

**UNITY:** Sheriff won race with 55 percent of the vote

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internal investigation alleging improper relations with a subordinate, and Sheriff's Lt. Tim Leak was placed on administrative leave after alleged policy violations. A second Lt., Robert Trono, was placed on paid administrative leave after a Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms investigation into potential violations of firearms licensing requirements.

At the time of these controversies, Nelson told *The Nugget* he was committed to addressing the issues within the sheriff's office, and pledged to handle the incidents as firmly and effectively as possible.

Nelson's opponent, DCSO Deputy Erik Kozowski, seized upon the controversies to support his contention that the sheriff's office was in dire need of new leadership.

Deschutes County voters, however, decided otherwise. Nelson won the election convincingly, garnering 55 percent of the vote. Sheriff Nelson told *The Nugget* he believes strongly in the election process.

"I have 175,000 bosses," he said. "I am always running for my job, and that's

the way it should be."

Asked about any lingering effects of the campaign, and Kozowski's well-publicized allegations of nepotism inside the department, Nelson told *The Nugget* that the sheriff's office is unified as a department, and looking forward to serving the community, "the way we've always been successful serving."

Nelson said that deputies and civilian employees alike are enthusiastic about several new initiatives, including the recent formation of a Citizen's Advisory Board. Nelson said the board will provide representation to the sheriff's office from different areas of the county, and offer input on programs and services.

Sheriff Nelson also told *The Nugget* that the sheriff's office is beginning a Citizen's Academy in February. Citizen's Academies have become very popular across the country, and offer a chance for citizens to learn more about law-enforcement tactics, techniques and procedures. The academies serve as a bridge to the community, and help to dispel many of the myths surrounding law enforcement.

The sheriff also said he was also looking forward to making adjustments to the Sheriff's Office Strategic Plan. He did not offer details.

# Suspects arrested in car thefts

Multiple suspects have been arrested as part of the fallout from a police chase through Sisters on October 31.

On that date, Deschutes County sheriff's deputies and Oregon State Police troopers were advised of a reckless driver eastbound toward Deschutes County on Highway 20. The vehicle was reported stolen out of Marion County.

A Black Butte Ranch police officer and Deschutes County sheriff's deputy attempted to stop the vehicle on Highway 20 west of Sisters. The vehicle was traveling at a high rate of speed and driving recklessly. The vehicle did not yield to officers and the pursuit was discontinued for safety reasons. The vehicle was spotted by multiple agencies at least three more times between Sisters and Bend, and each time the driver eluded law enforcement.

During the pursuit of the stolen Black 2012 Cadillac CTS, a sheriff's deputy made a separate traffic stop on

a black Dodge Ram 2500 pickup. It had been reported that the Cadillac and the Dodge might have been traveling together. It was found that both vehicles had been traveling together and they were both reported stolen.

The Cadillac was reported stolen out of Woodburn and the Dodge truck was reported stolen out of Salem. Daniel Redding was arrested and later issued a citation in lieu of custody for unauthorized use of a motor vehicle.

Detectives with the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office Street Crime Unit (SCU), along with patrol deputies, were able to locate two more stolen vehicles at Redding's home on Alpine Lane in Alfalfa; a Red Dodge Ram 3500 4x4 truck stolen from Bend and a black Dodge Challenger stolen from Salem.

Over the course of a week SCU detectives conducted an in-depth investigation into the multiple vehicle thefts in the Central Oregon area and from several cities in the Willamette Valley. As a result

of this investigation, SCU along with deputies with the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office, deputies from the Crook County Sheriff's Office and officers from the Redmond Police Department were able to locate a total of 10 stolen vehicles.

The investigation led to searches that turned up commercial quantities of heroin and methamphetamine, along with scales and evidence of drug sales.

The investigation revealed that several people were targeting vehicles on car lots from multiple jurisdictions. The vehicles were being traded or sold for controlled substances and money.

Seven men and women from Redmond and Bend were arrested on a range of drug and theft charges as a result of the investigation.

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