

Community Partnership Connection



Congratulations to the Sixteen Graduates of the 2015 Summer Northern Nevada Law Enforcement Academy



Congratulations go to the sixteen men and women who have spent the last several months preparing to become our region's newest peace officers. On July 2nd they graduated from the Northern Nevada Law Enforcement Academy after completing over 700 hours of intensive training at the Regional Public Safety Training Center.

In order to meet the numerous requirements for a Category I peace officer, recruits are trained and tested physically and academically. They are also required to demonstrate their skills and abilities through scenario based training exercises. Academy topics include crime and crime scene investigation, constitutional law, criminal and civil law, search and seizure, defensive tactics, emergency vehicle operation, weapons handling, victim's rights, law enforcement ethics, and cultural awareness.

All graduates are required to pass the Nevada Peace Officers' Standards and Training (POST) exam and meet Nevada POST physical fitness requirements.

WCSO reminds cyclists and motorists to 'share the road'



(Photo courtesy of the Nevada Department of Transportation)

More people commuting and recreating by bicycle has led to increased activity on our highway and traffic bicycle lanes. This increase has led to a number of major injury incidents involving bicycles in the last several years. So far this year, there have been 7 bicycle related fatalities in the state of Nevada.

The Washoe County Sheriff's Office has received questions from the public regarding rules of the road as they pertain to vehicles and bicycles. The Sheriff's Office thought this would be a good opportunity to remind all users of public roads to be aware of others and to obey all traffic regulations.

The following tips for cyclists will make for a safer and more enjoyable ride:

- Cyclists must obey all laws pertaining to driving, including all signs and signals, as if they were operating a motor vehicle. (per NRS 484B.763)
- Always ride on the right and as far to the right side of the roadway as possible. While cyclists may use the travel lane, it is encouraged that they use a designated bicycle lane or to ride single file in traffic as a courtesy to other roadway users.
- Cyclists may not ride more than two abreast except on parts of roadway set aside for cyclists (bike lanes, cycletracs, buffered bike lanes, shared bike/bus lanes, etc.) (NRS 484B.777)

In the same manner, drivers in motor vehicles should remember to be aware of both motorcycles and cyclists. Operators of motor vehicles should keep in mind that cyclists have the same rights as other drivers in Nevada. In addition, drivers of vehicles should keep these safety tips in mind:

- When passing a cyclist you **MUST** move into an adjacent lane to the left, when possible. If changing lanes is not possible, you must allow at least 3 feet of clearance between your car and the bicycle. (per NRS 484B.270)
- At intersections, yield to cyclists as you would pedestrians or other vehicles
- Do not drive or park in designated bicycle lanes or paths unless needed for an emergency.

The Washoe County Sheriff's Office will be on the lookout for any violations with cyclists or motorists and will be taking appropriate enforcement action.

Additionally, the Sheriff's Office has partnered with the Nevada Highway Patrol and Nevada Department of Transportation Bicycle and Pedestrian Section's new Bicycle Safety education and enforcement initiative; a public awareness effort designed to reinforce Nevada Department of Transportation and Department of Public Safety's Zero Fatalities campaign to eliminate roadway fatalities and serious injuries. For more information and FAQ's regarding bicycle safety and Nevada's laws concerning cycling click [HERE](#).

BACK TO SCHOOL SAFETY REMINDERS!

It's hard to believe, but the start of school is just around the corner; most starting on August 10th. At this time of year there are more distractions when driving than ever, so the Sheriff's Office is asking drivers to slow down and be on the alert for children walking to school.

Here are some precautions:

- Slow down and be especially alert in the residential neighborhoods and school zones. Come to a full stop and check both ways at stop signs and red lights.
- Take extra time to look for kids at intersections, on medians and on curbs.
- Watch for children on and near the road in the morning and after school hours.
- Watch for school bus stop signs. When a school bus stops with brake lights flashing or the stop sign raised, motorists from either direction must stop until all children have safely crossed the road.
- Reduce any distractions inside your car so you can concentrate on the road and your surroundings. Put down your phone and don't talk or text while driving.

Reminders for your children:

- Cross the street at corners, using traffic signals and crosswalks. Never run out into the streets or cross in between parked cars.
- Make sure they always walk in front of the bus where the driver can see.
- Designate a safe place for your child to wait for the school bus away from the street. If possible, have an adult wait at the bus stop.
- Instruct your child to stay in the designated safe place until the bus reaches a complete stop.
- When getting off the bus, tell your child that if they have to cross the street, they must walk five giant steps—about ten feet—ahead of the bus before crossing.
- Teach children to look both ways before crossing the street when leaving the bus because many drivers don't come to a complete stop for buses.

