will receive a juvenile citation for property damage, a misdemeanor; pending the citation and review of the report, punishment will be determined by city leadership and the city attorney.

MESSAGE FROM THE SHERIFF

This month we highlight the dedicated professionals of the Washington County Emergency Communication Response Center. Public Telecommunications Appreciation Week, also known as National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week, will be April 12-18, a time to honor their vital contribution to public safety.

Our ECRC telecommunicators are often the first point of contact for people in need of emergency and non-emergency services alike. They answer calls spanning the jurisdiction of nine law enforcement agencies, including the Sheriff's Office; 14 fire service agencies; and nine emergency medical agencies. In 2025, Washington County's ECRC answered 79,504 calls for service on 911 and received 100,319 calls on the non-emergency line. This makes a grand total of 179,823 calls answered by the WCSO ECRC last year — an average of more than 492 calls a day.

In addition to being a calm voice for people calling for help, our telecommunicators provide vital real-time information to law enforcement, firefighters and paramedics, allowing them to arrive on a scene with the knowledge they need to provide quick, effective aid.

We salute these important first responders and thank them for their service!



In service,

Dan Starry

Sheriff Dan Starry