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The Guardian

Henderson County Sheriff's Office Newsletter



Sgt. Ricky Bishop, Deputy Rick Dudney, Superintendent Bo Caldwell and Sheriff Charles McDonald with members of the Class of 2030

September 2017

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Message from the Sheriff

First of all, I would like to take this time to direct our thoughts, prayers, empathy and active support to the people of the great state of Texas in the wake of this devastating storm. Around our region there are numerous drop sites for needed supplies and equipment, and citizens from our community are making long trips to haul goods, help with relief efforts and provide help with supplies and financial donations. We are certainly proud of our own Henderson County Technical Rescue Team who lent a hand in rescue efforts. Most of us can't even imagine the depth of anguish, heartbreak, fear and uncertainty that our fellow citizens are facing and will be for some time to come. We are heartened by the stories and images of people rescuing others and sharing what little they have with those in need. And we are humbled by the churches and other groups offering comfort, meals and friendly faces to our fellow Americans, who through no fault of their own, have found themselves victims of nature's fury in a storm.

While all of us look at the devastation that has befallen so much of the Houston area and far beyond, we have to wonder ever so briefly, "What would I do if that was me in that situation? What resources would I have at my disposal? How would I care for my family if we had to shelter in place? Who would take care of them if I couldn't get back to them myself? How prepared am I mentally, physically and situationally to endure in less than ideal conditions when the unexpected falls upon me?"

Sadly, most Americans don't think about life in the worst-case scenario, yet in an instant, we can all find ourselves in a crisis situation. It may be totally unexpected, and it may seem unfair, but your life and the lives of those around you may depend solely upon the choices you make looking forward and how you prepare prior to a crisis.

Henderson County enjoys some of the best trained and highly committed emergency services organizations available, however each of these personnel, paid or volunteer, are limited in staff and equipment. Many will likely be dealing with situations in their home or neighborhood, as bad or worse than those you face as you try to get help from 911.

With September being National Preparedness month and with hurricane season upon us, now is a great time to make sure you and your family are prepared for emergencies. Hurricane Harvey and the impending Hurricane Irma remind us that we all need to prepare. Think ahead and actively plan. What can you do to make you're your family is safe and prepared? Be informed and take action ahead of impending inclement weather events. Make a check list and complete the list. There are resources available online that will assist you. Visit <https://www.ready.gov> to get informed, make a plan and create a family emergency kit. Be sure to register for [Nixle Emergency Alerts](#) and the [Ready NC mobile app](#) to keep informed of all types of emergencies. Be proactive. Our safety, welfare, and security start with us as individuals.

We all need to remember that the ability to take positive actions in survival situations gives us hope and motivation to endure, and possibly to help others in need. Preplanning and preparing, even at the most basic level, is critical to morale and survivability. That survivability is enhanced if we plan and practice with our family, our neighbors and our community. Why wait for disaster to fall when we could be learning from events around us, forming bonds with neighbors and identifying skill sets, resources and responsibilities with those who will likely be our closest lifeline in time of need? That is what community is all about.

Think about it. If you are blessed with never having to shelter in place or evacuate from a disaster area, what better way to meet the neighbors, find new friends and take reasonable precautions for the sake of your own family and neighborhood?

God bless our families in Texas and Louisiana and those who may be in the path of Hurricane Irma.

Thank you and stay safe.

Sheriff Charles S. McDonald



Upcoming Events

Pill Drop at the 4th Annual Aging in Place Conference (9/21)

Aging Projects, Inc. 4th annual "Aging in Place. It's In Your Future," National Conference helps seniors, caregivers and community organizations gain access to resources to age in place. The conference is free of charge and will take place on [Thursday, September 21, 2017](#) at Blue Ridge Community College Technology Education Development Center (180 Campus Drive in Flat Rock) from 8am-3:30pm. For more information visit www.agingprojectsinc.org.

