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The Guardian

Henderson County Sheriff's Office Newsletter



March 2018

Message from the Sheriff

On March 8, 2012, I gave a 'Charges of Duty Speech' to the men and women of the Henderson County Sheriff's Office immediately following their swearing in ceremony. We are approaching the six-year anniversary of that day, and I could not be prouder of the deputies, detention officers, telecommunicators, staff and citizen volunteers who have taken our Sheriff's Office to a whole new level of professionalism and performance.

I've included an excerpt of the speech I gave six years ago, because the principles and virtues by which we serve Henderson County have not wavered. I still stand behind the words I uttered then, and continue to stand alongside the honorable men and women who make up this 'brotherhood in pursuit of excellence.'

"Ladies and gentlemen, I say again, 'In the heat of battle, substance emerges, and renders image to total insignificance.'

I believe that we are beginning a new day. So many of you have hoped and prayed for a change in fortune. Still, you must know that as sure as the sun rises, we will again, many times, be subjected to the heat of battle.

As officers of justice and peace, as those who assist in operational support, and as citizen volunteers, we are called to do battle, in one arena or another, for the security and peace of our community and the safety and the honor of our brethren.

Ladies and gentlemen; we know and accept that we are to be held to a higher standard of integrity and honor than most. That is how it should be. Honorable people welcome the standard that brings them into a select and noble group of leaders and warriors.

The badge that you wear, that I wear, that you support even if a non-sworn member of this agency must be honored and esteemed. If it is not so with you, then it will not be so by those whom we have sworn to God to serve and protect. This badge represents a sacred trust and the authority to carry it, and support it comes from Almighty God. It is not to be taken lightly, abused for power, or to suffer shame by the conduct of those who wear it.

We can speak of brotherhood when the chase is over, after the bullets have flown, or when the fight is won; but if you do not live a life that honors this badge, then you have no place with the heroes in this hall. If you can talk about laying down your life for your brother, but you cannot honor your vows to your spouse, then you have no place with the heroes in this hall. If the words you speak are relative to your circumstances and not to the truth alone, then you have no place with the heroes in this hall.

Ladies and Gentlemen, by virtue of your presence here today I consider you worthy of my trust and I believe that I have placed my trust in heroes.

Still you must know and fully understand that especially heroes are targets of temptation and heroes too, can fall.

With one lapse in judgment, one moment of failed diligence, and the greatness of the past can be swallowed up by shame.

Yours is not an easy task. The character that your profession requires however is what allows the citizens you whom you serve, to trust and respect you. They require it. I require it. You must require it of one another, and willingly deliver it yourself."

I ask you, as citizens of Henderson County, to continue to support the men and women who have accepted this charge, make daily sacrifices as they serve and protect our county and proudly wear the badge and all it symbolizes.

Sheriff Charles S. McDonald



Upcoming Events

Opioids in Henderson County (3/22)

The League of Women Voters Henderson County has rescheduled their January presentation on 'Opioids and Addiction in Henderson County' for [Thursday, March 22](#), from 4-5:30pm at the Kaplan Auditorium at the Henderson County Public Library. Julie Huneycutt, Director of Hope Rx and Major Frank Stout of the Henderson County Sheriff's Office will be presenting. This event is free and open to the public.

#WeAreHope Week (3/26-3/30)

We are Hope week is spearheaded by [Hope Rx](#) and offers assemblies and activities to educate students and encourage them to remain substance free. On [Thursday, March 29](#), Author Sam Quinones will speak at Blue Ridge Community College on the importance of local response to the nationwide opioid epidemic. For details and ticket information, [click here](#). On Friday, March 30, Sheriff McDonald, Mayor Barbara Volk and Superintendent Bo Caldwell will speak during a [banner ceremony](#) at noon at the Historic Courthouse. At 7pm there will be a [Candlelight Hope Vigil](#) for those lost to addiction.

ADDRESSING ADDICTION IN HENDERSON COUNTY

"WE ARE HOPE" WEEK ACTIVITIES SPONSORED BY ParkRidgeHealth

March 26-30

We are HOPE week in Henderson County High Schools and Middle Schools. Schools will have various assemblies and activities during the week to encourage students to remain substance free.

Friday, March 30

12 Noon, Historic Courthouse- Public Invited
Middle and High Schools will hang signed banners pledging to be substance free. Sheriff McDonald, Mayor Volk, and School Superintendent Bo Caldwell will address the crowd.

