

# The Guardian

Henderson County Sheriff's Office Newsletter



*Members of the HCSO Animal Enforcement Team*

July 2018

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## Message from the Sheriff

What is the first word that comes to your mind when you hear the word 'officer', 'deputy' or 'cop'?

*Service, Sacrifice, Integrity, Courage, Badge, Brotherhood, Partner and Friend* are a few of the words that come to my mind. For other people, an unpleasant experience with law enforcement or never-ending loops of media coverage showing an individual officer's misconduct might bring alternative words to mind for others. I believe in Henderson County we are blessed to enjoy an overall level of support for law enforcement that does not always exist in other areas.

This week, the word *compassion* is in the forefront of my thoughts. It was spurred by hearing about one of our detectives' response to a difficult incident. I won't go into details, but our Violent Crimes Unit was investigating one of those cases that we all wish would never happen.

A supervisor passed along the information that during the investigation, a detective on his team interacted with a victim's family with a caring touch. The detective phrased each sentence with compassion, and the supervisor said that when the victim's mother, "thinks about that awful day for the rest of her life, she will remember the positive impact" that the detective had.

I see the compassion that the men and women of the Henderson County Sheriff's Office have for the citizenry they serve. At times, when a deputy first arrives on scene or takes control of a situation, it may not be initially visible to the public (and for good reason - officer safety concerns and threat awareness take priority), but that compassion is there. Otherwise, how could they do what they do, see what they see and serve how they serve?

Sheriff Charles S. McDonald



## Upcoming Events

### Fundraiser for Hawkins and Turpin Families (7/21)

A fundraiser has been created to benefit Deputy Ben Hawkins' family and Deputy Trenton Turpin's family, both of whom have children who have suffered life threatening illnesses. The fundraiser includes a motorcycle ride and jeep crawl culminating in an event at North River Farms. Raffles, corn hole tournament, silent auction, music, BBQ and more will take place at the event. More information can be found on the event [Facebook page](#). (@HawkinsTurpinBenefit)

### Mills River Document Shred / Drug Take Back Event (8/17)

Join us at the Mills River Ingles (3338 Boylston Hwy., Mills River) at our next Document Shred and Pill Collection Event sponsored by HCSO, TRIAD Henderson County, HopeRx, Town of Mills River, LGFCU and Ingles Marketplace. More information on the [Sheriff's Office website](#).

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 and volunteers.**

On June 9, 2018, some special VIPs were recognized at a breakfast held at Golden Corral. A group of VIPs stepped up to assist with an additional assignment running from March to June to assist sworn deputies with their duties. More

than 1,100 extra hours of volunteer time was given by the following VIPs:

Diana Williams, Danny Livingston, Gil Sheaves, Don Cunningham, Jim Nunziato, Nick Menyhard, Hale Meserow, Tom Williams, Bob Stephenson, Mike Trentacosta, Steve Campbell, Larry Lukasik and Director Dale Coerver.

Special projects arise periodically for the VIPs and our amazing team of volunteers quickly sign up to help out. Whether it is a last-minute traffic assignment, funeral escort or any other area in which they work, some VIP or VIPs always seem to be available to step up to handle it. The Sheriff's Office and people of Henderson County appreciate the VIPs and their dedication!



VIP Bob Stephenson accepts a certificate from Major Frank Stout

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Congratulations to the following people for obtaining certifications from NC Training and Standards:

- Deputy Scott Aly - Advanced Law Enforcement (upper left)
- Sgt. Josh Harden - Advanced Law Enforcement (upper right)
- Detective Trint Phillips - Advanced Law Enforcement (lower left)
- Communications Director Lisha Stanley - Advanced Telecommunicator Service (lower right)



Congratulations to Cecilia Rossell on her retirement from the Henderson County Sheriff's Office after more than 10 years of dedicated service. During her time at HCSO, Cecilia worked as a Detention Transport Deputy, Detective Corporal and Detective Sergeant. She also served as an outreach coordinator, recruitment team member and organized the Senior Project Program for local high school seniors.



We thank Cecilia for her service to Henderson County and wish her the best of luck on her future endeavors!



