

Update with Coroner

October 13, 2020

11:08 a.m.

Present: Commissioner Stamper, Commissioner Fund, Commissioner Jackson, Warren McLeod, Becky Butler

Recorder: Tammy Martin

Warren McLeod said year-to-date cases are at 666 as of October 13, 2020, including the following:

- 3 homicides
- 15 suicides (up 1 from last month)
- 39 accidental deaths
- 23 overdoses (up 4 from last month)
- 9 motor vehicle related deaths
- 2 undetermined deaths
- 2 deaths pending determination

Warren said the holiday season historically sees numbers rise. October to February see the largest spike in suicides on a national average, but in Lewis County over the last 10 years, that hasn't been the case. Citizens are being pro-active by reporting concerns to 911 for people threatening to commit self-harm.

Trends in spikes and cases for Lewis County include seeing drug overdoses climbing. The Coroner's Office has been working with JNET and the Prosecutor's Office to track cases. Currently meth is the number one cause in drug overdoses for Lewis County. Fentanyl is increasing to be the drug of choice. Narcan can reduce overdose effects of fentanyl. There has been one confirmed fentanyl death in Lewis County. There have been multiple simultaneous calls or back-to-back calls in the east end of Lewis County lately.

Commissioner Fund commended the Coroner's Office. She received a compliment for the Coroner's Office from Mary Hawk and Brain Gannon and wanted to share.

Adjourned: 11:22 a.m.