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## The Guardian

Henderson County Sheriff's Office Newsletter



HCSO Badge painted by Artist John Manos. The seven points represent Commitment, Courage, Loyalty, Honor, Wisdom, Sacrifice and Integrity.

July 2017

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### Message from the Sheriff

In a time where dissension and uncertainty abound, I would like to revisit a speech made by former President Ronald Reagan. Many of the themes he covers resonate true today. When he mentions the hometowns of America, I cannot keep my heart from swelling with pride for the community in which we live; the fanfare and appreciation that accompanies the celebration of our nation's birth is not lost in Henderson County.

Although we do not know what tomorrow will hold, God's plans for this great nation will still endure because He is faithful to His word and to His plan. I believe that we will be great again and not because of any man. Let us continue to learn from the mistakes and successes of our nation's history, place our faith in Him and build an even greater America for our future generations.

## **Message on the Observance of Independence Day**

**Ronald Reagan**

**July 3, 1981**

"Today, all over America, families and friends are reuniting to renew ties, enjoy each other's company, and celebrate our Nation's birthday. It is a day when liberty and laughter go hand in hand-when we can acknowledge that, oh yes, we have our faults, and lots of problems, too, but we're happy and proud because we're free, and we know the best of America is yet to be.

If you close your eyes and try to picture our country, chances are the first thing you'll see is your own hometown. I always see mine, Dixon and Tampico in Illinois. Today it is the hometowns of America, both big and small, that remind us what a diverse yet united country we are. Each in its own special way will carry out a wish expressed by one of the Founding Fathers 205 years ago.

Back in 1776, John Adams wrote his wife Abigail that the anniversary of our independence should be observed with great fanfare: "... with pomp and parades . . . shows and games . . . and sports and guns and bells . . . with bonfires and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, and from this time forevermore."

Well, Mr. Adams, rest assured that what you wanted is being done. Your traditions are now ours, and we guard them like national treasures. And you know why. When we unfurl our flags, strike up the bands, and light up the skies each July 4th, we celebrate the most exciting, ongoing adventure in human freedom the world has ever known.

It began in 1620 when a group of courageous families braved a mighty ocean to build a new future in a new world. They came not for material gain, but to secure liberty for their souls within a community bound by laws.

A century-and-a-half later, their descendants pledged their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor to found this Nation. Some would forfeit their fortunes and their lives, but none sacrificed honor.

Thomas Jefferson wrote that on that day of America's birth, in the little hall in Philadelphia, debate raged for hours, but the issue remained in doubt. These were honorable men; still, to sign a Declaration of Independence seemed such an irretrievable act that the walls resounded with cries of "treason" and "the headsman's axe."

Then, it is said, one unknown man rose to speak. He was neither young, nor strong in voice; yet, he spoke with such conviction that he mesmerized the hall. He cited the grievances that had brought them to this moment. Then, his voice failing, he said: "They may turn every tree into a gallows, every hole into a grave, and yet the words of that parchment can never die. To the mechanic in the workshop, they will speak hope, to the slave in the mines, freedom. Sign that parchment. Sign if the next moment the noose is around your neck, for that parchment will be the textbook of freedom, the bible of the rights of man forever." And sign they did.

What makes our revolution unique and so exciting, then, is that it changed the very concept of government. Here was a new nation telling the world that it was conceived in liberty; that all men are created equal with God-given rights, and that power ultimately resides in "We the people."

We sometimes forget this great truth, and we never should, because putting people first has always been America's secret weapon. It's the way we've kept the spirit of our revolution alive—a spirit that drives us to dream and dare, and take great risks for a greater good. It's the spirit of Fulton and Ford, the Wright brothers and Lindbergh, and of all our astronauts. It's the spirit of Joe Louis, Babe Ruth, and a million others who may have been born poor, but who would not be denied their day in the Sun.

Well, I'm convinced that we're getting that spirit back. The Nation is pulling together. We're looking to the future with new hope and confidence—and we know we can make America great again by putting the destiny of this Nation back in the hands of the people. And why shouldn't we? Because, after all, we are Americans.