The Henderson County Sheriff's Office, Hope Rx and TRIAD Henderson County will be hosting a pill drop where the public can drop off unused/expired medication from 9am-12pm. Drug Disposal Information: <http://ow.ly/qEmj30ehv7p>

Etowah Document Shred & Pill Collection Event (9/22)

On [Friday, September 22, 2017 from 10am-1pm](#), TRIAD Henderson County, Hope Rx, the Henderson County Sheriff's Office and United Community Bank 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 United Community Bank (77 Etowah Center Drive in Etowah).

Sheriff's Office Town Hall Event - Village of Flat Rock (10/3)

Join Sheriff McDonald and his staff on [Tuesday, October 3, 2017 from 6pm-8pm](#) to learn about the Office of the Sheriff, crime statistics, safety programs and ways to keep your family safe. The meeting will take place at the Flat Rock Village Hall (110 Village Center Drive in Flat Rock).

Farm City Day (10/7)

The Sheriff's Office will have a booth at Farm City Day where the public can meet deputies and learn about the types of equipment they use to do their job. The event is [Saturday, October 7, 2017 from 10am-4pm](#) at Jackson Park. Come out and bring the family to this homegrown event!

Flat Rock Document Shred & Pill Collection Event (10/14)

On [Saturday, October 14, 2017, from 10am-12pm](#), another document shred and pill collection will be offered by TRIAD, Hope Rx, HCSO and the Village of Flat Rock. Join us at Flat Rock Village Hall (110 Village Center Drive in Flat Rock).

Final/Make-up Sheriff's Office Town Hall Event - Downtown (10/17)

We have hosted Town Hall events all throughout Henderson County during 2017. For our final meeting of the year, we invite the public who may have missed their area's meeting, as well as residents who live in a municipality, to join us at the Henderson County Sheriff's Office (100 North Grove Street in Hendersonville). The meeting will occur on [Tuesday, October 17, 2017 from 6pm-8pm](#).

Drive Through Pill Collection Event (10/28)

On [Saturday, October 28, 2017 from 10am-2pm](#), the public can drive through the parking lot of the Henderson County Sheriff's Office (100 North Grove Street in Hendersonville) and dispose of their unwanted/expired medications. This pill drop is part of the National Pill Take Back Day.

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

Hometown Heroes

Each month we celebrate and share a few of the achievements and victories of our employees.

On a Thursday afternoon in July, Corporal Terry Patterson was returning to the Sheriff's Office following lunch and noticed an individual in his rear view mirror walking on Williams Street, dressed in camouflage and carrying a rifle bag. Cpl. Patterson turned around and the subject tried to avoid interception by walking on the railroad tracks. Cpl. Patterson was able to make contact and discovered the subject had a muzzle loader rifle and a scope inside his bag. The individual turned out to be wanted in New Jersey on a charge of Arson with Reckless Danger of Death or Bodily Injury. The individual also had a lifetime domestic violence restraining order that prevented him from possessing a firearm. Great work by Cpl. Patterson on this arrest and his continued diligence in keeping Sheriff's Office facilities safe!

Sheriff McDonald and his staff have received multiple calls from the public complimenting Deputy Dereck Lanning on the outstanding service he provides. Two examples from July included a resident calling in to thank Deputy Lanning for how he handled a domestic disturbance that occurred in her home and a separate report came in of Lanning assisting a stranded motorist. A phone call from August came in from a Mills River resident who thanked Lanning for being an 'empathetic and genuinely nice guy' as he responded to a bat problem and displayed care and concern for her safety and the safety of her pets. Deputy Lanning works in the Animal Enforcement



Unit that is tasked with taking regular patrol calls whenever they are not out on animal related calls for service. We are constantly receiving phone calls and letters about the compassionate and courteous service provided by our deputies, and Deputy Dereck Lanning's name is often among this positive feedback.

Communications recently took a phone call from a resident who called in to applaud the service provided by Deputy Ryan Hendrix as he responded to a breaking and entering call. The caller said Hendrix was very professional and considerate. Deputy Hendrix also received praise for hiking a mile toward the Green River Narrows to locate missing hikers as dusk was approaching.