7PM, Historic Courthouse- Public Invited

Candlelight Hope Vigil will be held to commemorate those lost to addiction and for family members and loved ones affected by the epidemic.

ALSO SPONSORED BY:



Other Events:

Wednesday, March 28

Henderson County Commissioners Opioid Forum

Saturday, April 7

Nik's Run for Hope to raise awareness for addiction -Jackson Park

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.

To register, visit www.active.com and search Henderson County Camp STAR or [click here](#).

Pill Collection Events

Multiple pill collection and document shred events are being planned throughout the county. A list of dates and locations will announced online and in next month's Guardian newsletter. In the meantime, you can always bring your unused medications to the Henderson County Sheriff's Office lobby every Monday-Friday 8am-5pm. For more details, [click here](#).

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.

The Henderson County Sheriff's Office was contacted by a grateful member of the public who wanted to recognize the virtuous deeds of a Henderson County Sheriff's Office deputy and his fourteen-year-old son.

A woman and some of her friends had enjoyed a vacation in the Hendersonville and Brevard areas. Following the vacation, this individual realized her wallet was missing. She contacted the store in Transylvania County where she last remembered using her wallet and contacted the local authorities, but came up empty and had little hope of finding the wallet.



A week later, this victim was contacted by Detective Bilbrey, informing her that his son, Micaiah, had found her wallet on the side of the road while walking to his job on a nearby farm. The victim was incredibly thankful and emotional. She insisted that if any money remained to give Micaiah \$25.00 as a thank you, but Detective Bilbrey turned down the offer and explained that it wasn't necessary because he was trying to teach his children to be good citizens. The victim contacted the Sheriff's Office about the Bilbrey's good deed and said, "Money is temporal, but good character is invaluable. I hope that Officer Bilbrey and his son will be recognized for their part in the recovery of my wallet and its return to me."

Sheriff Charles S. McDonald and the Henderson County Sheriff's Office recognized Micaiah Bilbrey and Detective Bilbrey with certificates of appreciation for their service.

On February 16, 2018, the Henderson County Sheriff's Office congratulated its second graduating class of Sheriff's Leadership Academy first line supervisors. Corporals and Team Leaders from across all divisions participated in the 80-hour course which focused on content specific to the agency, their policies, vision and values.



Congratulations to Detention Officer Cody Jackson. We wish him the best in his future endeavors!

For five years, Detention Officer Cody Jackson has given his time, talents and energy to the Henderson County Sheriff's Office and the people it serves. Cody began his official HCSO career working in the kitchen as a Detention Cook; however, before holding that position, Cody had spent years as an HCSO Explorer (now known as the Cadet Corps) and volunteering with DARE Camp. Cody worked diligently in the kitchen, but had aspirations of becoming an officer.



He was promoted to be a Detention Officer and served as one of the agency's ICE certified officers.

Cody has always cared about the inmates he has been charged with protecting. He lives life with a servant's heart and ministers to his coworkers and friends. Cody continues to play a vital role in the success of Camp GLOW and shaping the future of the youth of Henderson County. His personality, strong faith and character have made our Sheriff's Office a better place.

Congratulations to Deputy Riley, Detective Hopper and Cpl. McCrary for achieving new certification levels from NC Training and Standards!



Congratulations!
Deputy Riley - Advanced
Detective Hopper - Advanced
Cpl. McCrary - Intermediate



Henderson County Sheriff's Office Deputies made 222 arrests between 1/29/18 and 2/25/18. Below are links to some newsworthy arrests and events from the past month.

[3 men charged with robbing 70-year-old woman in her home](#) (Times-News)

[Deputies charge 2 after clerk attacked, sprayed with chemical during armed robbery](#) (Fox Carolina)

[Suspect arrested in Dana store robbery](#) (Times-News)

[Jury scam reported in Henderson County](#) (Times-News)

[Deputies: Suspect in fatal Henderson Co. shooting turns himself in](#) (Fox Carolina)

[Deputies: Hendersonville traffic stop results in seizure of cocaine, cash and a handgun](#) (WLOS)

Henderson County Sheriff McDonald Attends President Trump's School Safety Roundtable



On Thursday, February 22, Henderson County Sheriff Charles S. McDonald attended a school safety roundtable at the White House with President Donald Trump, state and local leaders, law enforcement officers, and education officials.

