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Lieutenant, Sam Fotiadis and Chief of Police, Tim Ruroden both hit landmark years serving with The Cresco Police Department this year.

Two familiar faces, one shared mission:

Cresco Police leaders mark 25 years combined of service with The Cresco Police Department

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CRESCO - In a profession often measured in split-second decisions, Chief of Police Tim Ruroden and Lieutenant Sam Fotiadis prefer to measure success in conversations started, neighbors helped, and families reunited at the end of the day. This year, the two mark milestones with the Cresco Police Department—15 years for Ruroden and 10 for Fotiadis—offering a window into how small-town policing thrives when it's grounded in humanity and

community trust.

For Ruroden, the roots run deep. He can point to the very moment the idea of a badge began to take shape. "Growing up my local police officers always seemed like decent guys that you could trust and go up to, which influenced my decision to become a police officer," he recalled. That approachable model of public service became the standard he carried from his first shifts in the early 1990s, through leadership roles in other Iowa communities, and since December 2011 with the Cresco Police Department.

His early days on the job were a world apart from the structured field training programs many new officers experience today. He remembers being handed a set of car keys, a ticket book and a shotgun, and being told, more or less, to get moving. The trial-by-fire didn't relent when he came to Cresco, either. On his first day here, he walked out of budget meetings and into a major death investigation—a tragic hit-and-run that underscored the gravity of the work and the responsibility the community places in its officers. Reflecting on how TV can shape

expectations, he adds, "We watch all these glamorous TV shows and unfortunately that stuff happens in small towns as well."

That responsibility can look different hour by hour. As Ruroden describes it, a typical shift is a mixed bag. During daylight, with storefronts open and offices bustling, the department sees more walk-ins and conversations—people dropping by to ask a question, share a concern, or simply say hello. Officers might pivot from those chats to assisting the fire department or EMS. After hours, it can be quieter, but the calls can also become more urgent. Through it all, the chief returns to the basics: be visible, be present, be available.

He also credits modern tools with helping officers do the job more safely and transparently. Body cameras, which are not mandated by the state, were adopted in Cresco because he instituted a department policy requiring them—an added layer of accountability that protects officers and the public alike. In intense moments when tunnel vision can set in, he says the footage helps officers accurately recall details they

may have missed in the moment and provides clarity if false accusations arise. And while the department has less-than-lethal options available, the priority is always to de-escalate so those tools aren't needed.

"Good policing to me is having an open dialog with people, don't hide yourself inside of a vehicle — you want to get out and talk to people, you want to let them know that you're there for them," Ruroden said. "Carry yourself well, have good morals, good standards and be open to having communication with people".

For Lieutenant Sam Fotiadis, the path into law enforcement wasn't plotted out in childhood. He found the calling while working as a jailer in Clarke County, where the rhythms of the justice system and the chance to help people at difficult moments lit a spark. From there, his passion for public service grew, leading him to the Howard County Sheriff's Office, then back to Clark County as a deputy, and eventually to the Cresco Police

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Goings on !

- SUNDAYS:**
-BINGO AT THE CRESCO WILDLIFE CLUB. NOON
- MONDAYS:**
-AA MEETING, VFW HALL CRESCO 5PM
-BINGO AT FAMILY FUN & FITNESS, LIME SPRINGS 6:30PM
- TUESDAYS:**
-EUCHRE AT PUB NO. 7 TOURNAMENT STARTS AT 6:30
-500 AT KESSEL LODGE, 1PM
- WEDNESDAYS:**
-EUCHRE AT KESSEL LODGE, 1PM
-TRIVIA NIGHT AT PUB NO. 7, 6PM

3/6: Daddy/Daughter Dance. Notre Dame Parish Hall 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

3/6: Post-Prom Fish Fry Fundraiser @ The Heritage Center, Cresco 4-8pm

3/7: Plantpeddler Puzzle Competition 12-3pm

3/7: Democratic Congressional Candidate Clint Twedt-Ball hosts Meet & Green in Riceville at Riceville Community Schools @ 12pm

3/7: Iowa & Minnesota Permit to Carry Class 9am-7pm.

