

Quarterly Report of the HIGHLANDS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

INTEGRITY QUALITY SERVICE PROFESSIONALISM

Sheriff Susan Benton



April—June 2nd Qrt

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.

STEM Scholars Learn About Crime Scene Investigations

STEM scholars from Glades, Hardee, DeSoto, Hendry, Okeechobee and Highlands Counties had the opportunity to experience crime scene investigations courtesy of the Highlands County Sheriff's Office, Criminal Investigations Unit. Once a month these students, identified by their respective school districts as gifted or talented in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM curriculum) receive hands-on applications and exercises in some area of science or technology. In this case the students traveled to Hill-Gustat Middle School in Sebring where members of the HCSO Crime Scene Unit set up 5 stations for study and experience.



Kathy Perez

Highlands County Sheriff's Office, Crime Scene Technician, Kathy Perez, left, walked students through a staged crime scene complete with dummy victim and blood splatter. At this station students learned the importance of math skills to calculate angles from blood splatter and project elements of the crime from this data.

Crime Scene Investigator Stacy Andrews demonstrated how to make Biofoam molds of tire tracks and footprints found at crime scenes. Brand Beatty, a junior in the program said "Biofoam was the most fun because we made something we could keep," Below, students

practice with Biofoam molds during the presentation.

John Varady, Program Coordinator for the Heartland Educational Consortium, commented "The FloridaLearns STEM Scholars Program is a great way to expose some of our most gifted and talented students to careers and post-secondary offerings in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. These are opportunities that many of our students in small and rural school districts can't access as readily as can students from larger districts."

Sheriff Susan Benton was very excited to see these students participating in the STEM program. "These students are our future members and community leaders. It's wonderful to be able to tap into our Crime Scene Investigators to give hands on experiences for them. We enjoyed setting this up and interacting with these young scholars as they see opportunities for their skills in the field of law enforcement and crime scene investigations."



Biofoam

The FloridaLearns STEM Scholars initiative is a multi-faceted, three-year project funded in 2011 by the Florida Department of Education. The purpose of the \$4.5 million award is to create and implement a model STEM high school system for gifted and talented students in 27 of Florida's small and rural school districts. For more information about FloridaLearns STEM Scholars, visit www.Floridalearnsstemscholars.org

Highlands County Sheriff's Office New Website



Highlands County Sheriff's Office is pleased to announce the launch of the newly formatted website. The site features the ability to search for inmates that are currently housed in the facility. You can also search for registered sexual offenders and predators on our Offender Watch system. An additional feature is a link to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children site that give helpful hints to prevent child abduction and sexual exploitation and help find missing children; all important tools to assist in keeping Highlands County a safer community and protect our children.

You can find helpful information on ordering crash reports and public records, read up to date news releases, and current happenings at your Sheriff's Office through our quarterly reports. Be sure and visit our new site at:

www.highlandssheriff.org



HCSO Members Win Fundraising Event

Two members of the Highlands County Sheriff's Office represented the agency in fine fashion on April 4, 2013 and walked away with the overall title in the Seacoast National Bank Sheriff's Shootout. The event was a fundraiser for the Florida Sheriff's Youth Ranch and was held at Quail Creek Plantation in Okeechobee. Seacoast National Bank presented the event with the assistance of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office. The winners, HCSO Lt. John Barcinas and Detective Sgt. Brian Kramer, went home with a check for \$2000 to be donated to the Florida Sheriff's Youth Ranch in the name of the Highlands County Sheriff's Office. The shooting competition included teams representing Highlands, DeSoto, Glades, Hendry, Okeechobee, Palm Beach, Martin and St. Lucie County Sheriff's Offices. This is the second year of the Sheriff's Shootout, which raised a total of \$3500 for the Sheriff's Youth Ranch.



HCSO Lt. John Barcinas, Coleen Lockwood, Florid Sheriff's Youth Ranch representative, HCSO Det. Sgt. Brian Kramer, Seacoast President & Board Chairman Denny Hudson & Okeechobee County Undersheriff Noel Stethens present the first place \$1000 check, which was doubled to \$2000 for the final donation.



Jan Schmits, Arcadia's Seacoast Bank Manager, Second Place Team of DeSoto County Deputy Bill Bevis & DeSoto County Sheriff Will Wise, First Place Team of HCSO Det. Sgt. Brian Kramer & HCSO Lt. John Barcinas & Seacoast Bank's Community Service Officer & Okeechobee Branch Manager John Geitner show off the tools of their trade.