Sheriff McDonald, one of 12 attendees to the event, spoke with President Trump, U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions, Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi, and others about addressing the need for school security measures in light of the recent shooting in Parkland, Florida. The event was part of an ongoing initiative from the White House to receive feedback on gun safety measures from local officials.

"I appreciate the opportunity to bring a local perspective from western North Carolina to what has become a national conversation," said Sheriff McDonald. "School security is a multi-faceted issue that is going to take cooperation from numerous stakeholders to bring about change and enhance the safety of our children. I would like to thank President Trump and especially Congressman Mark Meadows for their invitation to share ideas concerning this important issue. Congressman Meadows has always been a great supporter and friend to sheriffs across North Carolina. I want to acknowledge his leadership and thank him for his ongoing support for law enforcement across our great state."

"I can think of no better individual or professional to represent our district's schools and law enforcement at the White House than Sheriff Charles McDonald," Rep. Meadows (R-NC) said. "I'm thrilled that our district had the opportunity to give direct input, straight to the President of the United States, on the issue of keeping our schools, students, and teachers safe. I want to thank Sheriff McDonald for making the trip to Washington, D.C. to speak, the President for his kind invitation, and the White House for hosting the event. No matter where you stand on the issue of gun safety, one

principle remains true: the willingness to listen and directly involve American citizens in the conversation is a major part of what makes America great."

You can watch Sheriff McDonald's remarks at the event [here](#) (Fox Business).

Interview: [NC sheriff: Officers must be prepared to go toward gunfire](#) (Fox News @ Night with Shannon Bream)

Article: [Sheriff McDonald joins Trump in White House school safety talk](#)(Hendersonville Lightning)

Interview: [WNC lawman participates in DC roundtable on school safety](#) (WLOS)

Interview: [OANN White House w/ Sheriff Charles McDonald](#) (One America News)

Blue Ridge Literacy Council Inmate Program

On February 7, 2018, thirteen inmates graduated from a life skills training program in the Henderson County Jail. Sheriff Charles S. McDonald, the Henderson County Sheriff's Office and the Blue Ridge Literacy Council congratulated two classes of inmates, one male and female, after they completed a four-week long module in a pilot program developed by the Literacy Council.

The Self-Advocacy and Empowerment workshops promote healthy, lawful, foundational skill building for life and work. Students learned about self-awareness, empowerment, change potentiality, conflict resolution, goal setting and emotional intelligence. The class also connected students with various resources offered in Henderson County to assist them with their educational goals. The workshops were offered on a voluntary basis and had no effect on the participants' charges, status or sentencing.

Amber Hollinger, the Adult Basic Education Coordinator with the Blue Ridge Literacy Council, said "It has been great to come in and work with men and women in a workshop environment to connect with them, hear their stories and concerns as we deliver skill building that helps them to strengthen areas in their lives. The hope is, and the research shows, that it will be more likely they will improve their quality of life and less likely that they'll be returning to jail."



Female inmates pose with Ashleigh Thomas (HCSO), Amber Hollinger, Jail Captain Neal Urch & Autumn Weil

Hollinger taught the pilot program in two modules. The first four-week session took place in December; the second module began in January and concluded with a graduation ceremony on February 7th. Over the next month, the pilot program will be adjusted and topics added with workshops reconvening in March.

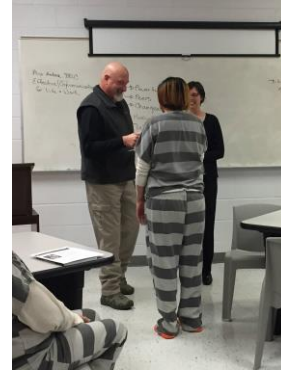


Big thanks to Amber & Autumn for this great partnership with the BR Literacy Council!

One student, Beth Blackwell, spoke about the effect the pilot workshop has had on her and the other students:

"Being given the opportunity to be a student in a classroom again gives us that sense of self and self-respect back. Miss Amber would encourage us and give us positive affirmation that 'you guys are doing a good job.' Those are the things that make us feel like we're contributing positively to society." Blackwell went on to describe that the workshop made her remember being a little girl and having hopes and dreams and thinking she could do anything. "After this class, we've started to remember those things," said Blackwell. "We now have the confidence to go do something else. We're grateful to have a stepping stone - to get out of jail and do something positive again. We're really grateful for this experience."

Sheriff Charles McDonald and Blue Ridge Literacy Council Executive Director Autumn Weil presented students with certificates of completion during a ceremony held in the jail programs room.



