

# The Guardian

## Henderson County Sheriff's Office Newsletter



HCPS students taking a stand against substance abuse during We Are Hope Week

April 2018

### Message from the Sheriff

There is much to be proud of going on at your Henderson County Sheriff's Office. The Sheriff's Office has focused on strategic goals resulting in fair and transparent personnel processes, data-driven crime reduction and increased community outreach. I am extremely proud of the men and women who wear our badge and who serve and defend this great community. They believe in our mission, and they carry out their assignments with incredible compassion and professionalism.

One of the big topics in the news across the country is school security. I had the chance to sit down with WTZQ's Mark Warwick and summarize some of the efforts and strategies we have put into place. I applaud our team's commitment.

[Listen to the WTZQ interview](#)

Thank you for your continuing support of the Henderson County Sheriff's Office.

Sheriff Charles S. McDonald



## Upcoming Events

### [Pizza with a Purpose \(4/17\)](#)

Plan to have lunch or dinner at Hendersonville Iannucci's Pizzeria and Italian Restaurant on Tuesday, April 17 from 11am-9pm. 10% of all sales will go to Stand T.A.L.L. to support local area law enforcement. [Click for more information.](#)

### [Camp STAR 5k Trail Run \(4/22\)](#)

The Henderson County School Resource Deputies are hosting the Inaugural Camp STAR 5k trail run/walk on Sunday, April 22, 2018 at Camp Tekoa starting at 2:00pm. Proceeds from this event will be used to host over 400 rising 6th graders at Camp STAR in the summer of 2018.

This family friendly trail run costs \$25 for adults and \$15 for youth (ages 5-17). All proceeds benefit Camp STAR. Registration check-in will begin at 1:00pm on April 22nd at Camp Tekoa located at 211 Thomas Road in Hendersonville, NC. [Click for more information.](#)

### [School Safety Parent Update Meetings](#)



April 24, 6pm @ WHHS    April 30, 6pm @ NHHS  
April 26, 5:30pm @ HHS    May 10, 6pm @ EHHS

The purpose of these meetings is to share the collaborative efforts among Henderson County Public Schools and law enforcement agencies to address school safety in Henderson County, and to address concerns parents and students may have regarding safety procedures.

Hosted by Henderson County Public Schools, in partnership with Henderson County Sheriff's Office & Hendersonville Police Department



HENDERSON COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Submit a question to Superintendent Bo Caldwell:  
[go@CPSnc](mailto:go@CPSnc)

### **Entegra Bank - Document Shred & Drug Take Back Event (4/27)**

The Henderson County Sheriff's Office, TRIAD Henderson County, Hope Rx, and Community Partners offer FREE Document Shred and Drug Take Back Days in 2018 across Henderson County. Bring unwanted medications and residential shredding to Entegra Bank on Spartanburg Highway on April 27 from 10am-1pm. [Click for more information.](#)

### **Drive Through Pill Collection Event (4/28)**

Drop off your unused or expired medications on Saturday, April 28, 2018 from 10am-2pm in the parking lot of the Henderson County Sheriff's Office located at 100 North Grove Street. The event is being operated drive through style, allowing residents to remain in their vehicles and quickly and conveniently dispose of the medications they no longer need. [Click for more information.](#)

### **Found Pig Auction (5/1)**

On March 13, 2018, a pig was located near Green River Park. Pursuant to N.C.G.S. 68-20 this pig shall be sold at public auction to the highest bidder. The Henderson County Sheriff's Office Animal Enforcement Unit will conduct the auction. The public auction will be held on Tuesday, May 1, 2018 at 9:00am at Animals R Us located at 725 Crest Rd, Flat Rock, NC 28731.

### **Three More Document Shred/Drug Take Back Events:**

[First Citizens Bank on 4 Seasons](#) (5/4 11am-2pm)

[Village of Flat Rock Town Hall](#) (5/5 10am-12pm)

[City of Hendersonville at Patton Park](#) (5/11 9am-10:30am)

**To view upcoming events, visit [HCSO's Website Calendar](#).**

## **Hometown Heroes**

**Each month we would like to celebrate a few of the achievements and victories of our employees.**

We would like to recognize our deputies for their commitment to providing extra law enforcement presence in our schools beyond the full time School Resource Deputies.



