

# Community Partnership Connection

## **WCSO Receives Homeland Security Grants**

Over \$2 million in Department of Homeland Security grants have been awarded to the Washoe County Sheriff's Office by Nevada's Department of Emergency Management to emergency responders in Washoe County. "Tactics and technology are constantly changing the war on terrorism," Washoe County Sheriff Michael Haley said. "It is essential that we provide complete and up-to-date training for the people working to prevent terrorist act, and those who will need to respond locally should such an act occur."

The Department of Homeland Security grants will fund training for personnel from a number of response agencies, including:

- Northern Nevada Counter Terrorism Center and Silver Shield Program
- Advanced Improvised Explosive Device and Weapons of Mass Destruction Defeat Program
- Advanced Chemical, Biological, Radiological/Nuclear and Explosive Detection and Decontamination Program
- Citizen Corps Volunteer Program

This brings the total amount of grant funds managed by the Sheriff's Office to over sixteen million.

#### Cell Phone as a Weapon?

Recently the agency adopted cutting edge technology to keep cell phones out of the hands of inmates. Why? Well for most of us, cell phones are a way to communicate with friends and family. But in the hands of an inmate it becomes another tool for crime. ABC news reported that inmate cell phone use has become a national problem. In several criminal cases, inmates have used cell phones to run gangs operating outside of the jail, to organize drug-smuggling operations, and in some cases put hits out on people. Detention facilities throughout the United States are now dealing with this complex issue and are trying to find ways to keep cell phones out of the jails. One solution was to jam all cell-phone signals, but found that usually interferes with deputies' radios and other critical equipment. The other solution is to use technology used by U.S. Intelligence agencies that looks for cell phone transmissions. Therefore, the Detention Bureau took a proactive approach and has purchased a cell phone detector to ensure there is no chance that cell phones can be brought in the housing units as contraband. This effort will help to maintain the safety and security for both inmate and staff.



## Shop with the Sheriff Warms Hearts of Many

The Washoe County Honorary Deputy Sheriff's Association hosted its 8<sup>th</sup> annual "Shop with the Sheriff" holiday event on Tuesday, December 7th.
Two hundred less fortunate children, who have been preselected through local social service agencies, were paired with Sheriff's volunteers to purchase clothing and toys for themselves, along with gifts for members of their family.

Each child was able to spend up to \$200 on Christmas shopping and received a gift card for \$50 towards groceries for their family. This holiday event was made possible by a generous donation from the Washoe County Honorary Deputy Sheriff's Association and over 300 volunteers who enthusiastically gave of their time. "Shop with the Sheriff' benefits at-risk children in our community. REMSA, Starbucks, North American Embroidery and Wal-Mart provided inkind donations in support of the event.

"The Washoe County Sheriff's Office strives to incorporate leading-edge developments to keep our community safe and secure."

#### Christmas on the Corridor

The Reno Sparks Corridor **Business Association (RSCBA)** and the Washoe County Sheriff's Office held its 14th annual Christmas on the Corridor December 18<sup>th</sup> assisting over 2,500 children and seniors in need. This program started by simply handing out cookies and candy to 200 children on East 4th Street. This year, thanks to the generosity of community members, in addition to providing Christmas gifts to children & seniors along the 4th, 5th, & 6th Street Corridor, they also provided students at participating Washoe County **Elementary Schools with** gifts, clothes, school supplies, and essentials during the Christmas Season.

# Protect yourself against Ski and Snowboard Theft

Detectives have received reports on several vehicle and resort ski and snowboard thefts. While the amount of snowboards and skis stolen vary from year to year, ski equipment is an easy target especially during weekends where a thief could take equipment and easily blend in. There are steps you can take to protect your gear and valuables this winter season.

- Local resorts recommend keeping your skis/snowboards locked to the rack. Many resorts offer coin operated locks or cable locks can easily be purchased at ski and snowboard shops.
- If you are locking your skis/snowboards to ski racks on cars, make sure the locks can't be easily removed from the vehicle.
   Often the car racks are stolen along with the skis/boards.
- If you don't have a lock available, separate your skis, placing one on the rack and another on a different rack or swap with a friend to make two unmatched pairs. This makes it difficult for the thieves who look for easy targets.
- Try to keep your skis in line of sight as often as possible.
- If you have extra equipment that you store in your car, keep it out of view.

