

Rocklin PD Newsletter

March/April 2015

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Chief's Chatter by Chief Ron Lawrence



Who says police officers don't have levity? Thank goodness they do, because it means they are human and not robo-cops. Officers Jay Newton and Jeremy Black were searching for a wanted homeless man in the early morning hours of Friday, April 10, 2015. As they searched a wooded area

where the wanted subject had been known to frequent, the officers stumbled upon his camp site. At the homeless camp sight they discovered a trove of property, mostly power tools, which the officers determined had been stolen in a vehicle burglary a few nights prior. While the officers were unable to locate the wanted person, they were successful in recovering property valued at \$1,600, and were able to return the stolen property to the appreciative and thankful owners. This was a great example of Rocklin Police being proactive to keep our community safe. These types of proactive incidents occur routinely in Rocklin, because we hire employees who care about our community and go the extra mile to keep Rocklin a safe place to live, work and play. Fortunately, we also hire employees who are empathetic to the needs of crime victims and to

those who we serve, treating them with dignity and respect. We also hire police employees who have a healthy

sense of humor and can see the brighter side of reality when dealing with some of the tragedies and chaos we are often faced with in law enforcement. Along with the recovered stolen power tools, Officers Newton and Black also recovered a surfboard from the wooded area near the homeless camp. Not to miss an opportunity to dream about the beach, the Officers were quick to use their imagination and humor to bring a little bit of light-heartedness to their day. Sorry guys, there is no "beach patrol" in your future careers at Rocklin PD.



Adaptations by Captain Lon Milka

"Improvise, Adapt and Overcome!" – Clint Eastwood, Heartbreak Ridge

regroup
 shift
 innovation challenge
 turn
 revision
 move
 change
Adaptation

Much of police work involves immediate adaptations to situations. A patrol officer must be able to change voice inflection or physical bearing in a split second so that his/her demeanor reflects what is necessary for the current circumstance. Sympathy by the officer will obtain a better statement from a victim. Command presence may very well deter another from aggressive behavior.

Police Administration must adapt to rapidly changing circumstances as well. From developing a body worn camera program which includes purchasing, policy/procedure updates, and IT interaction within a couple of weeks to coming up with a plan for new animal sheltering alternatives in the short span of a day, your Administration is flexible.

Although the city council is very desirous of keeping an animal shelter in Rocklin, a last minute hurdle caused us to contract with the Placer County Animal Shelter; at least in the short run. While the longer term plan may be to once again shelter animals within the city limits, for now we will be taking dogs and cats to Auburn.

Our sudden course change took place within a matter of hours. Upon learning of the shelter closure on the first day of April, all animals within the shelter had been adopted, rescued, or had found housing at another local animal shelter. The dedication of the Rocklin shelter employees for the welfare of the animals was incredible. The ability of Animal Control Officer Stacy Stout to adapt to change on the day of the closing was remarkable. Way to go, Stacy! The ability of our Administration to have developed relationships throughout the county so a quick, last minute change could be accommodated was equally as remarkable. And finally, the ability of our city management team to be flexible was a key component to this process.

The rapidly changing events of April 1st show why it is so important for police personnel to have adaptive abilities. Whether you know it or not, each officer develops these skills from his/her first day of training.



APR
18

Rx Drug Take Back

Rx Drug Take Back

by Crime Prevention Coordinator
Wendy Smith

Keeping our kids and water drug-free

There will be two FREE anonymous drop-off locations for unused and expired medications Saturday April 18, 2015 between 9 AM and 12 PM at the Sierra College overflow parking lot (corner of Rocklin Road/El Don Drive) and the Whitney High School parking lot (701 Wildcat Blvd.).

This event is a collaborative effort of Auburn, Lincoln, Rocklin, Roseville and Placer County law enforcement, water quality, and public health entities as well as local schools, the Coalition for Placer Youth, and Kaiser Roseville.