Walking and Biking Safety:

- Review important walking rules. Walk on the sidewalk, if one is not available, walk facing traffic and always look both ways before crossing the street.
- Teach your child to look up and pay extra attention when using headphones, cell phones or electronic devices such as tablets. Make it a rule to put these devices away when walking or biking. If possible, instruct your child to always walk with a friend. Make him or her aware of stranger dangers.
- Provide your child a properly fitted bike helmet and teach them how to wear it properly and wear it at all times while riding a bike.
- Teach your child to ride his or her bicycle in single file on the right side of the road. Stress the importance of coming to a complete stop before crossing the street.
- Go through a practice run with your child prior to school starting.

Questions about "Sanctuary City"

Recently there has been a lot of public discussion on whether Washoe County or Reno is a "Sanctuary City." Unfortunately there is no legal definition for the concept of "Sanctuary City," nor does there seem to be any consensus on what the definition might be.

What we do know is that each individual booked into the WCSO Detention facility is verified and checked in several databases. If we receive an undocumented person into the facility, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) would be notified when there is a serious criminal offense, a homeland security issue or prior deportation record in their criminal history.

ICE has primary jurisdiction for enforcement of undocumented individuals. The Sheriff's Office regularly works in cooperation with ICE; they have a desk in our Detention facility and we work with them on various task forces.

We believe where some of the confusion may occur is regarding our policy not to accept ICE detainers. Recently, the Federal courts ruled that ICE detainers are requests, not mandates. Based on that ruling, our Detention facility could be held liable for any legal violations related to honoring a detainer. In the case of an undocumented individual, no matter their home country, we would coordinate with ICE and then ICE would be required to produce a federal warrant for us to detain that individual.

Since definitions of Sanctuary City vary significantly, we can state unequivocally that we are a constitutional county and uphold both the United States and Nevada constitutions and respective laws for all. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact us at 775.785.6228.

Sheriff's Office Lieutenant "Law Enforcement Officer of the Year"



Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10053 recently honored Lt. Greg Herrera with their "Law Enforcement Officer of the Year" award in appreciation for services rendered to the community in the last year.

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Partnership with our
Community*

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Sheriff's Cold Case Unit proposes new theory for 1983 Murder Case and asks for the public's help with identifying the victim

Investigators with the Washoe County Sheriff's Office Cold Case Unit are exploring a new theory in their attempts to identify the victim in a 33-year-old unsolved murder and they are asking for help from the public.

On July 17, 1982, a white female was found deceased near a popular hiking trail in the Sheep's Flat area located just off the Mt. Rose Highway (State Route 431) a few miles above Incline Village on the Nevada side of Lake Tahoe.

The victim was clothed in a powder blue t-shirt, blue jeans and yellow tennis shoes and wore a bathing suit under her clothing. There was no identification. Initially the victim was believed to be of European decent based upon her inoculation scar and unique dental work. Previous investigative efforts also concentrated primarily on reported missing persons cases in an attempt to identify the victim. Forensic comparisons (DNA, fingerprints, and dental records) excluded hundreds of reported missing persons who matched the general physical description of the victim, but the victim's identification remains a mystery.

After taking a fresh look at the case, Cold Case Unit investigators now believe the victim may have come from somewhere in the Western United States. Investigators feel she may never have been reported as missing to law enforcement because she may have become voluntarily estranged from her family and/or friends in the years prior to the murder. Based on this new theory, investigators are hoping that someone may know of a situation where a young woman left her family in the late 1970s early 1980s and has not been heard from since.

The victim was estimated to have been between the ages of 25 and 35 years of age in 1982. She was a Caucasian female with a medium colored complexion; 5'5" to 5'6" tall; slender build; straight medium length light brown hair; hazel eyes. More unique descriptors include a vaccination scar on her right shoulder and a four to five inch horizontal surgical scar (possibly from a cesarean section birth) on her lower abdomen. Although the victim's dental health appears to have been in decline for a couple of years prior to her murder, the victim previously had extensive dental work by more than one dentist which included a unique porcelain faced three tooth gold bridge on the upper left side of her mouth as well as several other permanent and temporary fillings and crowns. One of the victim's lower teeth was noticeably rotated and her upper front teeth were not symmetrical in appearance. The victim was not wearing any jewelry or carrying any type of identification. She was wearing inexpensive clothing consisting of "Lee" brand denim jeans, an unusual pair of women's size 6 1/2 yellow canvas shoe, and a blue cotton tee shirt worn over the top of a one piece blue swim suit. The shirt the victim was wearing has been determined to have been originally sold at retail outlets in California, Oregon, and Washington. (See attached photographs of the victim's clothing)

The Washoe County Sheriff's Office sincerely hopes that this new outreach to the public through social and news media will widen the search to identify this young woman. Anyone with information regarding the potential identity of this victim is asked to contact Cold Case Investigators Dave Jenkins (DJenkins@washoecounty.us) or Rick Bjelke (RBjelke@washoecounty.us) by e-mail, telephone (775-328-6225), or through the Washoe County Sheriff's Office Facebook page. Reference Washoe County Sheriff's Case #G-82-0433.

