

# Quarterly Report of the HIGHLANDS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

INTEGRITY    QUALITY SERVICE    PROFESSIONALISM

*Sheriff Susan Benton*



Oct-Dec 4th Qrt 2016

## VISION

Our vision is a safer Highlands County where citizens and law enforcement are joined together; the rights of all persons are respected; and community values are reflected.

## MISSION

The Highlands County Sheriff's Office is committed to protecting life, property, and individual rights while maintaining peace and order.

### Goal 1:

Create safer neighborhoods by reducing criminal activity and conditions that foster crime and fear within the community.

### Goal 2:

Enhance vehicular and pedestrian safety of Highlands County roadways through education and enforcement.

### Goal 3:

Assure accountability by effective and efficient use of personnel, equipment, and technology.

### Goal 4:

Provide a professional work environment that attracts and retains a diverse group of quality applicants, rewards employee excellence, and promotes leadership through education and training.

### Goal 5:

Assure effective Judicial and Detention processes and services.

## Deputy Adair Honored by Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution



### Deputy Sheriff Ryan Adair

On Wednesday, October 25<sup>th</sup> Rod Dilling, Public Safety Award Committee Chairman attended the Highlands County Sheriff's Office's Quarterly Recognition Ceremony in order to present the Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution's Deputy of the Year Award. Accompanied by O.W. Woodard, Immediate Past President, and George Frey, Historian and Secretary, Mr. Dilling presented the award to Highlands County Sheriff's Deputy Ryan Adair.

On August 20, 2016 at approximately 2PM, deputies were patrolling the area of Hal McRae Boulevard and South Delaney Avenue in Avon Park when the driver of a tan vehicle was observed not wearing a seat belt. While attempting a traffic stop on this vehicle, the vehicle sped up and fled the area. After disappearing from sight, the vehicle was later located, abandoned, having struck a parked vehicle during the escape. Neighbors in this area observed a black male fleeing from the site of the

crash, carrying what appeared to be a handgun. Deputy Adair arrived in the area to assist in locating the fleeing subject, and was directed to a position on the perimeter of the search area. While in this area, Deputy Adair encountered a witness who directed Adair to the back yard of a nearby house. There was a camper located in the back yard, and the door to the camper looked to Deputy Adair as if it had been pushed in. After hearing sounds coming from the camper, Deputy Adair ordered the subject out of the camper. The subject refused to comply with the order to get on the ground, and Adair deployed his Conducted Electrical Weapon (CEW) which caused the subject to fall to the ground. The subject continued to resist Deputy Adair and they struggled at which time a handgun fell from the subject's pocket. After chasing the subject once again, and once again taking control of him, eventually Deputy Adair was able to overpower the subject, gain control of the subject and handcuff him.

Once in custody, it was determined that the subject was in possession of marijuana and crack cocaine consistent with street level drug sales, and some currency. In addition a loaded firearm was seized and the subject was charged with carrying a concealed weapon and possession of a weapon by a convicted felon, assault and resisting an officer.

In presenting the Deputy of the Year award to Deputy Adair, Rod Dilling made note of the bravery shown by Adair in taking this dangerous felon off the streets. "We want to show our appreciation for the efforts of Deputy Adair in this situation and are pleased to present him with this honor."

## SWAT Places 25th in World Competition

Billed as the ultimate SWAT training, competition and vendor show, 60 SWAT teams from all parts of the world convened in Orlando November 13 – 18<sup>th</sup> participate in the 34<sup>th</sup> annual SWAT Round Up International. Sponsored by the Florida SWAT Association, the competition consisted of a team event as well as individual events - the FSA Firearms Challenge, Super SWAT Cop, Tactical Rifle Challenge, and Super Sniper.

Highlands County Sheriff's Office SWAT members participated in the team competition and finished 25<sup>th</sup> of the 60 teams entered in the event. The team event consisted of 5 competitions: Blind Hostage Rescue, Officer Rescue, Pritcher Scramble (an endurance event requiring each member to shoot a handgun, a rifle, a grenade launcher and a sniper rifle at various targets), Tower Scramble (members repel the height of a 5 story building, then run down range and shoot handguns at various targets at different distances) and the Obstacle Course. Members are timed and earn points for each event. The cumulative times and points for these events comprise the standings for the team event. The cumulative time for the HCSO team was 26 minutes and 37.19 seconds and they received 160 points.

