

# Community Partnership Connection



## Sheriff's Office prepares to saddle up new Mounted Horse Unit!



The Washoe County Sheriff's Office is enhancing its future by reviving a tradition from the past...the mounted horse unit. Sheriff Chuck Allen announced this month that the Sheriff's new Mounted Horse Unit is scheduled to begin operation this spring. "Deputies on horseback are a unique benefit to the Sheriff's Office and the public," Sheriff Allen said. "You can expect to start seeing them at some of our major community events such as the Reno Rodeo, Hot August Nights, and Red, White and Tahoe Blue in addition to local parks and open space patrols. I encourage you to take the time to get to know the deputies and equine members of this unit, and show them your support for their service."

Mounted units provide extra safety at venues where law enforcement visibility and mobility are important, but vehicle use is restricted. They help to increase public security at events involving large crowds and help to deter crime by their very presence.

The Washoe County Sheriff's Office Mounted Horse Unit will be able to deploy a team of six mounted deputies into service as needed. Deputies provide their own horse and mounted unit functions are in addition to the deputy's normal duty assignment. Horse and rider must also complete required Nevada Peace Officer Standards and Training courses before they are able to be utilized.

### How you can help

At this time, the Sheriff's Mounted Horse Unit is asking for public support to help cover the cost of uniform tack, riding helmets, blankets and other accessories necessary to the unit. Donations may be made to the Washoe County Honorary Deputy Sheriff's Association (HMU) or by contacting Lt. Jeff Clark at (775) 737-8801.

## Publisher's Clearinghouse Scam – A Local Victim's Story

A Washoe County Sheriff's Deputy investigating the recent phone scam of a Sun Valley woman worked with the United States Postal Inspection Service and Royal Canadian Mounted Police to recover \$9,000 in losses for the victim. The details of this case provide important warning signs for all residents.

On Saturday, March 26, 2016, a sixty-year-old Sun Valley woman contacted the Sheriff's Office to report a possible case of phone fraud. The woman explained she had been entering the Publishers Clearinghouse for years and that on March 24 she was contacted by a person who identified himself as Robert Miller. Miller said that she had just won 1.8 million dollars from Publishers Clearinghouse.

Miller told the victim that she would need to pay a registration fee along with more than \$2,000 in taxes on her winnings. The victim provided Miller with financial information in order to make those payments. The victim said that she was re-contacted by Miller later that day and Miller put her in touch with another man identified as a banker named Michael Churchill. Churchill congratulated the victim on her winnings and told her that she was also getting a Mercedes-Benz for registering so quickly.

According to the victim, Churchill then told her that they had deposited \$9,000 into her bank account. She said she was instructed to withdraw the \$9,000 and send it by overnight mail to a Keith Richardson at a post office box in Alberta, Canada. The victim did as instructed.

The victim said she was once again contacted by Miller and Churchill on the following day, March 25. This time she was told that they had deposited an additional \$14,000 in her account and she was to send that \$14,000 to Keith Richardson in Canada. The victim said that when she hesitated, Churchill became very upset with her and told her she would not receive the 1.8 million dollars if she did not pay the additional \$14,000.

The victim said she was re-contacted by Miller and Churchill on Saturday, March 26. Despite assurances that she was receiving money to cover her expenses, the victim grew suspicious. After talking with family members the victim contacted her bank. According to the victim, her bank records showed that no money had been deposited into her account. The scammers, who now had access to her account information, had simply moved money around from one account to another.

The victim immediately closed her bank accounts and contacted the Sheriff's Office.

The Deputy assigned to the case immediately began tracking the package containing the victim's 9,000 dollars. The Deputy worked with U.S. Postal Inspectors, the Canadian Post Office, and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to successfully locate the package. The \$9,000 was returned to the victim by a U.S. Postal Inspector.

The Deputy also attempted to track the phone numbers used to contact the victim. The number Robert Miller was calling from traced back to a cellphone in Kingston, Jamaica. Other numbers related to this investigation led to dead ends. Unfortunately the victim still lost more than \$2,000 as a result of this scam.

The details of this investigation are not uncommon for this type of lottery scam and it is important for residents to be on the lookout for, and wary of, this kind of fraudulent activity. Some important tips to help protect against these crimes include:

- Keep your credit card, checking account, or Social Security numbers to yourself. Don't give them to callers you don't know — even if they ask you to "confirm" this information.
- Don't send cash by messenger, overnight mail, or money transfer. If you use cash or a money transfer — rather than a credit card — you may lose your right to dispute fraudulent charges. The money will be gone.
- Don't agree to any offer for which you have to pay a "registration" or "shipping" fee to get a prize or a gift.