The mission of this joint effort is to protect our environment, our teens & young children, our seniors and your homes. Medications disposed of down the toilet or in the trash end up in our water supplies and damage our environment. Seven of the 10 most commonly abused drugs by teenagers are prescription medications. Prescription drugs are the leading cause of accidental poisoning of young children.

For more information on this take-back event, contact Wendy Smith at 916-625-5440



Phone Scams by Corporal Chris Spurgeon

Unfortunately the number of police reports taken to document fraud has increased and keeps increasing. Some hear of wildish scams and think to themselves, "I'd never fall for that" and the next thing they know they are calling the police to report a fraud.

Even I have received phone calls from a male with what seems to be a Nigerian accent claiming to be from Bank of America asking me to pick-up my phone because they owe me money. I usually laugh when I turn up the volume on my answering machine and listen closely to hear many muffled voices in the background as if the caller is sitting in a crowded call center and his cronies are making similar calls just hoping someone will answer the phone. So, my mystery caller that rings me every now and then is probably making these calls on a full time basis, making the rounds off what I can only image is a printed list of North American telephone numbers, placing hundreds of calls a day, just hoping for that one person who is tricked by it. If my mystery caller can get \$1000 out of one person from 200 calls, he won. I can only image what \$1000 US dollars can buy in a third world economy. That's really all they are hoping for I imagine.



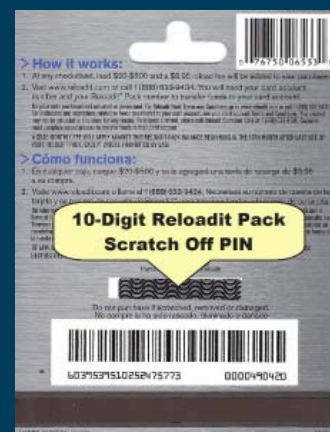
I have seen many instances where reloadable credit cards are used by desperate victims to halt the threat of trouble. One of these circumstances is a utility company scam. This often occurs on a weekend and the targets are small businesses. The fraudster uses numbers, names, and locations easily found on the Internet and will call a business and advise them they are with PG&E. They sound professional and tell the manager or owner that the restaurant's power will be disconnected because their account is past due. The fraudster provides a quick remedy to the business owner by suggesting the immediate payment of the outstanding power bill with the use of a Reloadit card. The fraudster instructs the manager/owner to go to a local store such as Safeway and purchase Reload-It cards, which usually max out at \$500.00 each. Once the cards are purchased then call the number provided by the fraudster and provide the fraudster with the numbers on the back of the card. Once these numbers and PIN (Personal Identification Number) are revealed, the cash is quickly taken off the card.

Reloadit posted on their website the following information: **DO NOT PROVIDE THE PACK NUMBER FROM THE BACK OF THE RELOADIT PACK TO ANYONE OVER THE PHONE YOU DO NOT KNOW OR HAVE NOT MET IN PERSON. PROVIDING YOUR PACK NUMBER IS LIKE SENDING CASH AND CANNOT BE TRACED.** The Reloadit product is intended to load money onto reloadable prepaid cards. It is for personal use only - to add

funds onto your own prepaid card or a family member or friend's card.

Beware of scams that ask for Reloadit pack numbers, such as:

- The IRS or other government agency associating money with a Reloadit pack or claiming you owe money for any penalties or back taxes.
- Utility company requiring immediate payment for electricity.
- Law enforcement agency claiming your loved ones, such as a grandchild, is in jail and needs to post bail.
- Lottery company claiming you have won a prize and need to pay taxes.



Some companies are changing the "scratch off" type of number control systems and becoming more integrated into vendor partnerships. Green Dot has eliminated this type of "scratch off" card system which was called Money-Pak. On the Green Dot website they advertise: **Reload your prepaid card faster and**

easier than ever. No more scratch off numbers - simply swipe your card at the register.

When it comes to perpetrating fraud, it seems like nothing is off-limits. There are many news articles and interviews on the topics. The IRS Commissioner was recently interviewed regarding the 2015 tax season:

WASHINGTON — Aggressive and threatening phone calls by criminals impersonating IRS agents remain near the top of the annual "Dirty Dozen" list of tax scams for the 2015 filing season, the Internal Revenue Service announced today.