"Our SWAT team members are volunteers from our agency who take extra time out of their schedules to train and compete in these events," SWAT Team member Sgt. Chris Gunter explained, "For some of these teams, SWAT is their regular job; that is all they do. Our members do this as an extra-curricular activity and they did a great job in this competition."

The Alachua County Sheriff's Office SWAT team finished first in the team event with a time of 15 minutes 55.32 seconds and they accumulated 285 points.



## Crime Scene Unit Members Receive Training on New Equipment



Det. Jon Wilkinson & David Dustin, Dustin Forensics

This week, members of the Highlands County Sheriff's Office Crime Scene Unit received training on the new FARO 3D X330 Scanner. This piece of equipment will allow members to laser scan crime scenes and traffic homicide locations from different angles, take photos to document items of evidence, and through use of the software contained in the equipment, put everything together in a three dimensional presentation. It is also capable of creating measurements to the nearest millimeter and with the use of the infra-red option, will show blood and body fluids present at the scene. In addition, it will work in a zero light environment.

This tool will be especially valuable to crime scene reconstruction and for presenting cases in court. The raw data is archived as captured and is available to attorneys through the discovery process. Crime Scene Detective Jon Wilkinson, who heads up the Highlands County Sheriff's Office Traffic Homicide Team, sees this equipment as extremely valuable in traffic homicide investigations. "Using this technology, we are able to scan scenes, add the vehicles involved and essentially re-create the accident for evaluation. This equipment has actually been around since the late 1990's however now the price has come down so it's more affordable and, in this product, the three entities involved in making this thing work are all under the same umbrella thus if there's a problem, there is no "finger-pointing", it just gets solved," Wilkinson noted.

David Dustin, pictured at right, of Dustin Forensics in Adairsville, Georgia, was the instructor on hand to provide training on this device. Mr. Dustin has educated

several local agencies on this technology to include the Polk County Sheriff's Office, Lee County Sheriff's Office and FDLE, to name a few. In addition, Mr. Dustin has been called to numerous crime scenes across the nation to develop cases for presentation to court as well as for insurance claims. "You have a great group of crime scene members and I have no doubt that they will be able to use this equipment efficiently and in a short time will become very proficient at it," he added. "They are enthusiastic and eager to get started!"

Crime Scene Sergeant Jeff Fennell has been trying to get this equipment for the department for the better part of the past two years. "The FARO scanner is a tremendous tool/asset for criminal investigations and documentation. The FARO company announced a 'sale' of the components, and we got it for a bargain price of around \$87,000," he said with pride, "I'd been watching the price and all of a sudden we got this great deal and we were able to afford it!" Assistant State Attorney Steve Houchin, who also sat in on the presentation, indicated that this would be a great asset in prosecuting cases. "I think it will be pretty easy to explain to the judge and juries as well" he added.



FARO X330 3D Scanner

# Highlands County Sheriff's Office *CRIME PREVENTION*

October-December 2016



## Neighborhood Watch Annual Meetings

**P**lease don't wait until the last minute to schedule your annual Neighborhood Watch meeting! Each Neighborhood Watch group is supposed to schedule one meeting each year with law enforcement. During that meeting we will discuss the property crimes that have occurred in your area over the past year and give you a snapshot of what's going on around the county. We will also let you know about the latest frauds and scams and give you some information on how to prevent becoming a victim. To schedule your meeting, please contact Nell Hays, Crime Prevention Practitioner, at 863-402-7369. If Nell is not available to answer your call, please leave a message and she will get back to you as soon as possible. Meetings can be any day of the week and any time of the day, whatever works best for your community. Thank you in advance for all you do to keep your neighborhood safe!



## New Neighborhood Watch Groups

**W**e welcome the residents of Paradise Village in Lake Placid to the Highlands County Neighborhood Watch Community! They completed their three meeting process during the month of August and we are very happy to have them as part of the Highlands County team. The Chairperson of this group is Terry McNicholas and the Co-Chairs are Joe and Kathy Mikulec. This community is located near the Tower in Lake Placid and is a beautiful setting overlooking the south shore of Lake Clay. Best wishes for your continued success!



The Covered Bridge community in Lake Placid will be coming onboard soon. This is a delightful area off Lake Francis Road encompassing mobile homes and duplexes. They are a very active community with a large clubhouse and many activities for the residents. They are scheduled to have their third and final meeting on January 24th. We look forward to welcoming them into the Highlands County Neighborhood Watch team!

