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From the Desk of Sheriff McMahon

Spring is here and the Azalea Festival is upon us. Your Sheriff’s Office has been working hard to keep our community safe. Our partnerships with other law enforcement agencies are strong. We are working together with you. As a team we can do so much more! We are committed to doing all we can to stop this terrible heroin epidemic. We are targeting the dealers and putting them in jail. We realize this problem cannot be “arrested away,” but together, we can and are making a difference.

Sincerely,
Sheriff Ed

Contact Information
- Emergency 911
- Sheriff’s Office 910-798-4200
- Animal Services 910-798-7500
- Non-Emergency 910-452-6120

Websites and Social Media
- www.newhanoversheriff.com
- www.facebook.com/newhanoverso
- twitter.com/newhanoverso
- nhsnews@nhcgov.com
By Philip Renaghan

When Captain J.A. Hart joined the Vice and Narcotics Division of NHC Sheriff’s Office 15 years ago, he knew what he was up against. He knew it included sleepless nights, lots of paperwork, and most importantly, putting himself in potentially dangerous situations.

His team of 41 vice and narcotics detectives have jurisdiction over all drug and gang related activities that occur in New Hanover County.

In addition to working alongside the FBI, Drug Enforcement Agency, State Bureau of Investigation, and other departments, Cpt. Hart’s division coordinates with surrounding counties to ensure they execute within their boundaries with quality and precision.

The Vice division places high emphasis on targeting marijuana, cocaine, heroin, and, as of late, large amounts of opioids and pills.

Sometimes working from early morning to the late hours the following morning, Cpt. Hart’s division works diligently to ensure the safety of the community. Arrests and seizures for drug related crimes are rising, and the Sheriff’s office is partnering with WPD to install new treatment programs.

"We can't necessarily arrest away the problem," says Hart, "but we can target dealers and traffickers, in addition to promoting safe treatment and prevention programs."

The Harm Reduction Coalition, an advocate for clean needle programs, exists in New Hanover, but is not affiliated with the Sheriff's Office.

Some of those programs are aimed at elementary and middle schools, including New Hanover's own Elements Program, which provides counselors to young adults who may be targeted by gang violence. Currently there are 6 youth counselors, with the office pushing for more. The goal is to keep at-risk youth off the streets and in positive environments.

Cpt. Hart stated that they are constantly working to stay ahead of the game. This includes keeping up with improving technology, and using social media to monitor criminal actions and intentions.
PATROL DIVISION
Submitted By Captain D Price

STEELLAR AWARDS

Three Patrol Division Deputies were awarded Stellar Awards for their respective parts in an event involving a Laney High School student that was missing and then attempted to fake his own kidnapping.

Master Deputy Stanley Taylor, Master Deputy Roxanne Hodge, and Deputy Katie Joines used their combined prior knowledge of this student to quickly bring a safe resolution to this problem that could have been very time and manpower intensive.

The SROs are a critical resource to not only the protection of the students, staff and school but also a valuable wealth of intelligence based on their ability to build rapports with students and knowledge of enforcement action on your respective campuses.

Lieutenant Travis Robinson
Service Before Self 2016

Lieutenant Travis Robinson was awarded Service Before Self from the District Attorney’s Office for his work regarding the Body Worn Camera Project and the Narcan Project.

Lt. Robinson has been employed by the New Hanover County Sheriff’s Office for 27 years and also has law enforcement experience before that. He is a devoted husband and father in addition to his dedication to public service. This dedication is evident in his selfless work on these two critical projects.

The first project assignment was to implement Body Worn Cameras. This is still a popular topic within the community and body cameras have become an invaluable resource to law enforcement. In addition, Lt. Robinson was assigned the critical project of implementing Narcan/Naloxone. This project rose in importance due to the ever growing influx and abuse of heroin and other opioid based drugs which has resulted in an increase of overdoses and deaths. Both of these projects were in their infancy when received and Lt Robinson worked tirelessly and selflessly to bring them to deployable fruition. In addition he has been crucial to the extreme success of both projects.

The Body Worn Camera Project has proven to be a wonderful resource in community relationships when handling complaints. This project has also served the community in many other ways such as the effective prosecution of criminal offenses. Although his specific assignment was for the first phase of this project as it relates to the Patrol Division, he has remained consistently available and involved in the training, up fitting and regulation of other divisions within the agency.