As Dwight Eisenhower once said: "There is nothing wrong with America that the faith, love of freedom, intelligence and energy of her citizens cannot cure."

He was right. If we just stick together, and remain true to our ideals, we can be sure that America's greatest days lie ahead. Happy Fourth of July!"

*Citation: Ronald Reagan: "Message on the Observance of Independence Day," July 3, 1981. Online by Gerhard Peters and John T. Woolley, The American Presidency Project.*  
<http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/?pid=44039>



## **Upcoming Events**

### **Independence Day Parade (7/4)**

The Sheriff's Office will be participating in the Hendersonville Merchants and Business Association's Independence Day Parade in downtown Hendersonville on July 4, 2017 at 11am. Come out and celebrate our nation's heritage and freedom!

### **Fletcher & Surrounding Communities Town Hall (7/11)**

The Henderson County Sheriff's Office will be holding a Town Hall Meeting for residents in the Fletcher, Hoopers Creek, Fruitland, Naples and Mountain Home communities. The meeting will involve a Q&A with Sheriff McDonald and his staff as well as a presentation on crime statistics, safety tips and community programs. This event will be held on [Tuesday, July 11, 2017 from 6pm-8pm](#) at the Boiling Springs Baptist Church Fellowship building located at 1291 Fanning Bridge Road in Fletcher, NC. Thank you to Boiling Springs Baptist and Pastor Cody Sturgill for partnering with the Sheriff's Office to bring important information to the northern portions of Henderson County. A special thanks to Universal Health Care of Fletcher for providing refreshments at the event.

### **Mills River Document Shred & Pill Collection Event (8/18)**

On [Friday, August 18, 2017 from 10am-1pm](#), TRIAD Henderson County, Hope Rx, the Henderson County Sheriff's Office, the Town of Mills River and the Local Government Federal Credit Union will be offering an event to protect the community from identity theft, abuse and fraud. The public is invited to bring their unused/expired medications and residential shredding to Mills River Park located at 124 Town Center Drive. (Another Shred/Pill Collection event will be held in Etowah at United Community Bank on [Friday, September 22, 2017 from 10am-1pm](#).)

### **Church Security Class (8/22)**

Members of the public have requested another Church Security class be held and the Sheriff's Office has set a date. The class is free of charge for any and all churches to attend. The presentation will assist church leaders and congregation members in making their place of worship a safe and peaceful place. It will be held at the Henderson County Sheriff's Office located at 100 North Grove Street on [Tuesday, August 22, 2017 from 6pm-8pm](#). Please RSVP

to [anock@hendersoncountync.org](mailto:anock@hendersoncountync.org) with Name, Church/Organization, Number of Attendees and Contact Phone Number and Email Address.

To view all upcoming events, visit HCSO's [News and Announcements page](#).

## Hometown Heroes

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

On Thursday, May 25, 2017, a Hendersonville man was attempting to steal T-posts, barbed wire and a power drill from Lowe's. When the man was confronted by employees, he became agitated and began to swing the metal fence post at the associates. Detention Officer Garren, who was off duty at the time, wrestled the man to the ground and detained him until Hendersonville Police Officers arrived on scene. The man was arrested and charged with felony armed robbery.



Detention Officer Garren's actions were quick, selfless and with great regard for the safety of the Lowe's employees and patrons. His valorous actions are exemplary and represent the high standards of the Henderson County Sheriff's Office.

Awesome work by Deputy Dereck Lanning in going the extra mile to locate a dog reported missing/stolen at Smiley's Flea Market. Lanning had to interview multiple people, track down leads and involve other agencies to facilitate this reunion.

If you find a dog or missing animal, please call Animal Enforcement Deputies at (828) 697-4911 and they will work with the Henderson County Animal Shelter to file a found dog/animal report to assist in reuniting lost pets with their owners.





In April of 2017, a male called the 911 Center while getting ready to jump off the I-26 Green River Bridge. He relayed that he no longer had a girlfriend, had no ties to his family and had nothing to live for. Telecommunicator Tonya Quinn quickly established a rapport with the distraught caller. She was able to get him to agree to get inside a patrol vehicle that slowly drove up to where he was standing.