If your skis have been stolen, contact local law enforcement immediately and report it to the resort. It is helpful if you have a picture of your ski's to give detectives investigating the case.



# Spotlight on... Web Based Visiting System

Washoe County Sheriff's Office has recently launched a state-ofthe-art web visitation system known as **iWebVisit.com**. The Sheriff's Office has been allowing visitors to conduct remote video visitations from their home or office over the Internet. Visitors are able to conduct a two way video visit with an inmate currently housed at the Washoe County Detention Facility by using a computer equipped with high-speed Internet and a webcam. WCSO anticipates a reduction in the jail's overhead due to a decrease of personal visitations. The Inmate Web Visitation Services will eventually reduce the amount of foot traffic that come into the jail as visitors will opt for web based visitation in lieu of in person visits. "The Washoe County Detention Facility houses over 1.000 inmates daily, iWebVisit.com has allowed us to reduce the number of people waiting in our visiting lobby as well as the workload on our staff," says Sheriff Mike Haley. This is the next logical step for inmate visitation as it also eliminates any possibility of visitors transporting contraband into the jail. WCSO is piloting this new product for a twelve month period. If the process works as anticipated, a RFP (request for proposal) process will be initiated. Additionally, iWebVisit.com will help family and friends of those incarcerated. Currently the service will cost \$9 per personal visit or \$25 for professional visits. The service allows attorneys easier access to their clients and visitors will no longer need to wait in long lines or travel to Reno. A user from Pleasant Hill, California notes that it's not practical for him to visit his sister in jail, "(The) service is such a win-win-win on every front I can think of: It makes it practical for distant relatives like me to visit ...it's more convenient and more efficient and to top it all off, it's excellent customer service."



### Salvation Army Champions

The Washoe County Sheriff's

Office executive staff
participated in the 12<sup>th</sup> annual
Law Enforcement Bell Ringing

Contest; a healthy competition
with four other law
enforcement agencies to raise
money for Salvation Army
during the holiday Season.

The friendly competition paid off. Combined, all the agencies raised almost \$3,800 in four hours. Proceeds paid for gifts and food for over 3,000 families during the holiday season as well as provide for future needs.

#### Detectives Arrest Suspect in New Years Robbery

The Sheriff's Office Detective Division contacted and arrested the suspect from the New Year's Eve Armed Robbery that occurred at the 7-11 Store at 5700 Sun Valley Blvd at approximately 9:50 p.m. The 7-11 Store was able to provide Detectives with video surveillance of the crime in progress and the suspect was identified as Pileha McGlothin, a 30 year old Sparks resident. Pileha McGlothin was booked into the Washoe County Detention Facility on one felony charge of Robbery with a Deadly Weapon. Pileha McGlothin's bail is set at \$10,000.

## Washoe County Sheriff's Office Community Relations

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Dedicated Service in Partnership with our Community

Find us on the Web: www.washoesheriff.com



## The Community Relations Section Is Here for You!

Effective September 2010, the Sheriff's Office created the Community Relations Section to help educate our citizens on the many programs, services and initiatives we provide to our community.

#### We'd Like to Hear from You

We hope that this newsletter is a helpful resource to keep aware of public safety issues and matters that relate to the security of Washoe County and to share some of the community events we participate in. For more comprehensive information, please visit our website: <a href="https://www.washoesheriff.com">www.washoesheriff.com</a>.

Our hope is to strengthen our partnership with you so that together we can better fulfill our common goal of a safe, vibrant and healthy Washoe County for us all to enjoy together. This is your community newsletter. Please contact us with ideas and suggestions.

And lastly, we'd really appreciate it if you'd pass on the newsletter to friends, family, neighbors and colleagues. All they need to do is contact us by phone or email at the numbers/addresses listed to the left. A better informed public always makes for a safer public, so by doing us this favor, you are doing your part!