Deputies have continued to increase Adopt-A-School visits and have signed up for extra duty assignments for elementary school coverage.

Cpl. Vince Griggs was recognized by the Hendersonville Kiwanis Club as this year's Morris Kaplan Caring and Sharing Award winner for the Henderson County Sheriff's Office. Cpl. Griggs started with HCSO in 1996 and currently works in the Animal Enforcement. He is a Bearcat Armored Rescue Vehicle operator and heads up the Community Watch Program. To read more about Cpl. Griggs and the other local law enforcement honorees, [click here](#).



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Great work by Deputies Tipton, Drake and Turpin for providing excellent and efficient service during a breaking & entering that occurred in mid March. The victim was met with, scene was processed, witnesses interviewed, suspect located and arrested, all stolen items recovered and returned to the owner - all with precision, professionalism and speed.

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Henderson County Sheriff's Office Deputies made 256 arrests between 2/25/18 and 4/1/18. Below are links to some newsworthy arrests and events from the past month.

[2 arrested on multiple drug and weapons charges](#) (Fox Carolina)

[Drugs, gun found in vehicle of former student at West Henderson](#) (WSPA)

[Deputies arrest alleged drug dealers](#) (Hendersonville Lightning)

[Man arrested on several felony charges in Henderson County shooting](#) (WYFF)

[Deputies make 2 felony drug trafficking arrests in Henderson County](#) (Fox Carolina)

[Horse Shoe woman faces breaking & entering, firearm charges](#) (Times-News)

[Hendersonville man charged with weapon, drug offenses](#) (Times-News)



## Community Leaders Stand Together to Keep Schools Safe



*Photo Credit: Times-News*

Sheriff Charles McDonald held a press conference on Thursday, March 15, 2018, to outline current and future plans for school safety in Henderson County. Leaders from County government, deputies, representatives from the school system and parents joined the Sheriff to share information about their efforts and outline things the public can do to assist in the identification and reporting of school threats.

Sheriff McDonald began by reviewing safety measures already in place, including the Adopt-a-School program that increases deputy presence in schools beyond the coverage provided by full-time School Resource Deputies. The Henderson County Sheriff's Office has ramped up extra school visits to provide increased random and unpredictable deputy presence in the schools that includes both armed plain clothes deputies and uniformed officers.

Longer term plans involve providing schools with permanently assigned School Resource Deputies in all the public schools. County Commissioners and the County Manager have committed to fund whatever is necessary to protect Henderson County students.

"The consensus from the populace of Henderson County seems to be that we need security people to



do security and we need teachers to be able to teach," said the Sheriff.

Amy Lynn Holt, Henderson County Public Schools Board of Education Chair, spoke on the work being done to update security protocols and expounded upon the collaborative working relationship between the school board, Henderson County Public School administration and the Sheriff's Office.

Holt revealed the school board has recently set up a school security task force made up of school board members, School Resource Deputies, a city police officer, social workers, parents, administration and teachers that will meet to determine actions moving forward. Holt also expounded upon an option to have therapists and social workers in every school. "The mental health piece is key and it's what is missing all around, not only in our county, but in the nation," said Holt. "We, as a county, have to get a hold of this if we are going to improve things here in Henderson County."

She also tasked parents to talk with their children and remain engaged in their lives. "It does not matter what we do; it does not matter what the Sheriff does; it doesn't matter what money the county manager and commissioners give us; it doesn't matter what money Raleigh gives us; or Washington; if we do not have parents, students and community members saying something about things they see on social media and reporting that to the Sheriff's Department and the school system, it doesn't matter what we do."



Commissioner Grady Hawkins stressed the importance of providing the Sheriff's Office with the ability to train for a variety of scenarios. He also highlighted the importance of students and others to report threats to the appropriate authority for investigation and follow up.