Tonya kept her composure and kept the caller on the phone until he was safe. Even after the man was in the patrol car, he didn't hang up; he stayed on the phone with his life line. Cpl. Gaddy relayed that the first thing the caller said to him was to 'tell the lady from 911 thank you for talking to me.'

We thank Telecommunicator Quinn for her compassion and professionalism that led to a life being saved.

Special thanks to the rest of the team who provided assistance during the incident. Thank you Deputies Scott Lindsay, Crystal Riley and Ryan Hendrix for getting eyes on the caller and eventually securing him. Nice work by Telecommunicators Susan Jones and Logan Ford for communicating with the deputies on scene and sending out the command page. Sgt. Alan McCrary was instrumental in requesting Blue Ridge Fire and Rescue and North Carolina State Highway Patrol to shut down the east bound traffic over the bridge. As always, we thank these responding agencies for their help!

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The Sheriff's Office did not hire Detention Officer Stephen Darnell too terribly long ago, but he has already proven to be a great asset to our Sheriff's Office and Detention Center. Stephen's name keeps coming up in positive emails and reports from his supervisors. His attention to detail and strong work ethic are continuing to show that he is not simply 'checking the boxes', but takes pride in his work and the responsibility with which he has been entrusted. Congratulations Officer Darnell for a job well done.

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Congratulations to Deputy Michelle Hensley for earning her Advanced Law Enforcement Certificate and Sgt. Todd McCrain for earning his Advanced Detention Officer Certificate from the NC Sheriff's Education and Training Standards Commission.

Henderson County Sheriff's Office Deputies made 205 arrests between May 29th and June 25th. Below are links to some newsworthy arrests and events from the past month.

[Traffic stop leads to recovery of stolen gun](#) (Hendersonville Lightning)

[Traffic stop results in drug charges for wanted Hendersonville woman](#) (Times-News)

[Three arrested for Mills River armed robbery](#) (Hendersonville Lightning)

[Knife-wielding Subway robber charged](#) (Hendersonville Lightning)

[Two Hendersonville women face charges after armed robbery](#) (Times-News)

## Operation Offender Blitz

Operation Offender Blitz was a success for the Henderson County Sheriff's Office. Registered Sex Offender compliance checks were conducted by a Joint Multi-Agency Task Force from members of the Henderson County Sheriff's Office, North Carolina Department of Public Safety, Department of Homeland Security and the US Marshal's Office. Agencies involved were conducting

residential verification checks as the sun began to rise in the early morning hours of June 8, 2017. The operation lasted through the late afternoon.

Seventeen members from various agencies came together last week where they were briefed on Operation Offender Blitz by Henderson County Sheriff's Office Deputy Steve Owen.

Deputy Owen laid out the mission's objective and operations plan. "This mission is to ensure that those currently registered in our county are in full compliance with North Carolina General Statutes pertaining to the Sex Offender Registry (SOR)," he said to members of the task force. Several teams were formed with members from each agency. Each were given assignments at various locations throughout the county to conduct the residential verification checks.

"Our goal is to ensure that the 124 registered sex offenders currently in Henderson County remain in compliance," said Sheriff Charles McDonald. "If they decide not to, we will handle each case accordingly and work with the District Attorney's office to prosecute them to the fullest extent of the law."

The Sheriff's Office wants the community to know they are doing their due diligence in accordance with state laws and to educate both offenders and local residents. Any offender who has a reportable conviction and who resides in North Carolina, moves to North Carolina, or is a non-resident student or worker in North Carolina must maintain registration in accordance with current laws.

Residential restrictions are also enforced where registered sex offenders are generally prohibited from living, such as within 1,000 feet of a public or non-public school or childcare center or within 300 feet of any place intended primarily for the use, care or supervision of minors. Such locations include but are not limited to schools, children's museums, child care centers, nurseries, playgrounds or any place where minors frequently congregate, including libraries, arcades, amusement parks, recreation parks and swimming pools when minors are present. The State Fairgrounds are also prohibited during the period of time each year when the State Fair or North Carolina Mountain State Fair is conducted.