If your community has lost interest in the Neighborhood Watch program, let's try to get the ball rolling once again. Please don't wait for a crime spree to get the neighbors to look out for one another. There are several new ways to communicate within residential communities and Nell is very willing to address any homeowner or resident association that is interested in the Neighborhood Watch concept. There is no requirement to have a homeowner or resident association to be able to have a Neighborhood Watch group either. We are willing to work with any group of residents. Please call Nell Hays, Crime Prevention Practitioner, at 863-402-7369, to find out more information.

# S.A.L.T. News



S.A.L.T. is an acronym standing for Seniors And Law enforcement Together. This is a union, formed under the umbrella of TRIAD, which is the National Sheriff's Association, International Association of Chiefs of Police and the American Association of Retired Persons. S.A.L.T encompasses the senior citizens of a community pledging to work together with the local law enforcement agencies to help reduce crimes against the elderly. This group also works to reduce the fear of crime among the senior population by presenting many educational programs in crime prevention. Other activities sponsored by the S.A.L.T. Council are helping our seniors to report crimes and other things to improve their overall quality of life. To this end, each year the Highlands County S.A.L.T. Council presents the Elder Fair. This event brings together approximately 50 groups from throughout the county and the surrounding area, that service seniors. Vendors will range from health care, assisted living, financial planners, attorneys and more. This year's event will be held January 17th at the Bert Harris Agri Center on US 27, just south of Sebring. The event will run from 8:30AM—11:30AM on that day. There is no charge and the public is cordially invited to attend.

By the way, the S.A.L.T. Council meets monthly (except for January when the Elder Fair is held) on the third Tuesday of the month at 9:15AM at Homer's Restaurant in the Sebring Square Shopping Center, 1000 Sebring Parkway, Sebring. Each month there is an informative speaker presenting topics of current interest to seniors. Everyone is welcome, and donuts and coffee are provided!

## Elder Fair

Sponsored by:  
**S.A.L.T.**  
Seniors and Law Enforcement Together

**FREE  
ADMISSION!**

**January 17, 2017**

**8:30- 11:30AM.**

**Burt J. Harris Agri - Civic Center  
4509 George Blvd, Sebring, FL 33875**

*Join us to learn more about:*

- Home Safety & Security
- Living Wills
- Identity Theft
- Elder Abuse
- Scams
- Crime Prevention Techniques
- Public and Emergency Safety
- And MUCH more!!!



## SCAM ALERTS

**W**e have gotten reports of an organization calling residents and soliciting donations for a fallen officer's family. They say the donations will be sent directly to the fallen officer's family. There is no company information and the phone numbers are scammed. If you wish to make a donation for a fallen officer's family, please contact the law enforcement agency that the officer worked for and get donation information from them directly.

Please also remember not to put mail in your roadside mailbox for pick up if it contains payments (checks). A flag in the up position on a mail box is a signal to thieves that this mailbox might contain money. We have received calls about missing mail in a few Highlands County communities. Due to this activity, we are recommending that any mail containing checks should be taken to a mail drop location such

as the post office. If you are expecting to receive a new order of checks from your bank be especially watchful and try to get those checks out of the mailbox as soon as possible. As always, if you see suspicious activity occurring in your neighborhood, please call law enforcement immediately.



**New Cell Phone Number**  
Nell Hays has a new agency cell phone number! The new number is 863-446-3031. Please make a note of it! Thank you!

**QUARTERLY INFORMATION—ADMINISTRATION & COURT**

<b>New Member Hires:</b>		<b>Court Related Services:</b>	
Civilian	1	Cases In Court	6,156
Sworn	4	Inmates Taken to Court	1,040
Applications Received	41	Arrests by Bailiffs	46
Applications Processed	33	Persons thru Security Station	27,724
Payroll Transactions Processed	2,039	<b>Judicial/Civil Process Services:</b>	
Payable Checks Processed	575	Received/Processed	2,069
P-Card Purchases	722	Served	1,876
Citizens Fingerprinted		Active	193
Information Services Requests	981		