Congratulations to VIP Bobby Huskey on achieving twenty years of service to the Volunteers in Partnership organization. VIP Huskey has volunteered at the Historic Courthouse and the Sheriff's Citizens Academy, but the majority of his service has been spent in Fingerprinting. In the history of the VIP program, Bobby Huskey is one of only five VIPs who have served more than twenty years.



Sheriff Charles McDonald, Major Frank Stout, VIP Director Dale Coerver, Deputy Director Tom Williams and others joined Bobby for lunch to celebrate his twenty years of service and award him with a plaque and service pin.

Great work by Telecommunicator Brandi Baldwin for how she handled a phone call from a male having suicidal thoughts. The caller was extremely intoxicated and upset, but Brandi was kind and compassionate and developed a rapport with the caller. The caller had a knife and Brandi was able to stay on the line with him until deputies arrived. She facilitated having the caller throw the knife away from himself so that the deputies could approach him and get him to the hospital.



Over the past month we have featured some of our Telecommunicators on some recruitment flyers. Brandi is featured in this photo and she truly uses her voice to save lives!

Henderson County Sheriff's Office Deputies made 205 arrests between July 31st and August 27th. Below are links to some newsworthy arrests and events from the past month.

[Henderson Co. man tried to sell boat stolen from deceased owner](#) (Fox Carolina)

[Local woman charged with trafficking meth](#) (Hendersonville Lightning)

[Two Hendersonville men charged with drug offenses](#) (Times-News)

[Sheriff's Office announces suspect charged with multiple break-ins](#) (WHKP)

[Man charged with felony sex counts](#) (Hendersonville Lightning)

[Over-turned jeep in Upward leads to B&E, larceny, meth and other drug charges](#)(WHKP)

[Man accused of sexually abusing a child in 2012 arrested](#) (Times-News)

[Three charged with drug felonies](#) (Hendersonville Lightning)

[Two charged with trafficking methamphetamine after search of home](#) (Times-News)

HCSO graduates new class of Detention Officers

On Friday, September 1, 2017, the Henderson County Sheriff's Office celebrated the graduation of the most recent group of Detention Officer Certification Course (DOCC) students. Blue Ridge Community College and the Henderson County Sheriff's Office have partnered to offer a DOCC certification course to detention officers seeking this certification that must be completed during the first year of employment in detention facilities across the state.

Eleven students from Buncombe, Henderson, Polk, and Transylvania counties began class on August 1st and completed their state exam a month later. The ceremony and reception were held in the Bo Thomas auditorium on the campus of Blue Ridge Community College. State Senator Chuck Edwards, District Attorney Greg Newman and Blue Ridge Community College President Laura Leatherwood along with representatives from law enforcement agencies and family members of the graduates were in attendance.



Lieutenant Tim Fuss acted as the DOCC School Director assisted by Training Coordinator Corporal Stephanie Cantwell 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 182 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 23 blocks 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.

BRCC President Laura Leatherwood welcomed guests followed by opening remarks by Henderson County Sheriff's Office Chief Deputy Jason Brown. HCSO's Lieutenant Tim 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 president, Matthew Owenby, gave remarks followed by the presentation of class certificates and 'Cell Block Awards'. The class scored a 91.9 average on the state exam and were congratulated on this achievement. HCSO's Major Frank Stout closed the ceremony and spoke about the vital role Detention Officers play in keeping our communities safe and the integrity with which they must serve.

Congratulations to the following DOCC graduates: **Buncombe County Detention Facility:** Alicia Lund, Kayln McCoy, Luke Moody, Knight Owen and Matthew Owenby; **Henderson County Detention Facility:** Brittany Maybin, Kevin Newcomer and Elizabeth Ryan; **Polk County Detention Facility:** Samuel Bradley III and James Johnson; **Transylvania County Detention Facility:** Jennifer Light



Cell Block Awards: Leadership Award: Matthew Owenby; Highest Class Average: Matthew Owenby; Highest State Exam Average: Samuel Bradley III

Recent Events

STAR Camp

Our School Resource Deputies wrapped up their summer with the 5th session of STAR Camp. If you missed it, watch a short video of some of the fun they had at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5yS2pFcRZNA>.



