

# TRANSITION TIMES



**VOLUME 23, ISSUE 1**

**1st QUARTER 2022**

## DUI Task Force Law Enforcement Recognition Ceremony

A large crowd gathered at the pre-release on February 23<sup>rd</sup> for a long overdue celebration and recognition of law enforcement personnel. DUI Task Force Coordinator Corey Hoskins led the ceremony, and Mayor Bob Kelley graced the audience with words of support. Here are the individuals nominated for the year 2021:



**Neil Anthon – City Attorney’s Office:** Chief Prosecutor Neil Anthon helped to lead the city’s criminal division through an aggressive Municipal Court schedule as it was recovering from COVID –related impacts. While the office was down five attorneys, Mr. Anthon personally handled additional cases and undertook the driver’s license suspension hearings. The City Attorney’s office is consistently impressed with Mr. Anthon’s willingness to take even the most difficult DUI cases to trial. Mr. Anthon is always willing to take on a challenge, diligently prosecuting DUI’s and other crimes.

Mr. Anthon has worked with the Montana Crime Lab and other jurisdictions on how to present testimony. As the Chief Prosecutor, Mr. Anthon also meets with law enforcement officers, providing legal advice to coordinate and improve law enforcement within our city.

The City of Great Falls Legal Department values Mr. Anthon’s dedication to his work, including numerous extra hours preparing and trying cases. This is time away from his family, and we sincerely appreciate what he does for the citizens of Great Falls.

**Dan Arnold – Montana Highway Patrol:** During the course of a year, Trooper Arnold processed 54 individuals for Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol or Drugs, issued 19 citations for Minors being in Possession of Alcohol, and 34 citations for Open Container violations. Trooper Arnold works closely with the Cascade County Attorney’s Office to ensure a high conviction rate.

In addition to his regular patrol, Trooper Arnold worked STEP overtime, specifically looking for impaired drivers during local events and throughout the summer months. He also works diligently with the Cascade County DUI Task Force and assisted in completing a study to present to the last legislative session in regard to DUI offenses.

Through Trooper Arnold’s dedication to the mission of the Montana Highway Patrol, and his desire to remove impaired drivers from the public roadways, he truly makes the community a safer place.



## DUI Task Force Law Enforcement Recognition Ceremony - continued



**Preston Rammell – County Attorney’s Office:** Deputy County Attorney Preston Rammell received his law degree and passed the bar in 2018. Mr. Rammell initiated his career as a civil litigator and went on to be a criminal defense attorney in Kalispell.

In 2020 Mr. Rammell relocated to Great Falls and was hired on at the Cascade County Attorney’s office. Up to 3 DUI cases cross his desk each week, resulting in convictions or plea agreements.

Deputy County Attorney Rammell enjoys working with law enforcement and striving to make the community a positive and safer environment.

**Kevin Supalla – Great Falls Police Department:** Master Police Officer Kevin Supalla has served the citizens of the City of Great Falls as a police officer in their Patrol Services Bureau since April of 2013. Since his appointment, Officer Supalla has excelled in the area of traffic and impaired driving enforcement.

He is ARIDE certified, a Standardized Field Sobriety Test instructor, a Drug Recognition Expert, and is well known to law enforcement and the criminal justice system in the State of Montana for his exemplary performance and expertise in this field. He regularly instructs new officers at the local, state and regional levels in impaired driving enforcement and takes great care to ensure that these officers are well equipped with the skills necessary to keep the communities of Montana safer for the motoring public.

Officer Supalla has also been a valued member of the Field Training Officer Program, the GFPD High Risk Unit, and he currently works as a member of the Direct Enforcement Team.



**Jacob Tri – Cascade County Sheriff’s Office:** Deputy Jacob Tri has aggressively enforced DUI violators throughout his career with the CCSO. Additionally, Deputy Tri is a Drug Recognition Expert and a Breath Test Specialist Senior Operator and Instructor.

Deputy Tri had the highest number of DUI arrests for our office during the 2020 year. Deputy Tri would likely have even more DUI arrests, but he spent most of 2020 as a FTO, training new deputies. However, through this training, Deputy Tri mentored many young deputies on how to properly enforce Montana’s DUI laws.

Deputy Tri led the office by example and protecting our citizens on the roadways of Cascade County, making them safer for all.

**Randi White – Malmstrom Air Force Base:** Staff Sergeant Randi White oversees the Law Enforcement Operations at Malmstrom Air Force Base and trains the Malmstrom AFB Security Forces and local civilian law enforcement officers.