Sheriff McDonald was joined in the press conference by Sgt. Ricky Bishop, Henderson County Sheriff's Office; Assistant County Manager Amy Brantley; Dr. John Bryant, Henderson County Public Schools Associate Superintendent; Toni Chamberlain, Parent; Blair Craven, Henderson County Public Schools Board of Education; Commissioner Mike Edney (Chair); Jennifer Thompson Gilbert, Parent; Commissioner Grady Hawkins (Vice-Chair); Amy Lynn Holt, Henderson County Public Schools Board of Education (Chair); Representative

Chuck McGrady; Mike Sidorvic, Parent; Commissioner Tommy Thompson; Steve Wyatt, County Manager.

Regarding those who joined him, the Sheriff said, "Their presence here signifies the solidarity with which we have worked and are committed to continue to work to ensure the safety of Henderson County Public Schools and our most precious resources; of course, our children."

Representatives answered questions from the media and thanked the public for their collaboration as they move forward with school security plans.

The entire press conference can be viewed [here](#).

## **#WeAreHope Week - Addressing Addiction in Henderson County**

This year's 'We Are Hope' week was a great success. Events included assemblies in the middle and high schools, culminating in a banner ceremony at the historic courthouse; Henderson County Opioid Leadership Forum; event with Sam Quinones, award winning author of the book Dreamland; candlelight hope vigil and more. The activities aimed to raise awareness, reduce stigmas, continue conversations, seek solutions and instill hope amidst the opioid epidemic plaguing the nation. Below are links to photos and articles about the week spearheaded by our wonderful partner organization, Hope Rx.



[Opioid forum continues community conversation](#) (Times-News)

[Opioid forum photos](#) (Hope Rx Facebook)

[Author: Working together is the only way out of opioid epidemic](#) (Times-News)

[Award-winning author talks opioid crisis to crowd of 700](#) (Times-News)

## A Thursday Morning Surprise

*Henderson County Deputies are responsible for the safety and security of the courthouse. They are assisted by members of our Volunteers in Partnership (VIP) Program in running the x-ray machine and conducting security screenings of all visitors. In 2017, the VIPs prevented 2,631 potentially dangerous items from entering the facility. These items ranged from pocketknives and scissors to pepper spray and throwing stars. As you will read in this article submitted by VIP Jim Nunziato, our VIPs find all sorts of dangerous items and provide a great service to the citizens of Henderson County.*

Thursday morning, March 22, 2018 was a cold day, and rather slow in the courthouse security room. Everything was very "normal." A little after 9am, a middle-aged couple entered, and we (the VIPs) placed the woman's purse on the conveyor belt of the x-ray machine. I was not expecting what I saw on the screen...



No explanation needed on this one! I immediately STOPPED the conveyor belt on the x-ray machine to keep it confined INSIDE the machine. The deputy was immediately notified, and she took immediate possession of the purse. She quietly asked the lady to "Please come with me" and led her out of the room. No one else in the room other than we at the x-ray machine were aware of what had just taken place.

It turns out that the revolver belonged to her husband. They both had valid Concealed Handgun Permits, were from out of town, and had spent the night in a local motel. They were in the courthouse because they needed to tend to legal matters concerning a death in their family. When they left the hotel earlier, they put it in her purse, and completely forgot about it. The firearm was a .38 caliber revolver zipped inside a soft "Clamshell" type carrier, and tucked inside her purse. The deputy remained in possession of the purse until the lady opened her car in the parking lot, at which time she was allowed to secure the firearm inside her car. Everything following that event was completely normal for the rest of the morning.





This was a very important find, and the manner in which it was handled was highly professional. No one else but those involved were aware of the situation, which eliminated any possible fear or panic from anyone else. This is precisely why security is in place in the courthouse. Bravo to everyone on the Thursday morning security shift who handled this incident!

