

JOPLIN



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Update/Continuation on Page 7

NEWS RELEASE

April 22, 2015 the Joplin Police Department held our Annual Awards Banquet. Joplin Police Officers and their families attended. Mayor Siebert and City Manager Sam Anselm also attended the event. The Elks Lodge hosted the event and Mythos provided the dining. They both are appreciated for their support.

A “Table of Honor” was reserved for those Joplin Officers who have lost their lives in service to our community. Inserted below is the “Table of Honor” recitation.

Many officers and civilian employees were awarded recognition. The following people were among the many that received awards; (Below is more information as to their specific conduct that merited recognition.)

Dispatcher Julie Gooch-Life Saving Award
Sgt. Brian Henderson-Letter of Commendation
Officer Caleb Johnson-Life Saving Award
Officer Damon Farrow-Meritorious Service Award

The following officers received Letters of Excellence; Detective Amanda Schippers, Bryan Rogers, Brett Davis, Captain Darren Gallup, Damon Farrow, Daniel Rogers, Juan Rojo, Cpl. Josh Hanes, and Lacey Baxter.

TABLE OF HONOR

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The **Table**, with its **place setting**, is a way of symbolizing the fact that members of our profession are missing from this event.

The table is **set for one**, though the number is many.

The **Chair** is empty. They can no longer join us.

The **Tablecloth** is white - symbolizing the purity of their intentions to serve their communities.

The **Candle** is lit - symbolizing their spirit to serve.

The **Glass** is inverted - they cannot drink nor toast with us this day.

A slice of **Lemon** is on the bread plate to remind us of their bitter fate.

The single **Red Rose** displayed in the vase is to remind us of their families and loved ones.

The **Salt** upon the plate is symbolic of their tears.

The **Blue Ribbon** tied so prominently on the vase reminds us of the "**Thin Blue Line**" which stands strong before those who would destroy law and order in our great nation.

Many of us served with these peace officers and called them "partner". We relied upon them; depended upon their might, and their aid.

We called them "**Brothers.**" We called them "**Sisters.**"

They watch over us still ~~ and we **Honor** them today.

Dispatcher Julie Gooch-Life Saving Award

On July 9, 2014 at 1255 hours, Julie took a 911 call from an 8 year old girl, Sidney. Sidney was in her car with her father, who was having some kind of seizure. Julie was able to keep Sidney calm, while asking all of the pertinent questions needed to determine what was happening with her dad. Julie found out their location and was able to have Sidney relay to her father to pull the car over and park on a church parking lot. Julie then began Fire and EMS to their location. Dispatcher Gooch obtained the color and description of their car and remained on the line with Sidney until first responders arrived. Julie's caring demeanor worked to keep Sidney calm during a rather frightening situation. Had it not been for the man's 8 year old daughter in the car with him, her knowing to call 911 for help and receiving the assistance from an attentive and compassionate dispatcher; this situation could have ended as a fatal one. These are the types of calls that make us feel a sense of pride for what we do!

Cpl. Brian Henderson Letter of Commendation

*(Cpl. Henderson has been promoted to Sgt. Henderson)

During the past year Cpl. Brian Henderson has excelled in his position as a supervisor on the SWAT Team and as a senior range officer. He has been promoted from senior team leader to tactical supervisor. In this position he has been instrumental in streamlining and modernizing the training platform and schedules for the team. His guidance and planning has led to a more cohesive and professional tactical organization.

Cpl. Henderson played a key part organizing and structuring the first Joplin Police Department SWAT School taught to outside agencies. He was able to obtain POST certification for the course which has become a standard for area agencies. Due to the success of the first class a second has been planned for 2015 which was filled by area officers in the first two weeks it was advertised.

Cpl. Henderson has taken the lead on several projects to improve the police department range and firearms program. Through his leadership numerous deficiencies have been identified, fixed, or replaced.

Cpl. Henderson's continued outstanding performance is in keeping with the highest tradition of excellence that has become the hallmark of the Joplin Police Department.