SSgt White coordinated and organized Department of Justice Crime Lab and Montana Highway Patrol Standardized Field Sobriety Test courses at MAFB.

She stepped up her efforts in the fight against drinking and driving by attending MHP Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement and led other Airmen to become ARIDE certified. Additionally, she was chosen by Montana Highway Patrol to attend the MHP SFST Instructor Course.

SSgt White spearheaded the 2021 MT State Fair DUI Task Force Booth and ensured fallen Trooper Hanes’ memory never fades. She organized over 34 volunteers, sacrificing 166 hours, demonstrating the effects of driving under the influence.





GREAT FALLS / CASCADE COUNTY

# CRIMESTOPPERS

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## You are invited to a Great Falls / Cascade County CRIMESTOPPERS Event

Join Crimestoppers for a community program featuring local and regional experts to discuss how the law affects what they can and cannot do.

Panelists include:

- ❖ Municipal Court Judge Steve Bolstad
- ❖ Police Chief Jeff Newton
- ❖ Pre-Release Director Alan Scanlon
- ❖ Sheriff Jesse Slaughter
- ❖ DEA Montana Resident Agent in Charge Stacy Zinn-Brittain

After the panelists speak, the audience will have the opportunity to ask questions.

**When:** Thursday, March 31, 2022 from 6:30 – 8:45 PM

**Where:** University of Providence, UC Conference Center B  
(near the corner of 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue South and 20<sup>th</sup> Street)

Or join us online! A link will be posted on the Crimestoppers Facebook page.

Join with a video conferencing device: [622577839@t.plcm.vc](mailto:622577839@t.plcm.vc) Video Conference ID: 115 752 771 3

Or call in (audio only): 1-406-272-6841 Phone Conference ID: 596 759 618#

## Leadership Great Falls

The 2022 Leadership Great Falls group stopped by on February 17<sup>th</sup> to learn a bit about Great Falls Pre-Release. Executive Director, Alan Scanlon explained the workings of the program and brought up common misconceptions about the center and the residents. Group members asked some great questions with one comment being that the pre-release program is harder than they expected.



**Alan Scanlon**

Executive Director, Great Falls Pre-Release



**The 2022 Leadership Great Falls Group**

## Staff Promotion – Julie Sangster

By Dan McLaughlin and Brenda Demers



We are thrilled to announce the promotion of Julie Sangster from Compliance Officer to the Community Service/DUI Task Force Coordinator. Julie joined the Great Falls Pre-Release family over six years ago and progressively advanced to more responsible positions in our Compliance Officer ranks, where she has worked diligently in virtually every shift and campus. There is no task, problem, or issue that she cannot master, and we believe her a perfect fit for her new role. Julie commented, “I enjoy working at Great Falls Pre-Release because I like to help people that don’t have the self-confidence or know-how to help themselves.”

Julie grew up on a Geraldine ranch that raised cattle and pigs. She worked for the Town of Geraldine in the summers repairing the streets and the water and sewer lines. After getting married, Julie and her husband, Brent, made their home in Great Falls where Julie worked with developmentally disabled adults for nearly five years prior to hiring on at the pre-release.

Julie and Brent have a 9 year old daughter and 6 year old twin boys. They own a water company and haul water when they aren’t working their regular full time jobs. The couple is instilling their love of animals and ranch life in their children, raising them on a small ranch with horses, cattle, and chickens.

**New Staff:** We welcome back Roxi Stroh as a Correctional Treatment Specialist. We also welcome new Compliance Officers Troy Bonde, Tamra Pontow, Shaila Rupp, and David Zinzilieta.

## Employee Milestone

By Brenda Demers



### Jim Kist, Security Coordinator – 5 years

Jim is a Minnesota native and a veteran of the United States Air Force. Jim’s specialty in the military was that of Personnel Specialist, which in civilian terms relates to human resources. As Jim was training at Keesler AFB in Biloxi, Mississippi, Hurricane Katrina made her grand entrance. He volunteered to extend his 6 week stay to 16 weeks to help with the aftermath of the disaster. Jim said, “It was everything you would see in a movie. It was insane. All the casino riverboats were washed up on shore.” A year later Jim returned to Mississippi and noted that the people were trying to get back to a normal, but the destruction was still evident.

