

Nominator: Community Education, Debi Wade Jordan, 270-842-4281, djordan@commed.us  
Nominee: Kevin Wiles

**NOMINATION FOR THE ANNE GRUBBS SPIRIT OF SERVICE AWARD FOR  
KEVIN WILES**

Community Education nominates Kevin Wiles for the Anne Grubbs Spirit of Service Award for his quiet, steady service to our community. He currently is the deputy chief of police for Bowling Green.

Kevin has served on the Community Education Board of Directors for more than nine years. He has been instrumental in assisting the agency with the sometimes unpleasant aspects of human behavior that we encounter while providing a safe and engaging environment for children. His guidance for us in those unfortunate circumstances have been pivotal in protecting both children and staff members. Confidentiality prohibits me from going into detail, but if you work at all with the public or with social services, you can imagine. (In 2006, Kevin and six of his colleagues were awarded medals of service from the Bowling Green Police Department for their roles in a standoff, during which a sheriff's deputy was held hostage. Former Interim Police Chief Jerry Wells described Kevin as a "policeman's policeman.")

In addition, Kevin has been a steadfast supporter of Community Education's long-running fundraiser, Spellabration. He has picked up food items to deliver hot and fresh to the event. He even has been a judge, having the challenging responsibility of choosing the "best of" participation categories.

His service does not stop with Community Education, however. It expands into the school system where he volunteers with several high school sports teams at Greenwood High School, including swim, track and cross-country teams.

This former Marine uses his professional experience in serving as a volunteer on the Eastwood Baptist Church security team.

And, in the past two years has donated 187+ hours working with the youth at the church, especially in the role of weekly teaching the junior and senior high school boys. What a commitment!

His quiet yet steadfast service is why Kevin Wiles is Community Education's honoree for the Anne Grubbs Spirit of Service Award.

## ⚠ Weather Alert

## Flood Warning

< >

Home / News

[http://www.bgdailynews.com/news/bgpd-honors-seven-officers/article\\_220775f5-1d90-5369-aaf1-2390ac7cbe4a.html](http://www.bgdailynews.com/news/bgpd-honors-seven-officers/article_220775f5-1d90-5369-aaf1-2390ac7cbe4a.html)

# BGPD honors seven officers

By BURTON SPEAKMAN, The Daily News, [bspeakman@bgdailynews.com](mailto:bspeakman@bgdailynews.com) Sep 6, 2006



Joshua McCoy/Daily NewsFriends, family, and officers of the Bowling green Police Department honor . Robert Hansen as he receives an award from Bowling Green Police Chief Jerry Wells Tuesday afternoon ceremony at the police department's Community Room. Hansen was one of six who received a medal for service.

Seven Bowling Green Police Department officers received awards Tuesday for their roles in a standoff, during which a sheriff's deputy was held hostage.

The officers were involved in the four-hour standoff Aug. 3 between Matthew Lee Arthur Griffin, 27, and the Warren County Sheriff's Department, city police and Kentucky State Police at Griffin's 1317 Kentucky St. home. Capt. Tony Chism from the sheriff's department was held hostage for about three hours.

Detective Brian Harrell, one of the department's hostage negotiators, was given the lifesaving medal for his role as negotiator during the situation.

Harrell was also given the medal of merit for his involvement in the investigation of Davis Cooper, the city's former chief financial officer who was convicted in January in U.S. District Court of stealing millions of dollars from the city.

The first issue in hostage negotiation is preserving life, Harrell said.

Negotiating is much easier if the hostage-taker cares about his own life, he said.

"In this case, he most certainly did," Harrell said. "That makes it much easier."

The negotiator then has to make small promises and keep them to gain trust and rapport, he said.

Harrell promised Griffin clothes. He had fled the home wearing only his underwear, Hawkins said.

Having a colleague held hostage is not something officers think about during training, Harrell said.

"I can control what I say and to some extent what the people on the perimeter say and do, but what I can't control is what he thinks and does," he said. "You always fear what you can't control."

It's always good to receive an award from your peers, Harrell said.

“You know they would have done the exact same thing if put in that position,” he said. “I feel confident that if I would have been the position Captain Chism was in, it would have been the same result.”

Officer Cameron Taylor, Sgt. Kahlil Flesher and Advanced Officer Robert Hansen were presented with the department's medal of honor.

One of the two shots Griffin fired went through Hansen's pant leg and struck his ankle weapon. The bullet fragmented, but did not injure Hansen.

Taylor was the only city police officer who fired after Griffin fired twice in the dark at officers. The light from Flesher's rifle revealed Chism was being held hostage.



Capt. Kevin Wiles, canine Officer Ernie Steff and Officer Josh Baughman were awarded the medal of merit.

Wiles was responsible for coordinating the effort of all three departments during the standoff, according to the nomination read by Lt. Col. Doug Hawkins.

“The event was chaotic and officers responded to the scene not knowing a deputy was being held hostage,” he said.

These medals were created in the 1990s by former Chief Gary Raymer, who wanted a way to honor officers who went above and beyond the call of duty, said interim Chief Jerry Wells.

The medals are a way to show officers how much their effort is appreciated, he said.

The officers' families are invited so they can be shown how much their family members' actions are appreciated, Wells said.

"All the officers did a great job," he said.

The goal is also for everyone to come home - the officers, the hostage and the suspect, Wells said.

"We're all one big family. We want to bring everyone home safe," he said.