Anyone who has suffered a loss as a result of fraudulent activity is encouraged to report the loss to the appropriate law enforcement or investigatory agency. Residents of Washoe County may contact the Sheriff's Office at (775) 328-3001 (option 7).



## Inside-Out Prison Exchange: Innovative Program Supporting Inmate Rehabilitation



For the last 16 weeks selected inmates at the Washoe County Detention Facility and Criminal Justice students from the University of Nevada, Reno have participated in a unique college program to study the American Criminal Justice System. **Through the Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program, they shared common readings and discussed ideas and perceptions about issues related to crime, justice, corrections and imprisonment.** The semester ended with a closing ceremony on April 26th. Sheriff Chuck Allen addressed the students before they received their certificates of completion. **The students presented a Comprehensive Strategy to Address Crime-related Harm that they prepared during the course.** Inside-Out was founded in 1997 by Lori Pompa, a criminal justice faculty member at Temple University, who began classes with Temple students at prisons in the Philadelphia area. Since 2004, it has become a national program, with courses taught in 37 states and involving more than 7,500 inside and outside students. For more information, visit [insideoutcenter.org](http://insideoutcenter.org). **This course is the first time UNR and the Sheriff's Office have partnered in a program that brings together University or "outside" students and jail inmates, or "inside" students, for a college-level course in which people from different backgrounds learn together as peers.** All instruction took place in the Washoe County Jail's Detention Programs Unit. Prior to enrollment, potential candidates on both the inside and outside had to go through an intense screening process which included a short essay, one-on-one interviews to discuss and review program rules and expectations, education level, employment history, criminal history, individual goals and self-motivation. **Participants also had to be able to read and write, only use each other's first names and agree to maintain no-contact even upon completion of the course.** "Even though the 'inside' students do not receive college credits, opportunities like this help build offenders' confidence and reminds them that bad decisions made in their past do not have to define their future," Detention Programs Coordinator, Brooke Howard said. **The Washoe County Detention Facility continues to expand its Programs Unit to give inmates opportunities for effective rehabilitative opportunities while incarcerated.** For more information visit the Jail Counseling Programs page of the Washoe County Sheriff's Office website at: [WashoeSheriff.com](http://WashoeSheriff.com).

The Prescription Drug Round Up, held each spring and fall, is a safe place to dispose of expired, unwanted prescription drugs.

The next round up will be held on Saturday, April 30 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the following locations:

### Drop Off Locations

Raleys - 18144 Wedge Parkway, Reno  
SaveMart - 4995 Kietzke Lane, Reno  
Walgreens - 10370 N. McCarran Blvd., Reno  
Walmart - 250 Vista Knoll Parkway, Reno  
CVS - 680 N. McCarran Blvd., Sparks  
CVS - 5151 Sparks Blvd., Sparks  
Incline Village Community Hospital- 880 Alder Ave., Incline Village

For more information Call Reserve Deputy Teresa Aquila at 775-240-2308



**#WCSO Proud:** Sgt. Randy Hill was recently honored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, receiving the prestigious State of Nevada "Law Enforcement Officer of the Year" award!

**Washoe County Sheriff's Office-  
Community Relations**

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Find us on the Web at  
[washoesheriff.com](http://washoesheriff.com)

Follow us on Twitter at  
[@washoesheriff](https://twitter.com/washoesheriff)



*Dedicated Service in  
Partnership with our  
Community*

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WCSO Apple or Android App



## 29th Annual James D. Hoff Peace Officer Memorial



You are invited to join local, regional and State law enforcement agencies as we honor those Nevada peace officers who gave their lives in the line of duty protecting our community. The event will be held **Friday, May 6<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m.** at Idlewild Park in Reno.

### THIRD ANNUAL NEVADA POLICE MEMORIAL RIDE



Saturday – May 7, 2016

**COST - \$30 per person** (bring correct change please)

9:00 AM – registration and staging

Start at the **Nevada Law Enforcement Officers Memorial**  
(Next to the State Capitol in Carson City)

All proceeds go to the James D. Hoff Memorial in Reno, NV

Group ride to Virginia City – Hot Dogs, Hamburgers and live music at Miner's Park

First 100 paid riders guaranteed to receive, a t-shirt, and ride pin

All paid riders also receive lunch

Register on site or pre-register at

<http://mkt.com/blue-knights-nvii/nevada-police-memorial-ride>

For more information or questions, email [namwal@charter.net](mailto:namwal@charter.net) or  
go to [www.bknv2.com](http://www.bknv2.com)

ALL BIKES AND CLASSIC CARS WELCOME

Discounted Rooms are available  
at the Silverland Inn, Virginia City  
call the Front Desk at 775-847-4484 and  
ask for the "Police Memorial Ride" rate