While stationed in Mountain Home, Idaho, Jim deployed to Iraq. He vividly recalled an event with incoming mortar and his bunkmate pulling him from the top bunk to save him from getting hit. Jim also recalled his experience volunteering at the emergency room in Balad. This is where all of the injured and dead U.S. service members within the country of Iraq are flown to. “Every 15 minutes a helicopter landed where we would rush to the landing pad, grab the stretchers, and race them into the emergency room.”

Later, Jim was stationed in Okinawa, Japan for 2 years where he sorted all of the U.S. military mail at the international airport and inspected the shipping containers as they arrived onto the island. While there, he deployed to Bahrain, a small country bordering Saudi Arabia. Jim said he loved the people and the culture of Japan. He added, “The food was awesome!”

## Employee Milestone

### Jim Kist - continued

After Japan, Jim was given the assignment of Malmstrom AFB here in Great Falls. I asked if he met his wife here, so he explained that he was in the process of getting rid of his Match.com account because he didn't like it. A girl named Crystal didn't really want to be on Match.com either, but she was a divorced, single mom, and her mother was prodding her to find another mate. Jim put it like this: "Crystal sent a simple, small, innocent message, I responded back, and that's where we are today."

When Jim separated from the military in 2015 he had no idea what he wanted to do career wise. Well, he really wanted to be a police officer, but he said, "I kind of chickened myself out." Jim worked at a car dealership and as a 911 dispatcher. Then he saw the opening for the Compliance Officer Supervisor at Great Falls Pre-Release. He had never heard of Great Falls Pre-Release and had no idea what it was. He went ahead and applied and was granted an interview. The CO Supervisor position had been filled internally, so he was offered a Compliance Officer position. Jim remembers not having a lot of confidence at the interview and answering some of the questions maybe a bit too bluntly. At the time, he really didn't have an interest in corrections or even community corrections. He was still yearning to be a police officer. He applied and interviewed numerous times with the police department and was disappointed each time to be rejected.

As always, good things come from what we think is bad at the time, and eventually the Security Coordinator position opened, so Jim applied and was hired. Jim is thriving in the position, and now has a forward direction in his career. He is also interning with Great Falls Probation and Parole. Jim enjoys what he does and said he never expected to make so many professional relationships. Jim's job includes a lot of investigating. He shared that the hardest part of his job is weighing the important stuff versus the non-important stuff.

What has Jim learned as far as dealing with people? "As a CO I was hard headed. I was probably a jerk a lot of the times to residents and probably to staff too, but being in this position I've learned to take a step back." Jim continues to use the tools from the training classes he has attended along with his P&P internship to improve his communication skills. "A lot of it is listening and repeating back what the person says. It shows they are being validated. You aren't calling them out on their downfalls, but in a way questioning them so they will open up and speak about things."



For recreation Jim enjoys fishing, a hobby that has carried on since his days in Minnesota, and snowboarding. His priority is spending time with his family. They try to get out as much as they can, sometimes even taking a weekend trip out of town. It is evident that family is important to Jim. I asked Jim what he likes about being a dad, and he responded, "Everything, really. Just watching them grow and change. Courtney came into my life when she just turned 8. It feels like yesterday she was 8 and now she is driving a car and working."

Jim and Crystal are raising 17 year old Courtney, 14 year old Oliver, 12 year old Noah, and 7 year old William.





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### **TRANSITION TIMES**

Brenda Demers, Editor  
Great Falls Pre-Release Services, Inc.  
1019 15<sup>th</sup> Street North  
Great Falls, MT 59401  
brenda@gfprc.org  
406-455-9323

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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**Kathy Van Tighem:** Counselor, Great Falls High School

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

Great Falls Pre-Release Services, Inc. provides a cost-effective alternative to incarceration for offenders through a variety of community-based correctional treatment programs. Great Falls Pre-Release Services, Inc. is dedicated to public safety and trust through professional, quality services which facilitate personal growth through positive change and individual responsibility of assigned offenders.



gfprc.org

### **Vision Statement**

Dedicated to providing resources and opportunities that safely and successfully restore offenders into society.

#### **Statement of Values**

- *Motivation:* A desire to help others reach their full potential.
- *Professionalism:* Maintain proper interactions with staff, residents, and the community.
- *Accountability:* Take ownership for successes and shortcomings, to ourselves and others
- *Equality:* Ensure equality by expressing, in attitudes and actions, respect for all.
- *Dignity:* Model behavior in a respectful manner to instill a sense of self-respect and to bolster a positive self-image.
- *Community:* Develop a positive environment that facilitates healthy change as the residents integrate into the broader community.