



# ROCKLIN POLICE DEPARTMENT

## NEWSLETTER



NOVEMBER 2009



*Rocklin Police Department*

*Vol 4 Issue 11*

*"It is the Mission of the  
Rocklin Police Department  
to Serve, Protect  
and Promote a  
Safe Community."*



### Message from the Chief by Mark Siemens

It's that time of year again, when we reflect on all of the things we're thankful for and spend valuable time with family. As we approach the Thanksgiving holiday, I hope we can all pause to take stock in those people who are meaningful to us and all the things we have to be thankful for. As the unemployment rate in California has skyrocketed to 12.2%, and home fore-



closures soared during 2009, it is easy to become disoriented, nervous and pessimistic about the future. But the truth is, our country has faced adversity many times before, and it's through difficult times such as this recession which force us to realize the important issues in our lives that matter the most, yet often go overlooked. Myself? I am thankful to be working in Rocklin, a family-oriented-community that will surely see a lot of giving through the next few months to those who are less fortunate. This giving spirit is indicative of a community that focuses on others for the greater good, and is committed to ensuring a healthy and safe environment. As the Police Department, we are the most visible members of City government and represent Rocklin on a daily basis. I know that as we

serve, protect and promote a safe community, we are doing so with a high degree of professionalism and care for those who are under strain in their personal lives. I want to thank each of you for your hard work and dedication, and I wish you and your families a very happy holiday season!



### Captains Corner, by Ron Lawrence and Dan Ruden

The Roman Army is first known to distinguish acts of honor within its' military and government structure. The Roman Empire issued the Grass Crown, Civic Crown and Naval Crown for various acts of distinction, with the Grass Crown being the highest and rarest of military decorations presented to generals or commanders who broke the blockade of beleaguered Army's. The first military medal in the United States bestowed upon American servicemen was the "Fidelity Medallion," and was created by the Continental Congress in 1780 to recognize those soldiers who assisted in the capture of General Benedict Arnolds' confidant, British Army Major John Andre'. Only three soldiers of the U.S. Continental

Army are known to have received the Fidelity Medallion, which was specific to that event only. After that, the first formal recognition of U.S. military soldiers for individual heroic acts by American soldiers was established by General George Washington on August 7, 1782. General Washington created the "Badge of Military Merit" to recognize singular meritorious action, which ceased to be used after the Revolutionary War, and ultimately became known as the "Purple Heart" medal of today. The ritual of U.S. military service men and women being recognized for bravery and acts of distinction has continued throughout history and is now a time honored tradition.

Throughout the history of U.S. law enforcement there has also been recognized acts of distinction, but since the U.S. has a decentralized model of law enforcement, there is no nationally recognized honors system. Here in Placer County, we have the PLEA (Placer Law Enforcement Agencies) Annual Awards ceremony, and we have our own Rocklin awards ceremony, both designed to recognize acts of bravery, moments of heroism and acts of distinction above and beyond the call of duty. Both of us Captains felt privileged and honored to present our Rocklin awards at the 2009 PLEA Annual Awards ceremony on the evening of November 4<sup>th</sup>, at the Sunset Center. In atten-

dance were at least 300 law enforcement personnel, family members and dignitaries from throughout Placer County, to pay tribute to the brave men and women who serve our communities. On page three is a list of those Rocklin PD employees honored at this year's PLEA Awards ceremony, and just as the crowns of the Roman Empire and Washington's Badge of Military Merit were meant to designate those individuals who have displayed acts above and beyond the call of duty, so too are our honors and awards meant to distinguish local heroes for their acts of bravery and honor here in Rocklin (Continued on page 3).

## Records Appreciation Dinner, by Jennifer Collins

On November 14, the Rocklin Police Department joined 14 other area law enforcement agencies to recognize a talented and vital group of professionals: law enforcement records and support staff. Law enforcement records and support staff from Placer, Sacramento, El Dorado and Yolo Counties were celebrated at the region's first annual Law Enforcement Records Association Dinner. The

dinner was hosted by Rocklin PD and was located at the beautiful Sunset Center.

Records and support staff perform a variety of duties without which the police department would come to a screeching halt. Staff process crime reports, traffic collisions, traffic citations, public records act requests, fingerprint requests, dog

licensing, subpoenas, business licensing, evidence, etc. Records and support staff, both employed and volunteer, provide an integral service as the face of the police department. They pride themselves on customer service, professionalism and attention to detail.

It was with great pleasure that regional law enforcement recognized this specialized group of people. The event was a huge hit

with more than 250 in attendance. I was happy to host the first annual event and look forward to many to come. Please join us in thanking this hardworking group of law enforcement professionals!



