

County Chiefs & Sheriff Association salutes service

By Ryan Whisner rwhisner@dailyunion.com | Posted: Monday, January 25, 2016 9:04 am

The Jefferson County Chiefs & Sheriff Association honored several individuals — both citizens and sworn law enforcement officers — who have gone above and beyond the call of duty during the past year.

Kicking off the association's annual dinner at the Fort Atkinson Club Thursday, Lake Mills Police Chief Patrick Matuszewski welcomed those in attendance.

Awards for the top officer and citizen of the year were among the highlights of the evening.

University of Wisconsin-Whitewater Police Services Officer Joshua Kuehl was saluted as the 2015 Officer of the Year.

It was at 7:23 p.m. on Jan. 26, 2015, that retired Palmyra Police Chief Scott Neubauer, who teaches criminology at UW-Whitewater, was walking into the office area on the second floor of Laurentide Hall when he collapsed in front of another professor's office door.

Lt. Faye Schouten noted that fortunately, senior lecturer Melissa Deller and her daughter, UW-Whitewater freshman Camille Deller, were inside the office and both dialed 911.

Schouten said Officer Kuehl happened to be in the parking lot of the building, "doing paperwork." He arrived on the scene in minutes with an automated external defibrillator (AED) pack from his squad car.

Officer Kelsey Servi arrived as Kuehl was placing the AED pads on Neubauer's chest.

"They shocked him once and then continued and performed CPR," Schouten said. "After a second AED shock, a pulse was found and Whitewater Rescue arrived on the scene."

The lieutenant said that due to the officers quick action, Neubauer missed only one class and was back teaching one week later.

Schouten said UW Police Services was advised by hospital staff who reviewed the EKG readouts from the AED machine that it was about as good of a lifesaving and CPR effort for which one could ever ask.

"Because of our partnerships with Fort HealthCare and Whitewater Rescue public access defibrillator program, we together hold over 50 CPR classes," she said.

All UW-Whitewater police officers are certified instructors through the American Heart Association to teach CPR/AED and first aid for infants, children and adults.

“After this lifesaving event, there were several newspaper articles published and the company from which UW-Whitewater purchases AEDs donated one to Neubauer. He, in turn, donated it to the Children’s Center on campus,” Schouten said.

Kuehl was recognized as the first responding officer in the lifesaving chain of events.

“He has performed an extraordinary deed,” Schouten said of the officer.

Kuehl offered his thanks to everyone and then singled out his wife for all her support, which subsequently prompted the remainder of the evening’s speakers and recipients to make sure and thank their wives, as well.

Citizen of the Year

A man from out of state who is credited with aiding in the safe return of a Milwaukee toddler after seeing an Amber Alert on television and calling police was recognized as the 2015 Citizen of the Year.

Jefferson County Sheriff Paul Milbrath said that Paul D. Smith of Iowa was overwhelmed when he called to inform him of the award.

“I don’t think this man really did know what to say, he was so moved,” the sheriff said.

Smith became involved in a case after an Amber Alert was issued from Milwaukee on Nov. 15, 2015, after 3-year-old Aubri Degeffered reportedly was abducted.

Authorities said a 32-year-old man had carjacked the vehicle in Milwaukee earlier in the day by forcing the child’s mother from the vehicle and the child was still inside.

The suspect was believed to be driving a 2013 red Volvo passenger vehicle with Wisconsin license plates. Milbrath noted that the plate number was announced as part of the Amber Alert.

The sheriff said Smith was working in Jefferson County at the time and staying at Pyramid Liquor and Motel, along County Highway V in Lake Mills.

“At approximately 9:47 p.m., Mr. Smith saw a subject in the parking lot by a vehicle,” Milbrath said. “He went into his hotel room and was watching television when he saw the Amber Alert on the screen.”

Smith later told the sheriff that he just had a feeling something was wrong and that the man by the red car in the parking lot might be the suspect in the Amber Alert.

“He became concerned and went to the parking lot,” Milbrath said. “He went out and got down and looked at the license plate number and matched the vehicle and plate number. It certainly looked to him that the subject he saw in the parking lot matched the description.”