Registered offenders must comply with state laws pertaining to registry and the Henderson County Sheriff's Office strives to hold offenders accountable if they violate such laws. Offenders must report where they are residing, employed or attending institutions of higher education and must report all online identifiers.

North Carolina Sex Offenders must maintain registration requirements for a minimum of 30 years. During criminal sentencing, a court order is required



before certain sex offenders are classified. Certain offenders not classified as recidivists, aggravated offenders or sexually violent predators may petition for removal after being registered in North Carolina for ten (10) years and must petition the Superior Court where the offender was convicted in North Carolina. If an offender meets the criteria specified in NCGS 14-208.12A, then the court in its discretion may terminate the requirements to register.

Compliance checks by the Sheriff's Office are conducted regularly throughout the year. It is not unusual for the offenders to see deputies knocking on their door or leaving some sort of notification of their presence. However, utilizing the services offered from both state and federal agencies made Operation Offender Blitz a successful team effort by all involved.

All of the registered sex offenders where residential checks were conducted in Henderson County were in compliance with state regulations. The following arrests were made on unrelated charges during the operation:

- Anthony Wade Hollifield, age 45 of 29 N Holly Ln. in Fletcher, was charged with felony possession of methamphetamine, felony maintaining veh/dwell/place of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia. Hollifield was held in the Henderson County Jail and was released after posting an \$18,500.00 secured bond.
- Sheila Marie Woodham, age 43 of 29 N Holly Ln. in Fletcher, was charged with misdemeanor simple possession of schedule IV controlled substance and misdemeanor possession of drug paraphernalia. Woodham was held in the Henderson County Jail and was released after posting a \$600.00 secured bond.
- Timothy Ian Matthews, age 34 of 120 Timberland Dr. in Etowah, was taken into custody for an outstanding warrant for misdemeanor larceny. Matthews was held at the Henderson County Jail and was released after posting a \$500.00 secured bond.

A listing of Henderson County's 124 registered sex offenders can be found at [sexoffender.ncsbi.gov](http://sexoffender.ncsbi.gov).

## Recent Events

### Operation Vigilant Catamount

The Henderson County Sheriff's Office participated in disaster training exercises organized by the NC National Guard. SWAT members, Bomb Team members and other



agency personnel collaborated with federal, state and local agencies in scenarios located in the DuPont State Forest and at the Fontana Dam.

Watch the following videos to learn more about the collaboration and scope of these training exercises:

[National, local law enforcement conduct security exercise at Fontana Dam](#) (WLOS)

[National Guard Disaster training exercise takes place in mountains](#) (WLOS)

[Collaboration at Vigilant Catamount](#) (NC National Guard)

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### **Cadet Corps Graduation**

Congratulations to the graduating members of the HCSO Cadet Corps. Cadet Stephen McDonald was awarded the 2017 Cadet's Choice Award and Cadet Ian Comeaux was awarded the Advisor's Choice Award.

[Read more about the ceremony and how to become a Cadet.](#)

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### **Camp STAR in full swing**

School Resource Deputies are expecting around 360 5th grade STAR students to attend Camp STAR this summer. Two 3-day sessions have already occurred during the month of June; three more sessions will occur later in the summer. Activities have included trips to the Pisgah National Forest, Lake Lure and downtown Hendersonville. During each session, campers complete a service project at a school and learn the value of giving back to their community.



[Giving back to the Community - Session 1 Video](#)

[Camp STAR teaches community service, lets deputies mentor kids](#) (WLOS)

[View photos from Session 1](#)

[View photos from Session 2](#)

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## HCSO Family Picnic

In early June, Sheriff and Jennie McDonald held a family picnic to thank Sheriff's Office employees and volunteers for their dedicated service. More than 250 people attended and it was a wonderful opportunity to fellowship outside of work.



Thank you Jason and Chae Davis of North River Farms for hosting the picnic and thank you Park Ridge Health for sponsoring the meal. Country Creek BBQ provided and served food and Foxfire provided wonderful music.