Rotarians from Taipei, Taiwan Visit Highlands County Sheriff's Office



On June 10, 2013 nine members of Rotary Taiwan visited the Highlands County Sheriff's Office as a part of the Rotary Foundation's Group Study Exchange. The group consisted of a business consultant, an occupational therapist, an artist and music executive, a resort public relations manager, a material sales representative and a division assistant from the Taipei City Police Department. The group was led by local Sebring Rotary President Gale Decker along with Lake Placid Rotary President Jim Carroll. Chief Mark Schrader, Major Booker Johnson, Captain Bobby Green and PIO Nell Hays welcomed the tour members to our facility with an overview of how law enforcement work works in the United States.

According to Gale Decker, the Rotary Foundation's Group Study Exchange (GSE) program is a unique cultural and vocational exchange opportunity for businesspeople and professionals between the ages of 25 and 40 who are in the early states of their careers. The program provides travel grants for teams to exchange visits in paired areas of different countries. For four to six weeks, team members experience the host country's culture and institutions, observe how their vocations are practiced abroad, develop personal and professional relationships and exchange ideas.

Highlands County Sheriff's Office *CRIME PREVENTION*



Crime Analyst Achieves FDLE Certification



From left, Tish Jocelyn, Director of the FDLE Analyst Academy, Pam Barlaug, HCSO Analyst and Katie Murphy, Assistant Director, FDLE Analyst Academy.

Highlands County Sheriff's Office Crime Analyst Pam Barlaug attained the title of Florida Law Enforcement Analyst. She completed a 6 week long academy over a period of six months. According to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) website, the FDLE developed the first analyst academy of its kind in the nation in 2003. The long-term goal of the academy is to establish and provide uniform training in many areas of law enforcement analysis and to set a foundation for a professional career path in criminal and intelligence analysis and investigations for non-sworn law enforcement personnel. The curriculum of this academy includes studies in crime, intelligence, investigative and statistical analysis as well as management. Students are graded based on their quizzes and assignments, group case work, individual presentations and their score on a final exam.

Detective Sergeant Brian Kramer attended Barlaug's graduation ceremony at the Tampa Bay Regional Operations Center on June 7th. Chief Schrader commended Barlaug on her accomplishment saying "Unlike other, similar law enforcement analyst academies in the country, this is a pass/fail, academically challenging course of study. We are proud to say that Pam was ranked 3rd overall in her academy."

Commenting on her experience, Barlaug said "I appreciate the Sheriff's Office allowing me the opportunity to attend the Analyst Academy. The knowledge I gained will be of great benefit in my many duties as a law enforcement analyst. In addition, the contacts I made with other analysts throughout the state who attended the academy will be of vital importance when attempting to obtain information from other jurisdictions."

Each month Pam, in addition to her many other duties, researches and prepares the crime statistics for the Neighborhood Watch groups that request this information. We congratulate Pam on her accomplishment!

Chief Deputy Mark Schrader and Criminal Investigations

New Neighborhood Watch in Ohrt's Mobile Village



Ohrt's Mobile Home Village residents sport their new Neighborhood Watch status at their meeting on April 29, 2013.

Who says Neighborhood Watch doesn't do anything in the summer? To the contrary, many communities have been very busy organizing and implementing the Neighborhood Watch program. This quarter there have been two groups who completed the three meeting process and have earned "official" Neighborhood Watch status.

Ohrt's Mobile Home Village, located at intersection of Sparrow Ave. and US 27, just across from Lakeshore Mall, completed the steps and were confirmed on April 29th. Community Managers James and Cindy Schneider are taking the lead in this group but have Robert Myers and Dick Mailhot named as street captains so far. Two more street captains will be named later to complete coverage in this 71 lot complex. Many thanks to everyone at Ohrt's for taking an interest in their safety!

Neighborhood Watch in River Ridge

Who says it takes a long time to organize a Neighborhood Watch? Certainly not the residents of River Ridge! In the span of just over one month, Shirley Lavan and Pat Scott spearheaded the drive to organize a Watch group in the vicinity of Arbuckle Boulevard. With the stimulus of a few recent burglaries, it was only common sense that the homeowners wanted to get together to combat this problem. Shirley and Pat took the lead and with the help of Nan Walden whose lovely home was the meeting place, a group of 20 families emerged ready to learn more about crime prevention. We welcome this new Neighborhood Watch group and look forward to supporting their efforts for a safer community.