Smith called 911 at 9:47 p.m., reporting that he believed the vehicle being sought might be at the motel.

Jefferson County deputies were dispatched, arriving on the scene at the same time as Lake Mills officers, and confirmed the license plate number was the same as that in the Amber Alert notification. They then confirmed the room of the suspect.

As deputies approached the door, the subject exited the room and was taken into custody without incident.

“They went in to find Aubri unharmed,” Milbrath said.

The suspect was identified as Jumal Lipscomb, who was found to be an escapee and a suspect in an attempted homicide and other crimes.

Deputy Ken Tennes nominated Smith for the award for the actions he took that night.

“Ken stated that he was so taken by Smith’s willingness to go out into the parking lot and get down on the ground and read the license plate and make sure he had the right one,” Milbrath said. “He didn’t think about being out there by himself doing that.”

Smith told the sheriff that he went out and checked himself because he didn’t want to bother the police if they were busy.

“He truly is a hero,” Milbrath said. “This young lady, we have no idea what would have happened to her, based on this man’s criminal record and his criminal thinking.”

The sheriff shared a statement Smith had asked him to read:

“To the community of Jefferson County, Wis.: I would like to thank you for giving me this award. It is truly an honor. Out of all the places I have been sent to work, this is one community that saddened me when my time here was done. I was raised in a devout Southern home. My dad always said we are put on this earth to help one another and I try and honor him by doing that every time I get a chance. I am so grateful and humbled that I was able to do that in your community and, with law enforcement, we were able to return a child to her home. Thank you again.”

Community Excellence

The Watertown Citizen Police Academy Alumni (CPAA) was recognized with the 2015 Community Excellence Award.

Watertown Chief of Police Timothy Roets nominated the group, which started in 2000 and provides support, cooperation and assistance to the department in a variety of ways.

He noted that the Citizens Police Academy started in 2000 as a program to educate interested residents on the services Watertown Police Department employees provide the community. During its 15 years, the program has graduated more than 260 citizens.

“The CPA program has been so successful that the graduates have formed the Citizens Police Academy Alumni,” Roets said. “There are over 25 active alumni that work with the department volunteering hundreds of hours annually for various department programs such as Lights and Sirens, the Children’s Fair, DARE, graduation and the annual bike rodeo.”

In addition, the chief said, the CPAA organizes fundraisers, the proceeds of which go toward the purchase of department equipment. The primary fundraiser is a fish fry held in April.

Roets said that during the past six years, the CPAA has contributed \$13,500 for the purchase of equipment and more than 600 hours of volunteer time in support of department programs.

“The community excellence standard is best exemplified by the harmonious working relationship shared between CPAA members and department employees,” he said. “Watertown Police Department employees value the mutually trusting and supportive connection with CPAA members, who seem to always be there when needed to volunteer their precious time or to assist with purchasing that piece of equipment which seems to always be cut from the department budget. In a time where the public is often critical of law enforcement, these people are stellar examples of supportive citizens and I’m really grateful to recognize them.”

CPAA member John Kaliebe thanked Roets for the recognition.

“We don’t do what we do because we’re going for an award,” he said. “We do it because we want to and we enjoy doing it.”

Support Person

Two individuals were recognized with the 2015 Support Persons of the Year awards.

Jefferson County Sheriff’s Office mechanic Randall Frohmader and Watertown Police Department property/evidence custodian Rick Olsen were honored Thursday.

Frohmader has been an employee of the sheriff’s office for 22 years.

“One thing in law enforcement is that we realize that it is not just our police officers that keep the show running. Every cog in the wheel is necessary for us to do our job successfully everyday,” Chief Deputy Jeff Parker said.

He noted that Frohmader's position as the mechanic in charge of the sheriff's office patrol fleet and recreational unit equipment is paramount in the overall operations of the department, as well as supporting vehicle maintenance for the drug task force, motorcycle and snowmobile units, boat patrol and ATVs.

"Every successful organization knows that the most valuable resource is its people," Parker said. "Randy's job defines a very real meaning to officer safety and mission effectiveness. Without the fleet vehicles and motorized recreational units working properly, we literally could not maintain mission readiness, not to mention our deputies' well-being is in his hands."