*Special thanks to VIP Jim Nunziato for sharing this story and for all our VIPs who volunteer in our courthouse. If you would like more information on how to join our team of volunteers, visit [www.hendersonsheriff.org](http://www.hendersonsheriff.org).*

## **Detention Officer Certification Course graduates largest class to date**

On Thursday, March 22, 2018, the Henderson County Sheriff's Office and Blue Ridge Community College celebrated the graduation of the most recent group of Detention Officer Certification Course (DOCC) students. The Sheriff's Office and Community College partnered to offer the program to detention officers from across the region.

Thirty-two students from Buncombe, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, McDowell, Polk, Transylvania and Yancey counties began class on February 19th and completed their state exam on March 22nd. The ceremony and reception were held at the Bo Thomas Auditorium and attended by representatives from law enforcement agencies, the college and family members of the graduates.

Dr. Laura Leatherwood, President of Blue Ridge Community College, welcomed guests and announced this was the largest DOCC class to go through the program. The Henderson County Law Enforcement Honor Guard presented the colors and the invocation was given by Major Frank Stout.

Lieutenant Tim Fuss acted as the DOCC School Director assisted by Training Coordinator Corporal Stephanie Cantwell, BRCC Law Enforcement Director Sherry Phillips and a panel of local law enforcement instructors from Henderson and surrounding counties. The state mandated course load



requires 174 hours of instruction, but these students completed 189 hours of instruction. Extra hours were built in to account for contraband searches, a mock trial for investigative process, and extra time for review sessions. The syllabus included five weeks of instruction that included Ethics, Criminal Justice Systems, Processing Inmates, Legal, Medical Care in the Jail, Report Writing and Notetaking, Contraband, Subject Control Arrest Techniques, Fire Emergencies, First Aid and CPR, Investigative Process, Suicide and Crisis Management, Aspects of Mental Illness, Supervision and Management, Transportation of Inmates, Communication Skills, Patrol and Security Functions, Mock Trial, Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA), and more. Many mornings students were required to complete physical training sessions and they completed physical fitness assessments throughout the course.

During the ceremony, Lieutenant Fuss thanked the instructors and the students' families and coworkers for the sacrifices they made to allow these students to further their education and careers. The class presidents, Buncombe County's Candice Johnson and Transylvania County's Christopher Marco gave class remarks followed by the presentation of the 'Cell Block Awards' and class certificates.



*HCSO DOCC Graduates*

### **Congratulations to the following DOCC graduates:**

- BUNCOMBE COUNTY DETENTION FACILITY: *Dewayne Clark, Tommy Gregg, Candice Johnson, Katie Robinson, Kenneth Sexton, Richard Simpson, Amy Revis (sponsored by BCSO)*
- HAYWOOD COUNTY DETENTION FACILITY: *James Booth, Bennett Russ, Jeff Sharlow*
- HENDERSON COUNTY DETENTION FACILITY: *Stephen Darnell, Nicholas O'Gorman, Seth Summey, Caleb Swofford, Neal Urch, Karsten Woods*
- JACKSON COUNTY DETENTION FACILITY: *Brian Gunter, Dennis Hall*
- MCDOWELL COUNTY DETENTION FACILITY: *Tammy Davis*
- POLK COUNTY DETENTION FACILITY: *Jessica Bruce, Phillip Cantrell, Rebecca Cornwell, Brandi Dalton, Patrick Damato, Donald Dryman, Ashely Foster, Tori Post, Joshua Ruff*
- TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY DETENTION FACILITY: *Ralph Davenport, Michael Henderson, Christopher Marco, Michael Snipes*

- **YANCEY COUNTY DETENTION FACILITY:** *Jonathan Williams*

**Cell Block Awards:**

- **LEADERSHIP AWARDS:** *Candice Johnson (Buncombe County Detention Facility) and Christopher Marco (Transylvania County Detention Facility)*
- **HIGHEST CLASS AVERAGE:** *Caleb Swafford (Henderson County Detention Facility)*
- **HIGHEST STATE EXAM AVERAGE:** *Christopher Marco (Transylvania County Detention Facility)*
- **PERSEVERANCE AWARDS:** *Ralph Davenport (Transylvania County Detention Facility) and James Booth (Haywood County Detention Facility)*

Chief Deputy Jason Brown gave closing remarks and stressed the critical job Detention Officers do to protect the community. He spoke of the difficult job they do and encouraged the graduates to be proud, enjoy their career and take pride in representing their sheriffs and their families.