Officer Caleb Johnson-Life Saving Award 2014

On December 23, 2014, Officer Caleb Johnson was dispatched to an Officer-Needs-To-Call in reference to a check on well-being. The caller was across the state and concerned about her mother who was in a volatile relationship and made some concerning statements about taking medications. The caller gave Officer Johnson vehicle information for her mother. Officer Johnson checked the hotel district for the vehicle and eventually located it at the Baymont Inn. Officer Johnson contacted staff who directed him to the room in question. When at the room, Officer Johnson could hear what sounded like the person inside having breathing problems. He gained access to the room and found the person in question in respiratory distress. He also located a bottle of pills that were empty with several missing. It appeared as if the victim had taken a large amount of prescription pills with alcohol. The victim was aspirating on herself and Officer Johnson maintained an open airway until METS arrived and transported her. METS found her with an oxygen saturation lower than required to maintain life. Her heart rate had also went into bradycardia and was assisted to normal rhythm at the scene by EMS.

The hotel district was very busy with guests, and there were lots of vehicles in the area, making it more difficult to find one vehicle in the area. Officer Johnson went above and beyond to locate the vehicle and the victim. If not for his due diligence in this situation the female would have perished.

Officer Adam Brannin, his wife Heather along with Officer Brian Rogers and his wife Julia-Meritorious Service Award

On November 15, 2014 Officer Adam Brannin, his wife Heather along with Officer Brian Rogers and his wife Julia were attending a baby shower at the Mason's lodge in Galena KS. While there Adam observed an elderly female start to choke. He immediately told his wife Heather, who is an RN at Freeman Hospital. She got up and approached the elderly female. Brian stood up and approached as well. Brian saw the female's face turn blue and it was obvious she was not breathing. Heather told Adam to call 911. Heather attempted the Heimlich maneuver, but due to the patient's size was having difficulty. At that time Officer Rogers began attempting the Heimlich maneuver, but the patient became unresponsive and was laid out on the floor.

Heather checked for a pulse, could not find one and immediately began chest compressions. As a Galena Officer arrived CPR was continued, between the Galena Officer and Heather. Officer Brannin, using the Galena Officer's flashlight, began checking the patient's airway for obstructions. At one point a brief pulse was located that the patient attempted to gasp for a breath. Attempted delivery of breaths failed to yield any productive rise and fall of the patient's chest, indicated the airway was still obstructed.

As the ambulance approached, they were met by Officer Rogers and briefed on the situation. The patient was transported to Freeman, alive, where she stayed in ICU for three days. The family had a Do Not Resuscitate order in place and the patient died three days later on November 18th.

The immediate actions of those on scene and the direction of Heather, provided an exemplary example of the public service professions and demonstrated the need for a common goal. Those actions allowed the family of Mrs. Rosenberg to have a few more days with her.

Officer Damon Farrow-Meritorious Service Award

The Awards Committee has selected you to receive a Meritorious Award for 2014.

On August 15, 2014 Officer Farrow was gathering information in reference to a shoplifting incident at Wal-Mart located at 2623 W. 7th St. While speaking with loss prevention he was advised there was another larceny in-progress and was told the suspect was in the bathroom concealing items. Officer Farrow located the subject and made contact as he was exiting the store. The suspect pulled a machete from his shorts and held it in a threatening manner. Officer Farrow drew his firearm and gave the suspect several commands to drop the weapon, but he would not comply. Officer Farrow remained in control and transmitted the situation over the radio. The parking lot and store was very busy and Farrow recognized that several people were in the background. Officer Farrow also had his movement limited by cars driving directly beside him, and subjects walking all around him. The suspect finally dropped the machete and followed commands to lay on the ground. Responding officers arrived and took the suspect into custody. After further investigation it was discovered the machete had been stolen.

Officer Farrow remained calm and evaluated several tactical options very quickly. His performance of the situation resulted in a deadly situation being resolved without injuries to the suspect or innocent bystanders.