VIP Captain Diana Williams was presented with a certificate of appreciation. Her certificate reads: "VIP Captain Diana Williams continues to be a leader within the organization and provide excellent service to the citizens of Henderson County. As the individual in charge of the VIPs at the Judicial Courthouse, Williams spends almost 60 hours per month scheduling, re-scheduling and finding replacements for absent VIPs. In 2017, she registered over 1,000 hours as a VIP which included assignments in Traffic Control, Funeral Escorts and Training Sessions in addition to her work at the Judicial Courthouse. Williams is also a member of the VIP School Security Group and volunteers for eight shifts a week. She continues to give her time and talents to enhance the professionalism of the VIP Program. Diana Williams' service to the public and her fellow VIPs embodies the Vision, Mission and Values of the Henderson County Sheriff's Office."



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Henderson County Sheriff's Office Deputies made 260 arrests between 5/28 and 7/1. Below are links to some newsworthy arrests and events from the past month.

[Hendersonville man arrested & charged after threats made to courthouse](#) (WLOS)

[Man charged in multiple smash-and-grab cases](#) (Times-News)

[Hendersonville man faces gun, drug charges in 2 counties](#) (Times-News)

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## **Special Operations Group in the Henderson County Jail**

The Henderson County Jail is taking steps to better protect its officers and the inmates held inside the facility. A Special Operations Group (SOG) has been created to better control the inmate population during special circumstances, mitigate use of force instances and prevent officer and inmate injuries sustained in the jail.

Three Detention Officers completed a demanding four-week training course to

become Special Operations Group members. Detention Officer Seth Summey, Detention Officer Stephen Greene and Detention Corporal Nathan McCrary were recognized as the first Henderson County Detention SOG members at a pinning ceremony held on June 14, 2018.



Detention Officer Stephen Greene is recognized by Sheriff McDonald

"The main priority of this team is to protect the officer, give them the tools and knowledge to respond, and be able to justify the response," said Captain Neal Urch, Jail Administrator of Henderson County. "Historically, in a jail setting, if there is an inmate in a cell that needs to be removed and is refusing to come out on their own free will, the response was for five to six officers to get into a set of protective gear to go in and pin the inmate up against a wall. Basically, each officer would take an extremity, pick up the inmate and carry them out," said Captain Urch. He explains that jail cells are small and filled with hard surfaces like metal bunks and block walls. What he observed over his career is, as officers went in to remove the inmate, they were injured. He gives an example that occurred at the previous facility he worked at: A Detention Officer was injured by striking his knee on a bed frame during a cell extraction, went out for surgery and was out of work for an entire year. He says there are preventative measures that can be implemented to assist with officer safety and prevent unnecessary injury.

Captain Urch joined the Henderson County Sheriff's Office in 2017, following a long and varied career working for the Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office in South Carolina. He held a variety of positions including Patrol Deputy and Detective, all the way up to Uniform Patrol Captain. In 2011, he was asked to become the Major and Director of SCSO's newly formed Jail. Before implementing the SOG concept in the Spartanburg County Jail, Captain Urch studied use of force incidents, officer injuries and workman's comp claims and knew there had to be a better alternative. Following implementation, those numbers plummeted. Although the Henderson County Jail is smaller, Urch is taking some of the successful policies and programs at his previous agency and applying that knowledge and innovation in Henderson County. Some of those innovations include the community jail concept, where community partners like the Blue Ridge Literacy Council, Blue Ridge Community College and other organizations provide educational programs and resources to inmates while they are incarcerated and upon their release. Other innovations, like the SOG, focus on officer safety, equipment, training and jail efficiency improvements.

The Henderson County Sheriff's Office utilized the company US C-SOG, an organization that specializes in Corrections Special Operations Training, to begin building and training a team tailored to the needs of the Henderson County Jail.

"The tactics and techniques taught under this training break the tradition of what we typically do in a Detention Center," said Captain Urch. "Now, if an inmate's non-compliance dictates a need for a cell extraction, we don't send in people at all. We call the inmate out, and if the inmate doesn't respond, we use whatever level of force is necessary to gain compliance. By not sending officers in the cells, there is no chance of officers being hurt and no chance of a struggle." The Special Operations Group is armed with a variety of measurable use of force options to gain compliance; the reason they have trained on so many options is that one size does not fit every situation.