[View the WSPA coverage of Camp STAR](#)

[Times-News Camp STAR photo gallery](#)

Summer Camp Safety

Cpl. Amber Cox talked to summer camp students about gun safety and what to do if they are separated from their parents. There are some great resources at <https://eddieeagle.nra.org/> to help teach children about what to do if they find a firearm.



Mills River Document Shred and Pill Drop

6,500 pounds of documents were shredded and 82.01 pounds of medications were collected during last month's event. Thank you to Triad Henderson County, Hope Rx, Local Government Federal Credit Union, Town of Mills River and the HCSO VIPs for partnering with us to offer this wonderful event!



Between our permanent drop box (accessible Monday-Friday from 8am-5pm at the Henderson County Sheriff's Office) and community collection events, 1,108.48 pounds of medication have been collected in 2017 alone!

New Middle and High School Drug Education Program

Henderson County Public Schools is working with School Resource Deputies to offer a DEA created program to educate middle and high school students on the dangers of drug abuse. The course will be taught in 7th and 9th grades.



RAD Self Defense

Cpl. Stephanie Cantwell and Hendersonville Police Department's Officer Jennifer Drake taught a RAD self defense course. The next class will take place October 7-8 with registration being handled by the Hendersonville Police Department.



Church Security Class

We had another full house for August's Church Security class. If you are interested in attending a future class, send an email to anock@hendersoncountync.org with the church name, point of contact with contact information and number of interested attendees.

People on the waiting list will be contacted when there is enough interest to schedule another class.



Mills River Party in the Park

Mills River United Methodist hosted a community event to kickoff the new school year. Two of our Mills River deputies attended to interact with students and get people signed up for [Nixle Emergency Alerts](#) and [Smart 911](#). Make sure you are ready for an emergency by signing up for these wonderful programs.



Operation Bus Shepherd

Sheriff Charles McDonald continued Operation Bus Shepherd, a program that encourages motorist lawfulness around school buses, and the Adopt a School program to increase deputy presence in the schools beyond the regularly assigned school resource deputies.

[Read more about these programs](#) (WHKP)

[First day of school news coverage](#) (WLOS)



Community Meeting in Upward

Sheriff McDonald and his staff offered another Town Hall meeting for Upward, Dana and East Flat Rock residents. These meetings educate and empower citizens to take responsibility for their own safety in partnership with the Henderson County Sheriff's Office.



Child Forensic Interview Training

Staff from the Department of Social Services, Child Advocacy Center, Safelight and the Sheriff's Office participated in RADAR Child Forensic Interview Training that was held at HCSO.



Catalog your Valuables

Jaymar Travel Park invited the Sheriff's Office to speak to their residents about personal security. Don Dessenberger of HCSO gave some great tips about photographing and cataloging valuables. This greatly assists investigators, evidence custodians and insurance companies in the event items are stolen. The presentation also covered topics on reducing chances of becoming a victim and situational awareness.

Class of 2030

The HCSO STAR Program was one of the sponsors who partnered with Henderson County Public Schools to distribute t-shirts to the incoming group of Kindergartners across the county. Sheriff McDonald, members of his command team and School Resource Deputies had a great time handing out shirts and giving high fives to the new students!



[Link to the HCPS photo album](#)

Did you know?

September is National Preparedness month and with hurricane season upon us, now is a great time to make sure you and your family are prepared for emergencies both large and small.

Visit <https://www.ready.gov> for great resources on getting informed, making a plan, creating emergency kits and taking action. Be sure to register for [Nixle Emergency Alerts](#) and the [Ready NC mobile app](#) to keep informed of all types of emergencies.



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