

WPD Employees and Political Leaders Accomplishments Celebrated

Several members of the WPD were honored at a ceremony held at the police department on Tuesday afternoon. Chief Joanna Vitek presided over the event which was also used to publicly thank several outgoing political leaders for their years of service to the WPD.

Former Mayor Paul Fox and City Council members Gordon Garnos, Carol Arbogast, Tuffy Gisselbeck, and George Heller were given certificates of appreciation for their longstanding support of the police department.



Detective Amber Tennant recently completed a 10-week training program at the National Forensics Academy in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. Tennant received a scholarship from the Bureau of Justice that paid for her tuition and lodging expenses. She received highly specialized training in the areas of crime scene management, arson, photography, latent fingerprint processing, death investigation, DNA, autopsy, bone trauma, child fatality, manners of death, wound pattern interpretation, and forensic anthropology.

Officers Reuben Kinnunen and Ryan Fischer recently graduated from the South Dakota Law Enforcement Officer Basic Certification Course. The



12-week course is a requirement of all new law officers. Fischer was also honored for receiving the Top Gun award while at the class in Pierre. The award is given to

the class member that demonstrates the highest level of firearms proficiency and accuracy.

Explorer Elijah Kuhlman recently returned from the U.S Marshal's Service Leadership Academy in Washington, D.C. Funding for transportation costs

was provided by the Explorer donation fund, which is handled by the Watertown Community Foundation. Kuhlman participated in a variety of exercises and training classes during the weeklong trip. His experience included tours of several government buildings including the US Secret Service headquarters and the US Supreme Court. Kuhlman also participated in training sessions with the US Marshals Service, the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, and an Emergency Vehicle Operations Course with the US Secret Service presidential limo drivers.

Explorers Tanner Starr and Kelly Oelrich received awards while attending the South Dakota



Explorers' Challenge in Rapid City July 10th through the 12th. The challenge brought together Police Explorers from across the state and allowed them to

participate in activities designed to expose the participants to areas of law enforcement such as constitutional law, crime scene investigation, fitness, and teambuilding.

School Resource Officers Terry Ingalls and Chad Stricherz along with Secretary Connie Cutler were thanked for their efforts in coordinating this year's Camp Chance activities held July 8th through July 24th. In all, 154 people donated 1,770 hours of their time to allow 120 children to participate in this year's Camp Chance.