The chief pointed out that Frohmader is more than a mechanic, having becoming certified in the installation of the various systems for the fleet.

"If it has engine, he can and will fix it," Parker said. "Randy clearly defines an employee who goes above and beyond what it expected of him."

Roets stepped back to the podium to present Olsen, the Watertown Police Department's part-time property/evidence custodian, with his honor. He noted that Olsen retired in 2001 as a sergeant from the Watertown Police Department after having served 25 years in law enforcement.

Olsen was recruited in 2014 as the property/evidence custodian.

"Mr. Olsen's service to the department and city as a whole in his new role has been nothing short of remarkable," Roets said.

Using a bar-coded system, Olsen manages all the found/abandoned property and evidence placed into the evidence room. A total 5,200 items of property moves through the evidence room door each year.

Also, the chief said Olsen processes and submits an average of 250 items to the Wisconsin Crime Lab for testing.

Roets pointed out that Olsen keeps track of all the digital video, audio and photographs from the various incidents.

"Rick Olsen has made a significant positive impact on our police department over the years," the chief said. "He is a quiet and humble individual that is incredibly detail-oriented and trustworthy beyond reproach."

He also noted that the line level officers who acknowledge Olsen's work ethic and appreciate his professionalism encouraged his nomination.

"He is a behind-the-scenes professional that never seeks credit, does his job to the best of his ability and is a solid role model for all of us in public service," Roets concluded.

President's Award

Jefferson Police Department Lt. Dale Lutz was recognized with the 2015 President's Award.

"During the course of 2015, Lt. Lutz had tirelessly dedicated himself to bettering the City of Jefferson and surrounding communities," Jefferson Police Chief Kenneth Pileggi said.

He said Lutz — who also was nominated for Officer of the Year — is active in promoting People Against Domestic and Sexual Abuse (PADA), assisting in many facets of the organization on his own time.

The chief said that Lutz has been involved in conducting presentations with PADA staff to nearly all of the larger employers in the city. Lutz's dedication to PADA earned him the Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Abuse 2015 Voices of Courage Award in the category of community support.

"This award recognized the dedication and commitment that Lt. Lutz exhibits toward the victims of domestic and sexual violence," Pileggi said.

The chief said Lutz also is involved in Tomorrow's Hope, a charity that raises money in support of all life-limiting illnesses, and he is instrumental in the Randy Schopen Foundation Run/Walk.

Lastly, Pileggi pointed out that Lutz has taught the state Department of Natural Resources hunter safety courses at the Jefferson Police Department for many years.

"It just amazes me, the children he touches in this way as students," the chief said of the hunter safety instructor. "We go up to Madison on training and they come up to him and they know him. Those police and community partnerships are so important and he has such a positive impact on literally hundreds of children in our community. I am proud to serve with an officer of this caliber and I'm looking forward to working with him for many years to come."

CIT Officer

Fort Atkinson Police-School Liaison Officer Dan Courtier was recognized as the 2015 CIT Law Enforcement Officer.

Five years ago, the Jefferson County Human Services Board created the Crisis Intervention Team Law Enforcement Officer award to recognize officers who go above and beyond in the area of crisis intervention while assisting citizens who have mental health issues.

Jefferson County Human Services director Kathy Cauley explained that CIT is an innovative first-responder model of police-based crisis-intervention techniques that forges partnerships with community and treatment providers.

She said CIT provides law enforcement officers with crisis-intervention training for assisting those individuals with a mental health illness and improves the safety outcomes for officers, family members and citizens.

Cauley said the goals of CIT training are to improve officer and community safety and redirect with mental health illness from the judicial system to the healthcare system.

More than 60 law enforcement officers in Jefferson County have completed the training.

Cauley noted that on several occasions, Human Services Department workers have witnessed Courtier's CIT knowledge and training in action.

"As a police liaison officer in the school district, he is often the first responder to children and adolescents who are experiencing a mental health crisis," she said of Courtier.

Cauley shared a few instances in which Courtier successfully intervened in crises involving children.

"Officer Courtier has always done an exemplary job; however, since the training, we have witnessed significant changes in how he interacts and speaks with youth who are experiencing a mental health crisis," she said.

For photos, [click here](#).