With the change of the seasons, also comes more changes within our organization. We’ve recently had two retirements happen, Sergeant Shannon left after 27 years and Police Service Dog ‘Lobo’ has had to retire after providing safety and security to our staff and community due to an unforeseen medical condition. We wish them both a healthy and happy retirement!

We have just completed our Sergeant’s Assessment Center and had five outstanding applicants step up to fill our current vacancy and the anticipated spots that will open next year. The process was very competitive and the scores were close. I anticipate promoting one person by November 1. We will also be testing to fill the two (2) current Police Officer vacancies and our goal is to get them onboard by the first of the year so they can provide some relief to our Patrol staff that has been running thin for the majority of the year.

Congratulations to Detective Adam Haggerty and Officer Ruben Ramirez who both tested to remain in their respective positions as a Detective and Canine Handler. Detective Haggerty will continue his efforts as part of JNET and Ruben will be starting an academy with his new partner in mid-November. Additionally, Officer Mike Lowrey has hit the ground running as our new School Resource Officer and from the feedback I have been receiving is doing an outstanding job working with both the school staff and the students.

I wish you and your family a safe and happy holiday season. I also hope to see many of you at our annual Centralia Police Department Christmas Party on December 18th at the Aerie Ballroom!

Stay safe!

~Chief Nielsen
In May 2017, members of LCSO and Joint Narcotics Enforcement Team (JNET) investigated a Marijuana cultivation organization that stemmed from California to Washington State. During this investigation, LCSO conducted a search warrant in the 100 block of Senn Road with the assistance of JNET. During this search warrant, over 2500 growing Marijuana plants were seized along with numerous pounds of dried product and thousands of dollars of grow equipment. Through this investigation, members of JNET conducted numerous search warrants yielding information that led to two more locations.

On September 27th, 2017, members of the Lewis County Regional SWAT Team, JNET, Centralia Police Department, LCSO, Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Control Board and Chehalis PD executed search warrants in the 400 block of Centralia Alpha Road and 200 block of Pattee Road. During these search warrants, over 2200 growing marijuana plants were seized, along with approximately 28 pounds of dried marijuana and thousands of dollars in grow equipment.

While executing the search warrant on Pattee Road, two individuals identified as Jian Ming ZHU, a 61 year old resident of San Francisco and Jin Liang TAN, a 36 year old male, also from San Francisco were arrested and booked into the Lewis County Jail on charges of Unlawful Manufacturing of Marijuana within 1000 feet of a School bus stop and Unlawful Possession with the Intent to Deliver Marijuana within 1000 feet of a school bus stop. All processed Marijuana in this investigation is believed to be shipped via mail and the highway system to the East Coast.

Marijuana is legal in Washington under the provisions of Initiative 502, allowing a person 21 or older to possess 1 ounce of dried product and other infused items. It is also legal medicinally where with the proper documentation, one can grow between 6 and 15 plants under RCW 69.51A. This operation was clearly an abuse of Washington State laws.

This case is still being investigated by JNET and other State and Federal Agencies. There are several outstanding suspects in this investigation that are being sought.

K-9 Lobo retiring after 7 years of service

In June 2010, K9 Lobo joined the Centralia Police family and began his K9 training in September 2010. Lobo completed his certification in December 2010 and has been an asset to the Centralia Police Department and community for the past seven years. Lobo is partnered with Officer Ruben Ramirez, a 16 year veteran of the Centralia Police Department.

During his career, Lobo was deployed 197 times with successful captures in 84 incidents. These deployments involved building searches, area searches, evidence searches, straight takes and K9 tracks. He has participated in 24 public demonstrations throughout the community.

Lobo became certified to detect narcotics in May 2016 and has had a total of eight vehicle sniffs. Lobo’s most notable seizure was 24 pounds of methamphetamine, concealed in a gas tank of a vehicle. Lobo has also assisted in the seizure of approximately $100,000 in drug related cash.

Lobo will be retiring as of September 30, 2017 due to an unforeseen medical condition. The City of Centralia will honor K9 Lobo on September 26, 2017 at the city council meeting and will deem it “Police K9 Lobo Appreciation Day”.

While Lobo cannot be replaced, the Centralia Police Department is currently seeking to appoint another K9 handler and purchase another K9. Officer Ramirez is one of two applicants seeking to fill the handler position.

The entire Centralia Police Department K9 program, apart from the salary of the police officer and patrol vehicle is supported by donations from the public, including donated food, medical care and cost for acquisition and training of the dog.