3/8: Daylight Savings - Don't forget to Spring Ahead!

3/13: Hall of Fame Nominations Due

3/14: Pub Crawl - Downtown Cresco Participating Locations to be Announced.

3/14: Shamrock Run 5k, Cresco Fitness Center @ 2pm.

3/14: Mi Broadband Community Appreciation Pancake Breakfast. Harmony Comm. Center 8-10:30am

3/14: American Legion Coffee/Donuts and Vendors. Cresco 9-11am.

3/15: St. Patrick's Day Trading Card Event, Expo Center Cresco 10am-4pm

3/17: Happy St. Patrick's Day!



PHOTO BY SARAH KACH

The AAU Girls 5th Grade Championship Team included front row L-R: Harper Riley, Emeryn Teeling, Sully McCarville, Piper Beck, Tatum Munkel. Back Row L-R: Coach Ryan McCarville, Manager Krew McCarville, Emmaline Rogne, Cora Kach, Ellie Sadjak, Blake Carmen, Landree McCarville, Coach Sam McCarville and Coach Kelly McCarville.

5th Grade AAU Girls Basketball Team Takes Home the State Championship Title!

CRESCO - The Cresco Youth Basketball Association (CYBA) AAU teams had a great weekend (Feb. 27 to Mar. 1) in Des Moines!

Teams that placed at the tournament included: 5th grade girls - 1st place; 8th grade girls - 4th place; 7th grade girls - 3rd place; 4th grade girls - 3rd place.

Other CYBA teams that competed hard but didn't place included: 6th grade girls; 3rd grade girls; 8th grade boys; 7th grade boys team 1; 7th grade

boys team 2 and 4th grade boys.

Congratulations to the fifth grade girls for bringing home the State Championship and all of the teams for competing against stout competition as well as continuing to develop as players but more importantly as teams.

The CYBA's goal is to develop on the fundamentals of the game to see improvement from student athletes from first grade on up. Their main focus is dribbling, passing,

shooting, footwork and teamwork.

The coaches encouraged all the players to stay hungry, as what they did over the weekend and throughout the season will not define what they can

achieve in the high school level.

The coaches added that when the players put in the work, combined with their maturity over the next few years, players can take their games to the next level and close the

gap.

The CYBA AAU teams thanked the coaches, players and parents for all they have done. Cadet Nation has plenty of reasons to be excited about the future!

IWHOF celebrates grappling history



PHOTO BY NATE TROY/TPD

Jason Passmore, left, and Jim Turvold hold up two of the plaques of inductees featured in the Iowa Wrestling Hall of Fame. The Hall currently has 150 inductees, with five more scheduled to be inducted during the banquet on April 13.

BY NATE TROY
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CRESCO - If you are a sports fan who likes, loves or adores wrestling, there is one place in Cresco that will make you think you've gone to heaven - The Iowa Wrestling Hall of Fame.

The IWHOF is located at 101 2nd Ave. SW in the Cresco Chamber of Commerce building, across from Beadle Park on Highway 9 in Cresco. The Hall started modestly in the basement of the Cresco Theatre in Champlin Hall in 1970, and it has grown into an impressive establishment at the Cresco Chamber of Commerce, where the IWHOF has been located since 1995.

The roots for the Hall started a couple years before it came into being.

"People in the area were following (former Cresco/Crestwood wrestler) Tom Peckham

during his college career at Iowa State (in the late 1960s)," IWHOF Director Jim Turvold noted. "Iowa State won a national team title and Peckham won individual titles in 1968 and 1969.

"Fans wanted to honor Tom, so they decided to have a banquet in Cresco in 1968 or 1969. Russ Smith, a sports writer for the Waterloo Courier, came to Cresco for the banquet. Everyone at the event had a great time.

"They started discussing what they could do to honor wrestlers, and they came up with the idea for the Hall of Fame. Russ Smith went one step further and noted it was time to start a selection committee for the Iowa Wrestling Hall of Fame. That's how it all started. The individuals on the selection committee has changed throughout the years, but it's always a who's who of wrestling.

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