## Ron McCray, Rodeo Man! by Officer Casey Finney

Kudo's to Officer Ron McCray for Organizing and running bicycle safety rodeos for Rocklin and Antelope Creek Elementary Schools. Ron spent approximately two months preparing for the event. He

recruited other officers and volunteers to assist. Ron spent much of his own time contacting the principals from the two schools to iron out details. Ron also scheduled two preliminary meetings for those involved to give assignments for the events.

Both Rodeos were a hit. They involved all 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade classes. Those that brought bicycles were able to run through four different

coned patterns. Each pattern was designed to challenge the rider's skills in different situations. The Principal at each school demonstrated each pattern to the children. Those who didn't bring a bicycle were grouped and a brief interactive bicycle safety lecture was given by an officer. At the conclusion the students were shown the different police vehicles that were present.

Each Principal and the teachers were enthusiastic about the

event. Many of the teachers had their own questions about bicycle laws and some of the police equipment shown. These events would not have been such a success without their interactive involvement.

I would like to join Officer McCray in thanking the Volunteers and Officers who assisted in these events. Their involvement made Officer McCray's planning and organization all come together successfully.



## Where were you when... by Officer Casey Finney

Where were you when our Wells Fargo was hit in August? How about the armed and barricaded subject at the Rocklin Park Hotel in August? Several of our Reserve officers just happened to be at these events at some point.

Both Ron McCray and Doug Vance were working with different officers the day of the Wells Fargo robbery. Doug was riding with Officer Alway while

Ron was with Officer J. Constable. You may have recognized Doug's mug on channel 40. Doug was given permission to give an interview after the event.

During Rocklin P.D.'s longest stand off, at the Rocklin Park Hotel, officer - detectives- etc. guarded the barricaded subject's room in shifts. In what turned out to be the final day a schedule was being developed to work through the next morning. Due to a skeleton crew because of injuries and vaca-

tions, reserves were contacted. They all answered up. They were all at their regular full time jobs when contacted. They all offered times to be available to help out with either patrol or to assist in guarding the barricaded room. Greg Gaughan was working with Officer Osborne when the event came to a peaceful ending. After scene work was completed Greg stayed on to transport the subject to the jail and ultimately freeing up other patrol officers.

This article is meant to recognize

the Reserve Officers. These events are irreplaceable for training / experience purposes. These guys don't get the 40 + hours a week to obtain these experiences. So when it happens it's welcome. They are like sponges when it comes to these events.

I would like to thank the many regular officers who frequently take these guys out with them. Your willingness to teach and train these officers is appreciated. The more they learn, the more assistance they can provide.

## Auto Attendant Feature, by Jennifer Collins

On November 9, 2009, a telephone auto attendant went online at the Rocklin Police Department. It was installed to answer the main business line.

Rocklin Police has always prided themselves with the fact that a live person would answer the main business line. But, due to the increase in the city's population and the ever in-

creasing number of calls to the department, a menu-driven auto attendant feature was considered and is now functioning.

"We are hoping to better direct customers without being placed on hold," said Jennifer Collins, Communications Center Manager. "Prior to installation of this auto attendant call-

ers were directed through our 9-1-1 call center. Callers were often placed on hold while dispatchers answered 9-1-1 calls. With the installation of the auto attendant our 9-1-1 dispatchers will be able to better focus their attention on emergency telephone calls while customers are directed immediately to the holder of their inquiry."

The auto attendant has been programmed with minimal selections and easy access to an operator should they press zero.

TTY/TDD callers can call the police department directly by dialing 916-632-4187. Emergency 9-1-1 calls will still be handled in the same way.

## continued from Captains Corner

### **Silver Medal of Honor -**

Sgt. Jewell, Cpl. Paduveris, Ofc. Kolaskey and Ofc. Passadore

After an armed robbery in the early morning of January 1, 2009, these Rocklin officers located the fleeing suspect and pursued his vehicle several miles into the City of Lincoln, with the assistance of CHP Officers Will Schwab and Chad Schmidt. During the pursuit, the suspect's wife telephoned Communications and told them her husband was armed with a gun and intent on committing another robbery. The suspect led the officers to a cul-de-sac in Lincoln, where the pursuit ended. After numerous attempts to order the suspect out of the vehicle, the suspect abruptly exited and pointed a rifle directly at the officers. Left with no options but to defend themselves, all of the officers on scene shot the suspect to prevent him from shooting them. The suspect was fatally injured and pronounced deceased at the scene. A criminal investigation later determined that the suspect was intent on committing suicide and used the police officers to carry this out. These officers all acted unselfishly, without hesitation and demonstrated great resolve, bravery and courage to stop the threat during this traumatic event. The professionalism, calmness and skill they exhibited both during the pursuit of this suspect and at the scene of the shooting is admirable and deserving of recognition.