Captain Urch walked through potential scenarios involving inmates that tend to be combative. For planned cell extractions, SOG operators can meet with the medical staff in the jail to determine the appropriate methods to use; if the inmate has a heart condition, the officer would not opt to use a tazer, just as OC spray would not be utilized on an inmate with respiratory issues. They decide what options should be used to best gain control of the situation and cause the least harm to the individual. Incidents are dealt with by using a planned systematic approach in a way that actions can be explained and justified. The Captain explained that any action a Detention Officer takes has the possibility

of being taken to court and open to litigation. Instituting this specialized team is a way to protect officers and inmates from injuries that could be avoided.

The SOG comprehensive training was taught by Senior Team Leader of US C-SOG, Joseph Garcia. The curriculum focused on high-risk corrections special operations and mitigation and included blocks on cell extraction, operations planning for individual and team responses, first aide, physical training, use of force options, inmate searches, weapon management, reading threat indicators, tactical positioning and detention operations involving the mentally ill, non-English speaking inmates, barricaded inmates, high risk inmates and many more topics.

"I was empowered by Sheriff McDonald, his administration and Captain Urch to ensure that whatever these men do, it is done with the highest level of integrity," said STL Joseph Garcia at the SOG pinning ceremony. "These men have integrity first, followed by service to their fellow officers and to the inmates."



STL Joseph Garcia, Detention Officer Greene, Cpl. Nathan McCrary, Sheriff McDonald, Detention Officer Seth Summey, Captain Neal Urch & CSO K9's of U.S. C-SOG



Throughout the training process, Captain Urch has already noted a change in the behavior of inmates when the SOG team is working in the housing units. Urch attributes part of this to the training they've received and how the training enhances the first level of the use of force continuum: officer presence. People pay attention when the SWAT team arrives on a scene; inmates pay attention when the SOG is called to a cell. SOG will be called on to handle special circumstances, but can fold back into routine Detention Officer duties such as completing rounds and delivering meals.

"We want better control of the inmates and better protection of our staff," said Captain Neal Urch. He reiterated the focus in the jail is the safety and security of the inmates and staff. The message being sent by SOG is, "When you stay with us, you follow the rules."

## **Deputies Train at the Serpentarium**

On Monday, June 25, 2018, members of the Henderson County Sheriff's Office Animal Enforcement (AE) team were offered a unique training opportunity. Serpentarium Magic, an educational facility containing more than 200 snakes and reptiles, invited AE deputies and their supervisors to tour the facility, take a class on identifying snakes and train in ways to keep themselves and citizens safe should they encounter venomous and non-venomous snake varieties.

"We brought Animal Control in; we gave them some first aid knowledge, how to identify snakes and what to look for," said Walter Kidd, owner of Serpentarium Magic in Mills River. "We also taught them a little bit about what to expect if they run across things and how they can protect themselves as much as the public."

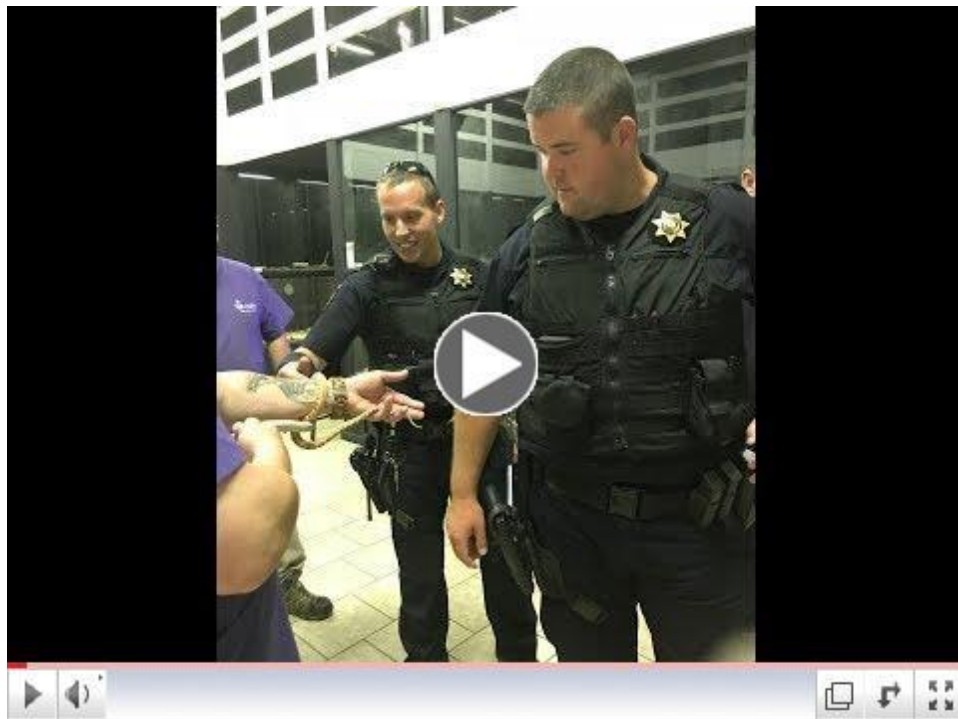
Deputies learned about snakes they are most likely to come in contact with in Western North Carolina, including two venomous varieties: the Copperhead and the Timber Rattlesnake. Walter Kidd had the same advice for deputies and the public alike, in the event they are bitten by a snake. "The best treatment for a snake bite is a set of car keys. Getting yourself safely to a hospital is the best thing you can do." Medical professionals will be able to determine if a patient has been envenomated and be able to



