



CITY OF PULLMAN WASHINGTON

Police Department
Gary Jenkins, Chief of Police
Police Business (509) 334-0802
Police Fax (509) 332-0829
police@pullman-wa.gov
www.pullman-wa.gov/police
260 SE Kamiaken St., Pullman WA 99163-2664

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Police Department Staff Recognized

PULLMAN – The Maynard-Price American Legion Post 52 Commander Ted Weatherly presented awards to four Pullman Police staff during the February 2, 2016 Pullman City Council meeting.

Sergeant Jake Opgenorth received the “Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award.” As the detective supervisor, Sgt. Opgenorth is responsible for direction and oversight of all major criminal investigations. 2015 provided challenging and high profile cases, including a homicide and arson. Jake ensured the investigations were conducted with competence, thoroughness, and professionalism. Sgt. Opgenorth is a leader who exemplifies the Pullman Police Department mission statement of “Serving our Community with Compassion and Professionalism.” Jake Opgenorth has been a police officer for over 23 years.

Officers Michael Crow and Aaron Breshears received the “Humanitarian Award” for their judgement and actions during the pursuit and capture of a mass shooting suspect fleeing from Moscow, Idaho in January, 2015. Officer Crow located the suspect vehicle entering Pullman and followed the vehicle through downtown, choosing to wait for a safer location to attempt apprehension. With the assistance of Officer Breshears, the officers chased the suspect at high speeds when the suspect failed to stop for the officers. After a 22 minute chase, the suspect lost control of his vehicle and was ultimately apprehended without further incident. The suspect has several weapons in his possession at time of arrest. The actions of the officers averted the potential for innocent persons to be harmed. Officers Crow and Breshears have been police officers for over 17 years.

Records Specialist Joshua Sanders received the “Lifesaving Award” for alerting officers to an arrestee who appeared to be attempting to hang himself in a holding cell. Officers responded to the cell and removed the shirt from the subject’s neck. Josh’s actions likely saved his life. Josh also received an “Official Commendation” from Police Chief Gary Jenkins at the December 14, 2015 Police Advisory Committee meeting. Joshua Sanders has been a Records Specialist at Pullman PD for nearly 4 years.

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