Detention Officers are often unsung heroes, but they play a vital role in keeping our communities safe. Congratulations to these officers and best of luck as they further their law enforcement careers.

## Recent Events

### AAUW 911 Center Tour

Members of the Hendersonville branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) were interested in learning more about the HCSO Reassurance Program. This program allows elderly residents who live alone to verify their well-being each day with our 911 center staff.



Communications Director Lisha Stanley showed this group of ladies Henderson County's E911 Center, answered questions and encouraged them to sign up for a safety profile at [www.smart911.com](http://www.smart911.com). Telecommunicator Stephanie Brackett chimed in and encouraged everyone to sign up for Smart 911 because it gives telecommunicators more information when a 911 call comes in. These details help dispatchers better serve the public and can save precious seconds during an emergency.

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## Telecommunicators teaching about 911

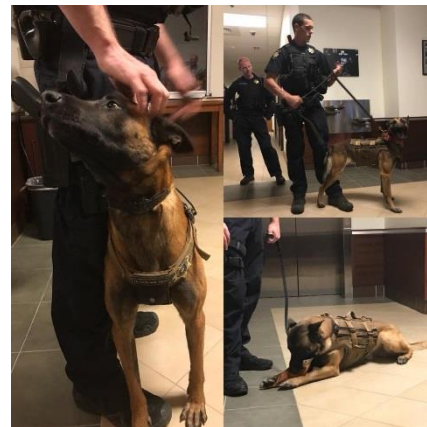
Telecommunicators Ford and Brackett visited Atkinson Elementary to teach 3rd graders about the proper use of 911. Parents and grandparents should make sure children know the address of their home and the types of situations that warrant a call to 911.



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## Sheriff's Citizens Academy

The month of March brought classes on Patrol, Use of Force, VirTra, Victim Assistance, Child Abuse/Sexual Assault/Domestic Abuse, K9, Animal Enforcement, CCW Process and Emergency Preparedness. Our Academy members are truly getting to see what happens in their local Sheriff's Office!

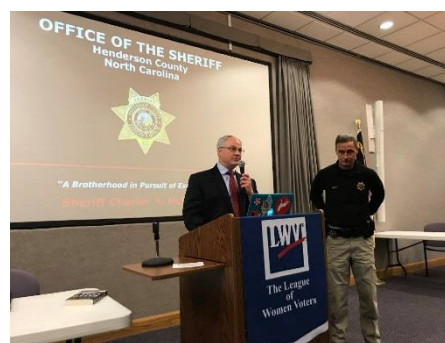


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## League of Women Voters Opioid Forum

Major Stout, Captain Urch and Hope Rx's Julie Huneycutt presented and answered questions at the League of Women Voters Opioid Forum last month.

[Read the Times-News article](#)





## **Spring Senior Projects**

The Spring Senior Project students completed their program in March. High school seniors had the opportunity to meet representatives from the various divisions of the Sheriff's Office. Students are exposed to a variety of law enforcement careers and were provided with an overview of the services the Sheriff's Office provides to Henderson County.



## **Honor Guard**

The Henderson County Law Enforcement Honor Guard presented the colors at the Detention Officer Certification Course (DOCC) graduation. The photo shows a rehearsal before the ceremony was underway. We thank the Honor Guard members for their service!



## **Cub Scout Pack 618**

Sgt. Hartline, Deputy Payne, Deputy Pace and K9 Maik gave Pack 618 a great look at what it means to be a deputy! Thanks to Pack 618 for sharing photos of the visit!



## **#HendersonCountyStrong**

Elementary schools from across the county have been posting photos of our deputies making a difference. Here are a few of our favorites from Upward, Glenn Marlow, Atkinson and Clear Creek!



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