Neighbors in the River Ridge area gather around their new Neighborhood Watch sign on June 15th.

Frauds Don't Take the Summer Off

Wouldn't it be nice if the scammers took a summer vacation? Sorry, this is not happening! Unfortunately we have experienced quite a few incidents of fraud during this quarter. Here are some of the most recent scams:

- **Publishers Clearing House** Several people have reported being contacted by phone and informed of major sweepstakes winning. Callers have indicated their contacts have won several hundred thousand dollars and a vehicle! Wow wouldn't that be nice! The catch is that the victim must pay a fee to receive their prize. Oops—that's a scam!
- **Medicare/Medicaid** Here's one that preys on our most vulnerable people—those who need health care. Callers will advise that Medicare/Medicaid services can no longer be provided unless the victim gives their Medicare number over the phone. Of course this is also your Social Security number and identity theft is just around the corner.
- **Grandparents Scam** This one is not new but apparently it's still working! The caller advises that a relative, usually a grandchild, is in some kind of trouble. The ruse can be a car accident, arrest, lost money and identification, anything that will cause the grandparent to worry. Then the caller demands money in order to rectify the situation. In these cases, a simple call to the grandchild's family can confirm their well-being and no money is required!

These are just a few of the incidents that have been reported recently. Please remember these three golden rules for spotting a scam:

1. **It's too good to be true.** Yes it would be nice to receive a large inheritance, win a sweepstakes or get a new fancy car however that would just be too good to be true. This is the first rule in determining whether you are in the midst of a scam. You have not won a sweepstakes that you haven't entered and you have not been chosen by the computer. Sorry!
2. **There's a sense of urgency.** You see the scammer doesn't want you to think this through. If he/she can get you to act on impulse, you will probably give up information that you wouldn't normally pass on. If you have to act right now, opt out!
3. **There's a requirement of secrecy.** A legitimate offer is never a secret. Talk over any offers with a trusted friend, a legal representative or a bank officer. These people have your best interest at heart, not someone who picked your name out of a list.

Lastly, be a good friend to others. If you know of someone who has recently experienced the loss of a loved one, especially a spouse, be wary that they may become a victim of the types of fraud listed above. In many of the cases that have been reported to the Highlands County Sheriff's Office, the victim has lost a spouse within 6 months of the fraud. People are especially vulnerable after the loss of a loved one. Let's look out for them especially during the tough times!

QUARTERLY INFORMATION—ADMINISTRATION & COURT

New Member Hires:		Court Related Services:	
Civilians	3	Cases In Court	7,596
PT Civilian	2	Inmates Taken to Court	955
Sworn	4	Arrests by Bailiffs	79
Applications Received	123	Persons thru Security Station	32,140
Applications Processed	106	Judicial/Civil Process Services:	
Payroll Transactions Processed	2,329	Received/Processed	1,224
Payable Checks Processed	519	Served	1,130
P-Card Purchases	457	Active	94
Citizens Fingerprinted	670		
Information Services Requests	566		

QUARTERLY INFORMATION—LAW ENFORCEMENT

Administrative Calls	45,634	Items into Evidence	3,424
911 Calls	12,117	Evidence Items Disposed	1,517
Computer Aided Dispatch	35,669	Crime Scene Lab Cases	111
HCSO (66%)	23,640	Criminal Investigation Unit Cases	226
SPD (14%)	5,106	Investigations Open (Total)	171
LPPD (5%)	1,625	SIU Cases	12
FIRE (5%)	1,790	SIU Narcotic Arrests	30
EMS (10%)	3,507	Safe Neighbor Units Arrests	44
Offense Reports	2,979	SVU Cases Received from DCF	405
Traffic Citations Issued	1,356	SVU Cases Open	36
K-9 Searches	209	Business Security Surveys/residential	6/0
Warrant Numbers:		Neighborhood Watch Presentations	28
Received/Processed	633	Crime Victims Served	134
Served	537	Victim Advocate Services	616
Active	3,367		
Number of Arrests By Patrol	918		
Number of DUI's	10		