Sheriff McDonald & Autumn Weil
giving out certificates

"I'm very proud of the students and the work they've done," said Amber Hollinger following the ceremony. "It instills me with hope that they'll continue their journey beyond the workshop; that they'll take the skills they've learned into their lives and careers, but also that they'll have the confidence to reach higher in their careers and personal lives."

The Henderson County Sheriff's Office is grateful to the Blue Ridge Literacy Council in the creation of this program and their future partnership in providing resources to inmates within the Henderson County Jail.

[6 Henderson County inmates graduate from life skills program](#) (WLOS)

Recent Events

Cub Scout Troop 624 visit to HCSO

Deputy Oza did a great job teaching Troop 624 about his job. The boys recited their scout oath in the Sheriff's Office lobby and they noticed similarities between the qualities they uphold and the seven values symbolized by the Henderson County Sheriff's Office badge (Commitment, Courage, Loyalty, Honor, Wisdom, Sacrifice and Integrity). We may have some future deputies in our midst!



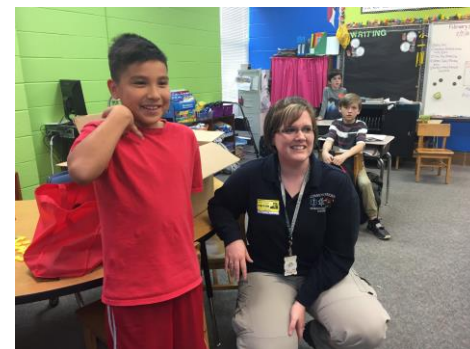
Detention Officer Certification Course (DOCC)

We are hosting our biggest DOCC class to date with 33 students from Buncombe, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, McDowell, Polk, Transylvania and Yancey County Detention Facilities. This photo was taken during the Report Writing and Notetaking class. Thank you to Blue Ridge Community College for their partnership in offering this course to Detention Officers from all across Western NC.



911 Education

Telecommunicators Stephanie Brackett and Logan Ford spoke with Edneyville Elementary 3rd graders about Henderson County Emergency Services and 911. Students learned about when to call 911 (only for emergencies that require immediate assistance from a deputy, fire department or EMS) and when NOT to call 911 (for their pet, for information/other phone numbers or as a prank). To see more photos of the visit, [click here](#).



Sheriff's Citizens Academy

It is amazing how many topics our Sheriff's Citizens Academy members have covered during the month of February: Courts, Chaplain Program, Honor Guard, Identity Theft Prevention, Crime Scene Investigation, Civil Process, Warrants, Drug Suppression, Cadet Corps and more! We have many more exciting topics planned for March and April!



Edneyville Career Night

Deputy Williams, along with other emergency services personnel, brought their vehicles to Edneyville Elementary's College and Career Fair. We love interacting with students and teaching them about what deputies do. Deputy Williams also had flyers to sign parents up for Nixle Emergency Text Alerts. Text your zip code to 888777 or visit www.nixle.com to sign up and keep informed about everything from school lock downs to missing persons. Photo credit: Lisa Lee @Mrs_LisaLee



Church Security Classes

Two more church security classes were held during the month of February. Since Sheriff McDonald first offered these classes in 2016, well over 100 different church organizations have sent representatives to attend. Attendees are provided information and resources to create their own church security team, establish emergency procedures and learn to identify threats and suspicious activity with the ultimate goal of creating a more secure environment for their congregations.



Frostbite Run

The Volunteers in Partnership are always active in the community. They assist a variety of non-profits and other organizations with traffic support during races, parades and community events.

VIP Jim Nunziato and other VIPs worked the Frostbite Run in Fletcher. A portion of the proceeds from the run will benefit the The United Way - Big Brother, Big Sisters Program. Great work by our volunteers!



Did you know?

Henderson County Sheriff's Office staff from across divisions celebrated Valentine's Day by reminding you to protect the ones you love!

Sign up for a free and secure Smart 911 profile at www.smart911.com. Smart 911 allows you to provide information that can help first responders and save precious seconds in an emergency. Your details are only accessible by Telecommunicators in the event you dial 911, and you can link your profile to your cell phone and/or landline. There are options to include medical conditions, allergies, medications, home layouts, vehicle details, pet information; you can even upload photos of children or elderly relatives in the event they were to wander off or go missing. Protect yourself, your family and your loved ones by signing up for Smart911 today!



[Watch the WLOS story](#)