The IRS has seen a surge of these phone scams in recent months as scam artists threaten police arrest, deportation, license revocation and other things. The IRS reminds taxpayers to guard against all sorts of con games that arise during any filing season.

"If someone calls unexpectedly claiming to be from the IRS with aggressive threats if you don't pay immediately, it's a scam artist calling," said IRS Commissioner John Koskinen. "The first IRS contact with taxpayers is usually through the mail. Taxpayers have rights, and this is not how we do business."

The IRS will never:

- Call to demand immediate payment, nor will the agency call about taxes owed without first having mailed you a bill.
- Demand that you pay taxes without giving you the opportunity to question or appeal

the amount they say you owe.

- Require you to use a specific payment method for your taxes, such as a prepaid debit card.
- Ask for credit or debit card numbers over the phone.
- Threaten to bring in local police or other law-enforcement groups to have you arrested for not paying.

If you get a phone call from someone claiming to be from the IRS and asking for money, here's what you should do:

If you know you don't owe taxes or have no reason to believe that you do, report the incident to the TIGTA at 1-800-366-4484 or at www.tigta.gov. (Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration). There is a red button that stands out from the rest of the blue buttons on the right side of the screen titled "IRS Impersonation Scam Reporting".

If you've been targeted by this scam, also contact the Federal Trade Commission and use their "FTC Complaint Assistant" at FTC.gov.

Remember, too, the IRS does not use email, text messages or any social media to discuss your personal tax issue involving bills or refunds. For more information on reporting tax scams, go to www.irs.gov and type "scam" in the search box.



So, a little recap. If you receive a call from someone claiming to be employed by a reputable company and they want money from you urgently, simply get their information and then call that companies public phone number. Not the phone number the caller is giving you, go look it up in the phone book, the Internet, or on one of your bills and verify, verify, verify with the operator what was told to you earlier. Chances are, reputable companies do not operate like that.

If you do get scammed, document everything (phone numbers, web addresses, reloadable card numbers and dates/time. Call the police and report it. Make sure you have the information available to provide to the officer who takes the report. Contact the company that made the transfer of money possible and see if there is any way to reverse the transaction or halt it.

Don't forget to cross report it to the Federal Trade Commission and the Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) at www.ic3.gov for Internet scams.



Officer Newton is the new California Road Race Champion! by Sergeant Gil Farrulla



Many of us know humble and funny, Officer Jay Newton. Many of us know that he enjoys bicycle racing and physical fitness. However, what you may not know is just how good of a bike racer Jay really is. His easy going, joking demeanor quickly fades when he gets on course at a bike race. Jay is part of the Victory Velo Racing team, based out of Roseville, and he competes in "Pro-Masters" level events across the state.

On Saturday, March 28, Jay participated in the Turlock Lake Road Race. This particular race consisted of a 22.8 mile loop on country roads with rolling hills, which had to be completed three times (68.4 total miles). There were 70 competitors ranging from professional categories 1 through 3, ages 45 through 49. These racers were some of the best in the state, and included one rider who was ranked in the top 15 nationally. Well our own, "Officer Friendly," Jay won the race...With this win Jay became the new California State Road Race Champion! Jay is so humble, he actually worked patrol the day before and the day after his race...

Jay has many other proud accomplishments to his bicycle racing career...Earlier in March he participated in the Tempus Fugit Time Trial, placing second out of 27 racers. Last year Jay won the Steve Dunlap Time Trial...In 2013 he won the Victory Velo Auburn Downtown Road Race, and the Cycle Pros Calaveras Road Time Trial...From 2010-2012 Jay won a combined seven races, and came in second in another six races...And his list of podium finishes goes on and on...

When I asked Jay about his training routine and what makes him so successful, he showed everyone his work-out regiment. I was fortunate



enough to take a picture of Jay practicing for his next race. All kidding aside, Jay is a terrific bike racer and a very humble person. Please tell Jay congratulations the next time you see him, and don't challenge him to a bike race!



