

Casey Jones is a narcotics detective with the Federal Way Police Department

By: AMANDA DOTSON

Casey Jones was born in South Bend to parents Bob and Jeanne Jones. He and his sister Leslie grew up in Raymond, and the entire family graduated from Raymond High School at some point.

Casey graduated from RHS in 1989 with about 38 other students. While he did not participate in many activities, Casey says he now fully understands the value of extracurricular participation.

"I remember there were always opportunities and encouragement for students to participate in activities at school," he said, "I regret not taking advantage of some of the extra-curricular events. They provide excellent opportunities to establish social connections and to gain life experiences. Only as an adult have I come to recognize this."

Casey is grateful for the guidance and support of his teachers at RHS. "Some of the teachers I had were also at RHS when my parents were attending school---Deane McCoy and Dave Berry are two," he recalled. "I remember most of the teachers fondly and considered their consequences (I do remember some of those) and rewards to be fair and just.

During high school, Jones participated in basketball, football and track. He also enjoyed motocross racing with his family on the weekends. But it was the time he spent volunteering at the Raymond Fire Department that started him down the path that has led him to his current career.

"(I) became an EMT during school," he said. "I received firefighter and medical training which allowed me to test successfully for a position with the Washington State University Fire Department." Jones attended WSU after high school and majored in Public Administration and minored in Criminal Justice and Spanish. He also worked as a paid, live-in firefighter and EMT at the WSU fire department while he was attending school.

"One of the more exciting moments came when I delivered a baby while we were in the ambulance enroute to the hospital" Casey said. "Luckily, the delivery went smoothly. It was her fourth child."

Casey also worked part-time for the WSU Information Technology installing telephone systems. He says his supervisor was Kevin Hatfield, a fellow RHS graduate.

After graduating from college in 1993, Jones worked as a resident firefighter at the Graham Fire Department in Pierce County. He says his job was essentially a volunteer position, but he was allowed to live at the station free charge while pursuing a career in the fire service. "Positions such as these are designed to offer training and experience to prospective firefighters," he explained.

"Because I was eager to be hired in any job in the public service field, I was actively seeking fire or police employment," Casey said. "In 1993 I was hired by the Mukilteo Police Department. The city is small, exclusive suburb between Lynwood and Everett. Law enforcement there was not very exciting, but did reward me with experience."

Casey worked there for two years and then was tested for and hired by the newly created Federal Way Police Department, which, he says, has given him many more opportunities.

"I have worked as a bicycle patrol officer, school resource officer and background investigator. For the past four years I have been a narcotics detective." Jones explained that he primarily investigates methamphetamine labs, but other duties include undercover operations, prostitution enforcement, and surveillance. "I am also assigned as an operator on the Valley SWAT team---a team composed of select officers from Tukwila, Renton, Kent, Auburn and the Port of Seattle.

"The community of Federal way is similar to Raymond in that both communities are comprised of people from different culture nationalities, and background," Jones said. "In order to meet the challenges of working with people from different nationalities, I studied several semesters of Russian and Korean in addition to my undergraduate studies in Spanish. Being able to read, write and speak with people who speak foreign languages has given me a sense of self-accomplishment and has opened lines of communication which were previously not possible to me."

Casey went on to receive his Master's degree in Business Administration. This year he received the Police Chief's Commendation for highly professional conduct and performance.

Casey's wife comes from a small town in Idaho, which he says is even less populated than Raymond. In his spare time, he plays the guitar. He also does repairs, plays with his dog, Chino, and enjoys doing activities with his wife.

"My advice to the current students of Raymond High School is to find a balance between extracurricular activities and studies. Also anticipate change---it's always there and one must learn to live with it. Strive to be successful at every opportunity and attempt perfection. The feeling of a job well done, whether it is work-or family-related, is not like any other feeling it's great.



RHS Alumnus Casey Jones, 1989