Update/Continuation

Officer Wesley Massey-Patrol Officer of the Year
Officer Seth Lugenbell-Rookie of the Year
Officer Brian Wenberg-Special Enforcement Officer of the Year
Stephanie Stewart-Spouse's Honor
Sgt. Joe Moore-Supervisor of the Year
Beth Jeffers-Civilian Employee of the Year
Dustin Holt-Detective of the Year
Detention Officer of the Year

Officer Seth Lugenbell -Rookie of the Year 2014

Officer Seth Lugenbell is the 2014 "Rookie of the Year". Since starting his career at the Joplin Police Department Officer Lugenbell has provided positive experiences and performs at a high level. Officer Lugenbell always stays busy during his shift looking for criminal activity, and has a strong desire to locate and take appropriate actions against those found committing crimes. During the year of 2014 Officer Lugenbell filed 39 probable cause statements with the state courts, was primary on 2438 calls for service and provided 913 assist to other officers.

Officer Lugenbell completes thorough and accurate reports with very little guidance, and is more than willing to ask and accept help during those few situations that he is unfamiliar with. He has also taken a leadership role with some of the other officers on the shift, helping them with their calls for service and with known criminals in the area. Officer Lugenbell has become more than familiar with the regular criminals that we encounter and is able to remember details of events about incidents that make him a great value to the Joplin Police Department. Officer. Lugenbell has shown that he is truly an asset to the City of Joplin and the Police Department, by his drive to locate and apprehend the criminal element.

Officer Wesley Massey-Officer of the Year 2014

Officer Wesley Massey is the Officer of the Year of 2014. Officer Massey is a dedicated and skilled professional who excels in all areas of police work. He is consistently a top performer on his teams and give all-out effort to investigations, traffic enforcement, drug interdictions, and most importantly, customer service.

Throughout 2014 Officer Massey was nominated for Officer of the Month four times. All of the nominations are full of accolades based off of Officer Massey's ability to clear criminal cases and produce results. Officer Massey's view of the bigger picture is more relatable to this award. Every nomination included words such as "hard work, willingness, and professionalism."

Officer Massey is a true team player, dedicated to the Mission of the Joplin Police Department. He demonstrates this with his performance and behavior each and every day. Thank you Officer Wes Massey for your dedication, hard work, and exemplary display of professionalism.

Officer Brian Wenberg-Special Enforcement Officer of the Year 2014

Officer Brian Wenberg of the Police Department's Traffic Unit has been selected for the Special Enforcement Officer of 2014.

In 2014 Officer Wenberg took on the task of being the primary officer to investigate hit and run collisions. Throughout the year of 2014, Officer Wenberg was assigned 337 leaving the scene cases. Of those cases, one-hundred, twenty-seven of them, or thirty-four percent were cleared by arrest. That was an eleven percent increase from 2013. This was accomplished through a lot of hard work on Officer Wenberg's part. It was not uncommon for Officer Wenberg to complete over seventy supplemental reports in a month, along with subpoenas for information and still he kept up his productivity. This not only produced a significant improvement for the police department, but it also better served the community as a whole with a higher quality product.

Officer Wenberg has taken on a leading role for the department utilizing the License Plate Reader. (LPR) For a few years now the police department has had a collection of license plate information and the ability to use the information for investigative and crime prevention purposes. Seeing a need for the information Officer Wenberg took on a role to basically administer the program for the department. Routinely Officer Wenberg is able to recover the available information and disseminate it to the department. This information has led to the closure of multiple cases

Throughout the year Officer Wenberg has identified and set out to improve several processes within his prevue. When discussing this with other officers they were quick to point out Officer Wenberg's overall willingness to help and share his knowledge.

Specifically it was mentioned that he put together reconstruction packet for all Crash Reconstructionist to stay current on their skills. He also worked at putting together and teaching a photography class for the traffic team and others that wanted to attend. Other contributions noted was his institution of the use of the "Car-Fax" program and 'Crash-Docs'.

Stephanie Stewart-Spouse's Honor

The Awards Committee would like to recognize Stephanie Stewart with the Spouse's Honor Award. From January 2014 to March of 2014, Assistant Chief Matt Stewart attended the FBI National Academy, which took him away from home for 10 weeks. Just prior to leaving their home experienced major flooding due to a break in a water line. As a result nearly a complete renovation of the basement was required. Matt was able to help for only a short period of time, before leaving. Stephanie not only had to handle being a single parent with two children, but also had to deal with major repair work, the insurance companies, and contractors. There were several night that after running kids to their events, making sure homework was done, giving the kids their bath, and putting them to bed she would stay awake to paint or work on the basement to make sure things were getting done.

