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Holiday DUI checkpoint has its desired effect

Operation at Manning/I Street is first in Reedley in 10 years

By Juanita Adame

The sobriety checkpoint conducted by the Reedley Police Department on the night of Dec. 21 can be described only as a well-oiled machine.

From the large diamond-shaped orange construction sign near Manning and I Street with the words "checkpoint ahead" to the hundreds of orange cones lining the streets around the college — as well as the large spotlights and multiple officers standing in the streets with

their bright yellow vests over their uniforms — the operation was the first one in the city in 10 years, but already proving to be efficient for the department.

"We actually got set up and started processing the checkpoint at around 8 p.m.," said Gary Kincaid, sergeant with the Reedley Police Department.

"As of [9:30 p.m.] we've only made one arrest for DUI, we have towed three cars which were, one of them was for a DUI the other two were for driving on a suspended license. And I believe, I haven't checked in the last few minutes, we've cited five people for driving without a license."

In addition to the orange construction cones and

See CHECKPOINT on page A6



A member of the Reedley Police Department performs a sobriety check on a female motorist during a DUI enforcement checkpoint on Manning Avenue just east of I Street in northwest Reedley on Dec. 21. The operation marked the first DUI checkpoint within the city of Reedley in 10 years.

Juanita Adame / The Exponent

Giving a hand (and wheels) up

Reedley dentist presents a new car to a local mother in need

By Jon Earnest jon@midvalleypublishing.com

A Christmas season blessing — if not an outright miracle — became

reality for Jovita Martinez last week.
Martinez, who lives in a rural area between Parlier and Selma, west of Reedley, has been without a vehicle to take her daughter and young son to school and her work since mid-November. But on Dec. 22, she received the keys to a new Kia automobile that was purchased by Dr. Rakesh Kumar of Reedley Family Dental.

It was part of a church mission program where Martinez reached out in a plea for help by letter. Kumar, who last week put on a giveaway of 50 bicycles to needy children, offered to purchase the car after hearing of Martinez's plight through the Greater Reedley Chamber of Commerce.

"I strongly believe that when one is in a spot where God has granted you the opportunity to help somebody...oh my goodness, don't let it pass. It would be a shame," he said, shortly after he handed the keys to Martinez.

"Just like he said, it was the alignment of God's plan," Martinez said. "The only car I had finally gave out on me, and I was able to use my [older] son's car until he came home from Japan (where he was deployed for six months as a Marine). That's when I reached out to pastor [Horacio Aleman]. The next thing I knew, they gave me a car."

Martinez said she feels overwhelmed by the generosity of Kumar and the church.

"I thought it was a car that's been used, and I was very grateful just with that alone." Her voice cracking with emotion, she said "then I come to find out it's a new car."

And that wasn't all. Martinez learned from Kumar that the Kia —

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ABOVE: Jovita Martinez smiled as she checked out the interior of the new Kia she received as a gift from Dr. Rekesh Kumar with Reedley Family Dental on Dec. 22. Kumar presented Martinez — who had been without transportation for her work and family for a month — with the new vehicle from Selma Kia.

LEFT: Dr. Rekesh Kumar, left, with Reedley Family Dental handed the keys to a new Kia to Jovita Martinez in front of the dental office on Dec. 22. Office employees and staff stood in the background. Kumar asked Martinez that she pay the generosity forward by helping someone else in need.

Erik Valencia / Photos Contributed

Chamber seeking nominees for 2019 awards

Contributed

The Greater Reedley Chamber of Commerce now is accepting nominations for the chamber's 2019 Business and Community Awards that will be presented in February.

Nominations are being accepted through Wednesday, Jan. 23, at the Reedley Chamber of Commerce office (1633 11th St.) or at The Exponent office (1130 G St.). Winners will be honored at the chamber's annual awards gala at Reedley College. This year's event will be Saturday, Feb. 16, at the college.

Nominees are being accepted in nine categories:

- n nine categories:Citizen of the Year
- Youth Citizen of the Year
- Large Business of the Year
- Small Business of the YearEntrepreneur of the Year
- Safety Professional of the Year
- Educator of the Year Health Professional of the Year
- Reedley Beautication Last year, Jean Clemons was

recognized as Citizen of the Year for her longtime work as an educator in the Kings Canyon Unified School District as well as her quarter century of service with the Reedley Rotary Club. Reedley High School's Emma Reynaga was the Junior Citizen of the Year while the Entrepreneur of the Year award went to Chris Boss of Michael's Environmental.

The public can nominate candidates for any of the major awards. Nomination forms are available at the two sites, or can be downloaded online at reedleychamber of commerce.com. Completed nomination forms can be dropped off at those locations.

For more information, call the chamber at 638-3548.

Exponent office closed on Jan. 1

The business office of The Exponent will be closed on Tuesday, Jan. 1, in observance of New Year's Day.

The business office also will be open from 8 a.m. to noon on New Year's Eve, Monday, Dec. 31.

There will be early deadlines this week because of early production. Classified liner ads and legal notices are due by noon on Thursday, Dec. 27. Regular and classified display ads also are due by noon on Thursday Dec. 27.

Thursday, Dec. 27.

The Exponent's office will reopen for business at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 2.



Bicycle giveaway in south Reedley

Fifty local children ages 5 to 10 years received new bicycles on Dec. 22 at Tri County Medical Transport Warehouse, 659 E. Dinuba Ave. in south Reedley. The bikes were donated by Dr. Rakesh Kumar with Reedley Family Dental. Food and music at the event were provided by Horacio Aleman, and there was a special blessing of the bikes before the giveaway.

Erik Valencia / Photo Contributed

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