### **Bronze Medal of Honor -**

Ofc. Gandy

In the early morning of March 4, 2009, Officer Gandy pursued a suspect vehicle from Rocklin into Loomis. The suspect ultimately lost control of his vehicle on Horseshoe Bar Road and crashed into a large oak tree, traveling at about 60 MPH. The vehicle sustained major damage and the driver was trapped inside his car. After radioing for emergency medical and fire crews, Officer Gandy approached the crashed vehicle and began talking with the driver to determine the extent of his injuries. As he did, Officer Gandy noticed gasoline was dripping onto the vehicles hot exhaust system and realized he had to act fast or an explosion would surely occur. After getting two fire extinguishers Gandy continued to talk to the driver and ensure he remained conscious. As the exhaust began to flame, Officer Gandy used the fire extinguishers to completely put the fire out, saving the driver's life. It took Fire personnel over 20 minutes to extract the driver from the vehicle. After being released he was ultimately arrested. Ofc. Gandy displayed courage and calm leadership during this event and without his quick actions and clear thinking, the results could have been the tragic loss of life.

### **Distinguished Service Medal -**

CSO Sumer Regalia

On August 14, 2008, CSO Sumer Regalia responded to an exceptionally gruesome, and traumatic suicide investigation. The 25-year-old female victim had used a shotgun to take her own life. Sumer worked tirelessly with police investigators and the Coroner for two hours, taking photographs, searching for evidence, and assessing the death scene. In all, Sumer took 76 photographs of the scene, and assisted in the death investigation of this unfortunate and tragic event. She maintained her composure and skillfully provided a professional CSI response. A 25-year veteran police officer on the scene described the ordeal as "one of the worst death scenes he had ever experienced." Sumer Regalia is commended for her exemplary performance and for being so professional in the face of this horrible and disturbing death scene.

### **Distinguished Service Medal -**

SPSD Anisha Harper

On October 24, 2008, Senior Public Safety Dispatcher Anisha Harper successfully delivered a healthy baby girl over the telephone. Our dispatchers are trained in Emergency Medical Dispatching, which provides vital emergency medical direction over the telephone while emergency personnel are responding to the scene. Anisha received the 9-1-1 call from the pregnant woman's husband, and immediately began providing him emergency medical direction. Anisha remained calm and worked with the husband who was managing his wife's labor, as well as keeping watch of their other three small children. As one might imagine, these circumstances require Emergency Medical Dispatchers to have a high degree of skill and calmness. Anisha continued to direct the husband through the birthing process, and the baby girl was safely delivered by the husband under Anisha's instructions prior to fire personnel arriving at the scene. Anisha performed flawlessly during this stressful situation and provided sound emergency medical instructions which brought this situation to a safe conclusion for all.

### **Distinguished Service Medal -**

PSD Karri Hall and PSD Desiree Miller

During the robbery and pursuit on January 1, 2009, Public Safety Dispatchers Karri Hall and Desiree Miller worked tirelessly and admirably during the entire event to ensure the safety of the officers, and the public. On this shift, Hall and Miller were the only two dispatchers working in the Communication Center. Karri Hall was on the Main channel and she handled the entire incident from start to finish. Karri did an outstanding job getting information to the patrol officers, and coordinating the units. She remained calm and professional during the pursuit, which as many of you know is critical to success during events such as this. Desiree Miller was the second dispatcher in the 9-1-1 Communications Center, and was working the Fire channel and answering emergency calls. Desiree got other resources such as detectives called out and made notification to command staff. Desiree was able to maintain all of the other emergency calls for service, coordinate the investigations response and got additional patrol officers called in to work to cover other calls. Both Public Safety Dispatchers demonstrated professionalism, calmness and tremendous skill in their coordination of this traumatic event. New-Years morning is one of our busiest times of the year, and these two worked seamlessly together to keep the Communications Center operating in normal fashion. They are both a credit to the department and to the entire profession.

### **Distinction in Volunteer Service -**

Vol. Kathy Smith

Volunteer Kathy Smith was recognized for her service with Rocklin, which began in 2002. She is a "Functional Coordinator" and manages other Volunteers at the front counter of the Police Department, which includes overseeing 20 other volunteers, delivery of City mail to the Post Office, daily delivery of crime reports to the District Attorney's Office and many other duties. People who work the front counter of any law enforcement agency are the face of the Department to walk-in citizens, and require professionalism, politeness and tremendous skill. Kathy Smith was selected to be recognized for her hard work, organizational and management skills at the front counter, and has received many commendations by citizens she has assisted. Kathy is a true pleasure to work with and is extremely dedicated to her volunteer position.