QUARTERLY INFORMATION—DETENTION

Inmates Booked into Jail	1,163	Average Daily Population	395
Inmates Released from Jail	1,038	Net Commissary Earnings	\$6,742.96
Instructional Program Hours	1,845	Medical Fees Charged	\$130,538.78
Inmate Transport Miles	29,379	Medical Fees Collected	\$10,475.05
Transports to State Prison	48	Subsistence Fees Charged	\$55,146.00
ICE Picked Up	10	Subsistence Fees Collected	\$16,679.12
Detainer's Placed	14	Inmate Per-Diem Charged	\$21,155.45
CMP Participants	15	Inmate Per-Diem Collected	\$9,547.09
Dollars Saved in Labor	\$11,421.76	Labor Hours by Inmates S/O	33,244
Dollars Collected in Fees	\$920.00	Labor Hours by Inmates -Other	1,041
Inmate Meals Served	107,507	Dollars Saved in Labor	\$262,965.95
Avg Food Cost per Day Per Inmate	\$1.91		
Alcohol Breath Tests	43		

Webcams

A webcam is a video camera connected to a computer. The camera may be an attachment or already installed in the computer. Webcam users can talk to each other through live streaming video or record videos to post on video-sharing sites, making webcams very useful tools for communication and for self-expression. Unfortunately, the extra exposure may also put children at greater risk of online victimization. If you decide to allow webcam use in your home, be aware of the risks so you can help your children use it more safely.

Creating Content

Many children use their webcams to create videos which they post to video-sharing sites like YouTube and Vimeo. In these videos, children sing, dance, tell stories, share opinions, and show off other talents. While many are meant innocently. It is important that you talk to your children about what content you consider appropriate for posting online. For example, you may not want your children singing certain songs or using certain words. Make sure to review all videos before they are posted, and remind your children that their videos may be seen by a large audience. The videos may also be around for a long time, actions that seemed funny at age 14 may be embarrassing when they are adults applying for jobs.

Chatting Via Webcam

Video-streaming sites like Justin.tv or Skype can be a great way to keep in touch with family and friends. With a webcam, users can connect with each other and engage in real-time, live video chats. Many people use these services to stay in touch with family members and friends. Some video chat services allow the content to be recorded, so it's important to teach children to be mindful of what they say and do while chatting via webcam. Encourage them to report any inappropriate actions by other webcam users to you or the website immediately.

Manipulation by Predators

Some predators try to take advantage of webcams' capabilities in order to manipulate children. They may even send children webcams during the grooming process. While children may view the webcams simply as gifts, predators often use them to exploit children. They may start by making small, seemingly harmless suggestions, such as removing a shirt. If children comply, the suggestions may escalate to full nudity and sexual acts. If children stop cooperating, some predators will threaten to expose recordings they've made of the children's previous actions in order to force them into complying.

An excerpt from.....*NetSmartzKids.org*

Unites States Police Canine Association

The United States Police Canine Association's (USPCA) Region 1 Certification and Field Trials was held from May 20-24 in Highlands County. The Highlands County Sheriff's Office hosted the event. Lt. Jim McGann, who is the supervisor of our Canine Unit said, "We are relatively new members of the USPCA so we are honored to be selected to host this competition. The support we have received from the Highlands County businesses is overwhelming. We were anxious to show the public what all these highly trained teams can do." Twenty-nine law enforcement agencies, from all over the state and as far away as Alabama, sent 78 K-9 teams to take part in the trials, which were sanctioned and supervised by the U.S. Police Canine Association. Field trials serve two purposes, professionally certifying dog and handler teams and celebrating the best of the teams. A perfect score was 700 points. A K-9 team needed 560 points to advance to the annual national competition. A team needed 490 points to become certified. According to the official score sheets, 35 K-9 teams scored more than 600 points, including each of the four HCSO teams



participating. Kyle Albritton and Mica scored 694; Steve Worley and Ozzie 682; Cory Tomblin and Remco 677; and Jose Molina and Ringo 661. The top team of the event was Ted Sealey and Bruno from the Lakeland Police Department. They scored 699 points.

Organizing an event so large, with so many dogs was a challenge for the Highlands County Sheriff's Office, especially since it was the first year the county hosted the event and first year its K-9 units entered the competition. The credit, Sheriff Susan Benton said, belongs to Lt. James McGann. "Lt. McGann pitched the idea of hosting the field trials, we all thought it would be a great undertaking, but he came through". "Thank you," she added, "to the community for its support. We're so happy to see the turnout, and we're pleased our guests brought so much into the community and put on such a good show".



HIGHLANDS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Susan Benton, Sheriff

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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**