Matt commented, "Stephanie was able to handle all of the paperwork and headaches while I was away and never let on as to how stressful things were for her while I was away. It wasn't until I returned home that I truly learned what all she had been through and how hard she had worked. I am very fortunate to have such a wonderful wife who has supported me throughout the years and especially during this time." "Thank you Stephanie for all of your support and for always being there for me and our family."

Sergeant Joseph Moore-Supervisor of the Year

The 2014 Supervisor of the Year is Sergeant Joseph Moore. While supervising the midnight team, Sgt. Moore has not only worked to coordinate and lead their team, he has also contributed to many other duties within the department. During the past year, Sgt. Joe Moore has excelled in his position as Range Master. He has revamped the firearms qualification to bring it in line with Missouri POST standards and requirements. He has established and implemented realistic training courses that will better prepare officers for a lethal force encounters. Sgt. Moore has also integrated use of force training into range days to inoculate officers into an overall mindset for various situational force options.

Sgt. Moore has the additional duty of Field Training Officer (FTO) Coordinator. In this position he has been responsible for reorganizing the Field Training Officer Program and training new and current FTO's. The proper training of new officers is critical to the future of the Joplin Police Department and Sgt. Moore has been most effective in this position. Sgt. Moore also serves on the department's crash and pursuit review boards as the training representative in order to identify departmental training needs.

Sgt. Moore's continued outstanding performance is in keeping with the highest tradition of excellence that has become the hallmark of the Joplin Police Department.

Beth Jeffers -Civilian Employee of the Year 2014

Beth Jeffers, Food Service Manager in the Jail Division, is the 2014 Civilian Employee of the Year. Beth had been managing the food service division in the jail for over 3 years. Beth continues to go above and beyond in her day to day duties. Beth has continued to find creative ways to prepare meals for inmates that not only exceeds industry food service standards but continues to operate under budget. Beth also assist's in meal preparations over the years for those attending Tomorrow Leader's Today, sponsored by the Joplin Chamber of Commerce. Beth Also prepares meals for the monthly Citizen's Advisory Committee meetings and also for other events and training for the Police Department. Beth continues to seek ways to assist the Police Department and the City of Joplin.

Dustin Holt-Detective of the Year 2014

Detective Dustin Holt has been selected as the Joplin Police Department's Detective of the Year for 2014. During 2014 Detective Holt was nominated for Officer of the Month twice and received several accolades from members of multiple bureaus. Throughout the year Detective Holt has worked hard at facilitating relative and factual information that has led to the closure of multiple cases. Specifically in October of 2014 Detective Holt was instrumental in solving the thefts of air conditioning units from multiple businesses in town. As stated by Sergeant Duncan, "the initiative taken by Detective Holt by disseminating the information and his ability to follow up on my stop and put together a good case...Had Detective Hold not responded immediately the outcome in this case is not as likely and his effort is much appreciated."

Secondly, in December of 2014 Detective Holt worked countless hours on mail thefts. After obtaining suspect information, Detective Holt took it upon himself to conduct surveillance on the suspect's vehicle. After a traffic stop was made on the suspect's vehicle, Detective Holt was able to obtain confessions and recover stolen property for the victims.

Detective Holt's continuing service to the department and the community exemplifies the calling of a public servant.

Sasha Deckard-Detention Officer of the Year

Sasha Deckard has been selected as the Joplin Police Department's Detention Officer of the Year for 2014. Since Sasha has worked for the Jail Division she has been a stellar performer. Sasha has continued to take on a leadership roles within the jail. She assist and monitors our inmate medical care programming, making sure the program is administered properly and providing feedback when needed. She is also serves on the awards committee on behalf of the jail and continues to offer suggestions for team and morale-building in the jail. We have recently created an FTO program and she was chosen to be one of our FTO'S. She not only trains new hires but consistently provides input to the leadership and direction of the facility. She is a great example of what you look for in future leaders within the organization.