



Calaveras County Sheriff's Office Reflects on 2024

The Calaveras County Sheriff's Office is proud to reflect on 2024 as an eventful year in public safety, community partnerships, and justice. From cracking major cases to everyday activities, the hard work of our entire staff and community partners has led to transformative results.

Cases that Matter

This year, our department resolved major cases, including high-profile investigations that had the community watching closely:

Relentless Pursuit - In the latter months of 2023 and leading in 2024, Brandon Condry became the subject of multiple investigations. The investigations included vandalism, domestic violence, burglary, stalking, battery, vehicle theft, false imprisonment, brandishing a weapon, and dissuading a witness. The work of investigators resulted in several warrants for his arrest. On June 11th, 2024, deputies with the sheriff's office, in coordination with probation and the US Marshal Fugitive Task Force, apprehended Condry near a business in Valley Springs, CA, after a short chase and successful perimeter. Condry was ultimately found guilty in a Jury trial of several crimes and, in December of 2024, sentenced to prison for 18 years.

Justice for Mr. Meow - In March of 2022, the Sheriff's Office became aware of a video circulating on social media that depicted the inhumane killing of a cat. Investigators pieced together the information and identified 19-year-old Colton Fontes of Copperopolis, CA, as the suspect. Ultimately, Fontes was arrested and admitted to the crime, and the weapon involved was recovered. He was charged with animal cruelty in the killing of Mr. Meow. This investigation leads to an unrelated case of sexual assault and other serious crimes. Investigators working alongside the District Attorney's office and other agencies found additional crimes of forcible rape and possession of child pornography. In September of 2024, Fontes was sentenced to 14 years in Prison for his crimes.

Kidnapper - In October of 2022, Douglas Murphy, aged 60, was arrested on an outstanding federal warrant from Connecticut. Following his arrest, Calaveras County Deputies uncovered an investigation involving Murphy in the kidnapping and severe beating of a victim over a seven-day period. The investigation revealed that Murphy had threatened to kill the victim and bury them on a property. In August of 2024, a Calaveras jury found Murphy guilty, and he was sentenced to 73 years to life in prison.

Burglary - In December 2023, a Mountain Ranch resident reported a burglary where suspects in a dark-colored Cadillac Escalade towing a trailer stole \$5,000 worth of tools. Later, the vehicle was spotted, and the property owner confronted the suspects, prompting one to flee and abandon the trailer while the Cadillac drove off. Investigators identified Robert Jarrell, already on pre-trial release, as being at both crime scenes. With evidence tying Jarrell to the crime, a warrant was issued, and he was arrested. The investigation, which combined evidence with persistent detective work, revealed that Jarrell had violated his probation terms while committing the burglary. As a result, he was sentenced to nine years and four months in prison for the new charges and probation violations.

Office of the Sheriff

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By the Numbers:

35 Search Warrants Authored: Each is factually written to uncover evidence and bring justice, whether in the heart of our Gold Rush towns or the peaceful countryside.

523 Public Records Requests Processed: That's like processing more than one request every single weekday of the year, ensuring our community stays informed and connected.

744 Citations Issued: Imagine a deputy stepping in twice a day to address unsafe behavior, reinforcing the importance of rules and order in keeping our community safe.

871 Misdemeanor and Felony Arrests: That's nearly three arrests per day, taking offenders off the streets and ensuring accountability for crimes large and small.

965 Fingerprint Services Provided: The three people per day average is reached by our staff helping residents secure employment, licenses, and other opportunities.

1,299 Jail Bookings: This number is reached by an average of four bookings every day of the year.

3,571 Traffic Stops Conducted: On average, 10 enforcement stops every day, each ensuring safer roads and deterring potential criminal activity.

3,717 Cases Authored: Each case documents the sequence of investigations launched, leads followed, and justice pursued, amounting to over 10 new cases handled by deputies and investigators every day.

4,425 Medical Emergencies Calls to Dispatch: That's more emergencies than homes in Copperopolis. Every one of those calls could mean saving a life, with dispatchers guiding residents through critical moments before first responders arrived.

15,000 Volunteer Hours: This astounding number is the equivalent of seven full-time workers dedicating a year of their time to support the Sheriff's Office—an incredible gift from our community.

29,259 Calls for Service: That's like every person attending the Calaveras County Jumping Frog Jubilee calling for help this year. From the lively fairgrounds during the Jumping Frog Jubilee to the quiet rural roads, each call represents a moment when a neighbor needed us—and we answered.

44,737 Incidents logged by Dispatch: Although not every citizen called for assistance, this number is nearly the same as the population of Calaveras County. Dispatchers handled incidents ranging from littering to life-threatening, ensuring help reached where needed.

Beyond the Badge

This year wasn't just about enforcement; it was about building community relationships. Deputies spent time connecting at local schools, youth programs, and community events, creating a stronger foundation for future

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generations. Initiatives like our Coffee with a First Responder, Red Ribbon Week, Drop the Drugs Program, and National Night Out brought neighbors and deputies closer than ever before.

Looking Ahead

As we celebrate the victories of 2024, we remain focused on the future. In 2025, the Calaveras County Sheriff's Office will prioritize strengthening the patrol division, deploying advanced technology, and creating specialized enforcement teams to enhance public safety. The department aims to improve investigative and evidence capabilities by adding detectives, expanding digital forensics, and acquiring state-of-the-art crime scene tools. Keep an eye on our Cold Case Task Force; they have been making way and may have some news to report in 2025.

Stay Informed and Involved

Stay connected with the Calaveras County Sheriff's Office through multiple platforms. Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, X (formerly Twitter), and YouTube for updates, stories, and important announcements. Tune in to our newly developed podcast for in-depth discussions on public safety and community issues, and visit the county website for information and resources. Interested in strengthening the Sheriff's Office with your abilities? Explore our website for opportunities to join our team and help build a safer, more informed community—together.