provide the appropriate treatment. He explained cutting the bite, sucking out venom and applying a tourniquet are not recommended. Kidd explained the main thing to do is be aware of your surroundings and avoid snakes if you encounter them in the wild.

Henderson County Animal Enforcement Deputies primarily deal with calls relating to dangerous dogs, dog and cat bites, animal nuisance violations, larceny of animals and animal cruelty cases. Sometimes, however, they come across calls relating to reptiles and snakes. In general, the public is advised to contact Wildlife Enforcement at (866) 318-2401 or pest control specialists if they have an issue with snakes in their home and to only call 911 in the event of an emergency.

The Sheriff's Office thanks the staff at Serpentarium Magic for sharing their knowledge with the Animal Enforcement team so they can better protect themselves and the public they serve.



Watch the video to see part of the training!

## Recent Events

### Camp STAR

School Resource Deputies have welcomed students from Etowah, Hendersonville, Fletcher, Mountain Community, Edneyville, Clear Creek and Bruce Drysdale elementary schools during the first two sessions of Camp STAR. Campers tour downtown Hendersonville, complete a community service project, visit Pisgah National Forest, take a trip to Lake Lure and have a cookout at the Elks Club all while learning how to remain drug free and make good decisions. Three more groups of campers will join our School Resource Deputies throughout the summer.

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### Cadet Basic Academy

Three HCSO Cadets graduated from the Basic Academy for Law Enforcement Explorers held at the NC Justice Academy in Salemburg. The week long class is a simulated police academy including physical training, law enforcement operational classes and practical scenario-based training. Congratulations to Cadets Griffin, Gonzalez and Sitton!



## Bomb Squad Presentation

The HCSO Bomb Squad gave a presentation in Jackson Park to educate the public on the tools and training it takes to be an FBI accredited Bomb Squad. This team can render safe improvised explosive devices, dispose of commercial explosives, assist in tactical operations and much more.



Photo credit: Baby  
Hendersonville Facebook page

Boot

Camp

Asheville/

## #TakeYourDogToWorkDay

Deputy Ben Hawkins shared a photo for 'Take Your Dog to Work Day.' He and his partner, Belgian Malinois Ranger, go to work together every day!



## Stop the Bleed

The Henderson County Rescue Squad offered three classes to church security attendees as a next step as they further their emergency plans. Thank you Mountain View Baptist Church, West Hendersonville Baptist Church and First Baptist Church of Hendersonville for hosting these classes. For more information on stopping bleeding emergencies, visit [www.bleedingcontrol.org](http://www.bleedingcontrol.org)





## K9 Training

One of the June K9 training sessions was held at Blue Ridge Community College. Thank you to BRCC for the opportunity to train on your campus!

Photo credit: Blue Ridge Community College Facebook page



## Field Day Fun

Thank you to Becky Marks for sharing this photo of Deputy Collier participating in Field Day at Mills River Elementary!

Photo credit: Becky Marks Twitter @mrs\_beckymarks



## **Tazer Training**

Another group of detention officer and deputies went through their taser certification in June. We thank our staff for the job they do.



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## **VIPs Keep Busy with Summer Requests**

The Volunteers in Partnership (VIP) have been covering many requests for bike races, fundraiser and other non-profit events. VIP Cunningham, VIP Campbell and Cadet Sitton are shown providing traffic and parking assistance during a fundraiser organized by Stand TALL, an non-profit that supports local law enforcement.

