



# Cowlitz County

County Administration Building  
207 Fourth Avenue North  
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[www.co.cowlitz.wa.us](http://www.co.cowlitz.wa.us)

## News Release

October 6, 2009

### Greg Yokel, Public Works; Patty Kero, Assessor's Office; and Sheriff Deputy Ryan Plank; Recognized for their Excellence in Service to the County

The Board of Cowlitz County Commissioners presented Greg Yokel, Public Works; Patty Kero, Assessor's Office; and Sheriff Deputy Ryan Plank, *Excellence Awards* for their work in 2009.



Kathleen Johnson, Greg Yokel, Patty Kero, Axel Swanson, Ryan Plank and George Raiter

As Commissioner Raiter presented the awards he stated "These employees are heroes and go beyond the call of duty".

Greg Yokel is Foreman of the Longview road shop and has been with the Road Operations Division for 32 years. He is recognized as the historical authority for the road work in the west end of the County. Greg is constantly working to find a level of cooperation and mutual understanding between the County and the road crew. Greg has a tremendous work ethic.

Patty Kero recognized the County as one entity and as such strives to give her best to any assignment. She has made a significant impact in improving services for the departments and the public. She has superb ability to listen, analyze, interpret and complete any project timely and efficiently. Many of Patty's innovative programs have saved the county untold hours of manual processing throughout the county.

Ryan Plank has been with the Sheriff's Office for seven years. His current assignment is as the School Resource Officer (SRO) at Toutle Lake High School, and Field Training Officer. Deputy Plank went into a situation where there was no program in place, mandating that he work with the school administration to create a viable program with the greatest chance of success. He began building the trust that is critical to the success of an SRO program.

Seven county employees were nominated for the award – Kelli Bowen, Patty Kero, Alice Millward, Denise O'Hollaren, Ryan Plank, Maryann Rehaume, and Greg Yokel.

#### Contact

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