Support Services News - by Administrator Sandi Bumpus

The City of Rocklin designated April 12-19, 2015 as National Public Safety Telecommunicator's Week. Along with many other cities across the nation, Rocklin annually honors its public safety dispatchers during this time for their service and sacrifice.

On April 11, 2015, PSD II Jodie Sutera was honored at the annual

Organization of Public Safety Telecommunicator's banquet as Dispatcher of the Year for the City of Rocklin. Jodie exemplifies the quality of service and skill of all Rocklin's public safety dispatchers, and represents both our city and department extremely well on a daily basis.



Vice Mayor Greg Janda, Dispatcher of the Year Jodie Sutera, Police Services Administrator Sandi Bumpus and Chjef Ron Lawrence



- Dispatcher(s)
- Marcie Jones-Glenn
- Denise Campoy
- Anisha Harper
- Supervisor,
- Michelle Edwards
- Heidi Hopper
- Jodie Sutera

Run Rocklin 2015 - by Lieutenant Scott Horrillo

Sunday, April 12, 2015, was the 12th running of the Run Rocklin. Run Rocklin is one of the Sacramento area's premier running events and this year the event hosted close to 3,000 runners and walkers who chose to enter the 5K, 12K or half marathon distances. The event's premier status is largely impart to how well the Run Rocklin Committee and the City of Rocklin staff organize this event and this year was no exception. Run Rocklin remains an event that draws the community together to benefit local charities and non-profits, namely the Matt Redding Foundation. This year's event included many law enforcement officers and employees from

throughout the region who joined others in paying tribute to Officer Matt Redding.



Officer Matt Redding,
EOW: 10/9/2005

Officer Randy Law, Lt. Scott Horrillo, Officer Luke Griffin, Chief Ron Lawrence, Corporal Joyce Metzger, Officer Jeremy Powell and Officer Greg Hilton



True Partners by Captain Chad Butler

"The miracle is not that we do this work, but that we are happy to do it". -

Mother Teresa



Not just coworkers but best friends and Investigations Detective partners, Andre Booker and Neil Costa spend their days solving crimes in the City of Rocklin, together. Andre, a member of the Rocklin Police Department since June of 2005, began his career with the Contra Costa County Sherriff's Department in 2002. Neil came to us in May of 2008 after having spent 4 years with the Stanislaus County Sherriff's Department. Their friendship began in 2008 when Neil was assigned to then Field Training Officer (FTO) Andre Booker as his first phase training Officer.

In 2011, Neil was assigned to the Investigations Unit as a Detective assigned to Property Crimes. In 2012 he was joined by Andre who was assigned to the Detective unit as well. The two have been inseparable ever since.

Just recently both Detectives received numerous nominations for Police Officer of the year. Ironically



they both voted for each other to receive the award which is a testament to not only their friendship but their character as well. Although the final count was extremely close, tied in overall votes, the deciding factor was one extra nomination between the two. Andre came out victorious and was awarded Officer of the Year 2014.

On the night of the awards ceremony, both Detectives, true to their assignment barely made the ceremony in time to receive their awards as they were busy fighting crime, together, like they have been since 2008.

I am extremely proud of the entire Investigations Unit and particularly proud of Andre and Neil who always represent themselves and our Department with integrity, respect, accountability and quality service.



Officer of the Year
Andre Booker



Two New Dispatchers

by Police Services Administrator
Sandi Bumpus

A warm welcome to our two newest Rocklin PD employees, Public Safety Dispatchers Misty Cuevas and Erica Haga.

Misty is a veteran public safety dispatcher who spent 7 years with the Yuby County Sheriff's Office.



Misty Cuevas

Erica is a 2006 graduate of the Sacramento County Sheriff's Academy. She has served as a police officer, emergency management specialist, and as a dispatcher for the Tahoe National Forrest Service.



Erica Haga