Thank you to the following organizations and people who provided door prizes and support for the event: Applebees, Stand T.A.L.L., Biltmore House, Flat Rock Playhouse, Flat Rock Cinema, A Day in the Country, Bloomfield's Dish Barn, The Elks Club of Hendersonville, Sierra Nevada, Joe and Merry Guy, Mane Tane Hair Studio and STAR Camp Counselors.

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## Drug Disposal Program

[HopeRx](#) and Henderson County were provided with new medication drop boxes by [Project Lazarus](#). A new box has been installed in the Sheriff's Office lobby. The public can drop off their unused and expired medications every Monday-Friday from 8am-5pm.



Since January 1, 2017, HCSO has taken in 961.83 lbs. of medications! Thank you to all our community partners for helping us collect and destroy these medications before they fall into the wrong hands.

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## Touch a Truck Event

Deputy Ken McCraw and Deputy Rich Hallberg got to interact with some great young folks at Edneyville Community Center's Touch a Truck event. The Bearcat Armored Rescue Vehicle was a big hit as kids learned about SWAT and the tools and equipment deputies use to keep the public safe.



## Children Honor Local Law Enforcement

The Mission Friends, Girls in Action and Royal Ambassadors groups from French Broad Baptist Church honored Sheriff's Office deputies with a ceremony, artwork, certificates and goodies earlier this month.



[Read more information provided by Stand T.A.L.L. \(Thank a Local Lawman\)](#)

## Artwork for the Sheriff's Office

Thank you John Manos for painting a beautiful canvas of our Sheriff's Office patch. It is on display in the Sheriff's Office lobby and a perfect reminder of the great support we have in this community. John is pictured with our Staff Attorney Jason Smith and the artwork he painted.





## Hope Academy Special Olympics

HCSO was honored to be asked to lead Hope Academy's Special Olympics Summer Games procession. Congratulations to all the athletes!

[Learn more about the event](#) (Times-News)



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## Emergency Equipment Demonstration

HCSO joined Mountain Area Medical Airlift (MAMA) and the Edneyville Fire Department to provide a demonstration at the NC Justice Academy for their telecommunicator course. Congratulations to the new telecommunicators hailing from all across the state!



Photo credit: [NC Justice Academy Facebook page](#)

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## Crime Prevention

One of our staff members, Don 'Dess' Dessenberger, spoke to the local chapter of AARP on steps they could take to reduce their chances of becoming a victim. Dess gave a great summer safety tip: Avoid announcing your vacation plans on social media, and wait until you are back at home to post photos from your travels.



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## Take me out to the ball game

Members from the Boys and Girls Club of Henderson County and local law enforcement from the Henderson County Sheriff's Office and Hendersonville Police Department were treated to a Tourists baseball game. Thank you to Bank of America and [Safelight](#) for making this event possible!





## Did you know?

Close to every 2.5 seconds, another identity is stolen in the US.

Below are a few tips that can help minimize your risk of having your identity stolen. Many more great resources and information is available on the [Federal Trade Commission's website](#).

- [Check on your credit at least once a year](#). Visit [AnnualCreditReport.com](#) to get a free credit report from the three credit reporting companies: Equifax, Experian and TransUnion. The law entitles you to a free copy from each agency every twelve months. You can check all three at once if you are preparing to make a big purchase, or stagger them and review every four months.
- [Consider freezing your credit](#). Taking this step allows you to restrict access to your credit report which can make it more difficult for unauthorized people to open accounts in your name. Freezing credit does not affect your credit score or your ability to check it. You can lift the freeze temporarily if you need to open a new line of credit.
- [Keep personal information secure](#). Keep financial records in a safe place in your home and limit what you carry with you. Do not carry your social security card in your wallet. Shred all documents and mail that contain personal information. Don't give out personal information over the phone, via text or online.
- [Take precautions online](#). Install security software and utilize strong passwords with a mix of numbers and symbols. Avoid phishing emails and don't send personal information out when using public wi-fi.

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