**QUARTERLY INFORMATION—LAW ENFORCEMENT**

Administrative Calls	52,775	Items into Evidence	2,738
911 Calls	13,219	Evidence Items Disposed	1,843
Computer Aided Dispatch	33,663	Crime Scene Lab Cases	133
<b>HCSO (59%)</b>	19,126	Crime Scene Call Outs	125
<b>SPD (16%)</b>	5,619	Criminal Investigation Unit Cases	155
<b>LPPD (7%)</b>	2,188	Investigations Open (Total)	108
<b>FIRE (6%)</b>	2,550	SOU Cases	51
<b>EMS (12%)</b>	4,179	SOU Narcotics Arrests	122
Offense Reports	2,555	CST Arrests	11
Traffic Citations Issued	612	SVU Cases Received from DCF	405
K-9 Searches	193	SVU Cases Open	47
<b>Warrant Numbers:</b>		Business Security Surveys/Residential	0/2
Received/Processed	518	Neighborhood Watch Presentations	33
Served	435	Crime Victims Served	133
Active	1,638	Victim Advocate Services	107
Number of Arrests By Patrol	771		
Number of DUI's	6		

**QUARTERLY INFORMATION—DETENTION**

Inmates Booked into Jail	809	Average Daily Population	413
Inmates Released from Jail	706	Net Commissary Earnings	\$12,699.73
Instructional Program Hours	1,480	Medical Fees Charged	\$92,913.36
Inmate Transport Miles	24,417	Medical Fees Collected	\$3,943.34
Transports to State Prison	52	Subsistence Fees Charged	\$54,206
ICE Picked Up	2	Subsistence Fees Collected	\$10,841
Detainer's Placed	3	Inmate Per-Diem Charged	\$16,180
CMP Participants	7	Inmate Per-Diem Collected	\$7,882.27
Dollars Saved in Labor	\$8,758.40	Labor Hours by Inmates S/O	13,480
Dollars Collected in Fees	\$715.00	Labor Hours by Inmates -Other	1,218
Inmate Meals Served	113,844	Dollars Saved in Labor	\$118,318.90
Avg Food Cost per Day Per Inmate	\$1.90		
Alcohol Breath Tests	21		

**Staying Home Alone**

With everything parents have to juggle these days, the time may come when families have to leave a child home alone. There are a number of important things to consider before allowing your child to stay home without you.

**You should...**

- Assess your child. Make sure he or she is mature enough to handle this responsibility. Ask your child how he or she feels about being alone.
- Define rules and expectations to help ensure your child maintains a daily routine while come alone.
- Keep a list of numbers close to the telephone including those for you, other trusted adults, 911 and other emergency services.
- Create practice situations and be sure your child understands what to do in specific emergencies such as a fire or loss of electricity.

**Make sure your child knows...**

- His or her full name address and telephone number along with your full name and how to reach you.
- He or she should never open the door for someone unless that person is on a preapproved list of trusted adults you have provided.

**Also make sure your child knows how to...**

- Contact 911 in case of an emergency.
- Carry his or her key so it is hidden and secure.
- Lock the door after entering and make sure the home is secure.
- Tell callers you're unavailable instead of saying he or she is home alone.
- Check with you immediately upon returning home to let you know he or she has safely arrived.



## Senior Leadership Program



FDLE Bureau Chief Chris Johnson, Lt. Sean Casey, and FSU Police Chief Dave Perry

Participants in the Leadership Program met in Tallahassee for seven weeks over a 10 month period taking classes on topics such as demographics, budgeting and future forecasting related to criminal justice and strategic planning. The goal of the Senior Leadership Program is to prepare Florida's criminal justice leadership for the challenging and changing demands of the future. Class participants studied the trends and events that are expected to challenge criminal justice professionals and the state in the years to come. They also studied the leadership skills necessary to create and lead the changes that lie ahead.

The Florida Criminal Justice Executive institute, established within the FDLE and affiliated with the State University System, was established in 1990 by the Florida Legislature to address the need for an innovative and multi-faceted approach to the education and training of criminal justice professionals.

"I am pleased to see that Lt. Sean Casey has completed this prestigious program. During my tenure as Sheriff, I have sent numerous members to this program in preparation for the future and succession planning." Chief Deputy Mark Schrader attended the graduation in support of our professional development here at the Sheriff's Office.

On December 2, 2016, Highlands County Sheriff's Office Lieutenant Sean Casey graduated from the 19<sup>th</sup> Senior Leadership Program held by the Florida Criminal Justice Executive Institute at the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. Lieutenant Casey currently serves in Internal Affairs and has been with the Sheriff's Office since March 1999. The graduating class included 32 senior executives representing criminal justice agencies from across the state who serve in leadership roles within their respective agencies.



## HIGHLANDS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

**Sheriff Susan Benton**

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For tips on how to keep our kids safe see the Florida Sheriffs Association Child Safety Page  
@ [www.flsheriffs.org/child-safety](http://www.flsheriffs.org/child-safety)