Lt. Robinson has also been an integral factor in the success of the Narcan/Naloxone project. He has been involved in all phases of training, up fitting, product management, report accountability, data collection, and reissuance. Based on New Hanover County Sheriff’s Office deployments, there have been thirteen lives saved from opioid derivative overdoses since implementing this project.

The outstanding work that Lt. Robinson has logged on these specific projects has not only been a tremendous resource to NHCSO, but also a lifesaving, relationship building, and trust gaining success for the citizens of New Hanover County.

Stellar Awards – New Hanover County Government has made a promise to be the model of good governance by providing the best possible service to our customers and citizens. Reach for the Stars is a recognition program that now gives you the opportunity to share superior customer service experiences you’ve had with county employees.

Tell us about your positive experience with an employee who provided superior service by nominating them for the Community Service Award or the Stellar Award. The application process is simple and your effort is very much appreciated.

Submit your nomination for Community Service Award or Stellar Award at: www.nhcgov.com
DETENTION DIVISION: An Insider’s View
By Carol Scheidegger

Shaniqua Marshall starts her day around 3 a.m. In the pre-dawn darkness, she contemplates the day ahead as she readies herself for work and dresses her two girls for school while they sleep. Unlike a lot of moms and dads, her day will be spent in the New Hanover County Detention Center.

Marshall’s commute allows her some time to mentally prepare herself for the day ahead. She arrives at work around 5:15 a.m., followed by briefing around 5:30. The day begins full throttle, with head counts, breakfast for the inmates, getting some of them ready for court appearances, or visits from psychiatrist and medical staff. Throughout the day the inmates have various activities they can participate in such as Bible studies, parenting classes, twelve-step program, and recreational time. It is always busy. Many of the inmates are detoxing from drugs or alcohol and safety concerns are always foremost — the officers monitor every inmate routinely throughout the day and watch out for signs of illness, seizures, choking, and fights. The days are unpredictable and the officers must be prepared for anything that comes their way.

Deputy Marshall shared some interesting facts about the Detention Center that I was not aware of. Female deputies and detention officers can work anywhere within the detention facility but males can not work in the women’s areas. This practice maintains safety for both deputies and inmates by avoiding awkward situations and false accusations of sexual abuse. Female and male inmates are always segregated. Female inmates work in the laundry and male inmates work in the kitchen. I found it fascinating that there is a team of Deputies that classify every inmate as they come into the facility, ranking them from non-aggressive to extremely aggressive. They are housed defensively and gang members are sorted so that rival members are never placed together in a tier or section. There is also a Special Response Team made up of deputies that respond to problems such as an aggressive inmates or fights among inmates. Deputy Marshall is part of the SRT which rigorously trains together. Another interesting fact is that no firearms are allowed in the detention facility, although they do have non-penetrating projectiles that can be used to gain control in extreme circumstances.

Like a lot of the NHCSO deputies and detention officers, Deputy Marshall’s ultimate mission is to stop the revolving door that so many of the inmates are caught in. She believes that she can make a difference by respecting them and helping them to believe that they deserve a better life. She told me that many of the inmates have never been told that they are worthwhile human beings and many have never in their lives felt loved. Many of them come from homes where parents and role models were in and out of jail and education was never made a priority. There are many programs in place within the Detention Facility geared towards breaking this cycle, such as work programs that allow the inmates to gain work skills and get certified. This facilitates finding jobs when they are released.

As we talked, I asked Shaniqua to describe the hardest part of her job. She told me that deputies witness a lot of difficult things that people outside of law enforcement don’t. Sometimes she says the stress weighs you down. I asked her how she deals with the stress so she can keep her uplifting attitude. She told me that she boxes as her off duty hobby, sometimes competitively, both to stay in shape but also to relieve the stress. She also routinely participates in church and community outreach activities. She divulged that her biggest stress reliever is finding the time to go to the beach with her girls. Shaniqua also gives a great deal of credit to the help she receives from her grandmother and family in raising her children and also the support she receives from the veteran officers she works with. A recurrent thread in her story, along with other deputies I talked to is that New Hanover County Sheriff’s Office operates as a family.

Deputy Marshall originally had plans to obtain a medical technology/nursing degree. She always knew she wanted to help people but told me that God clearly had a different plan in mind for her to do so. She feels that she was called into law enforcement and after completing Basic Law Enforcement training, around 5 years ago, she went to work for New Hanover County Sheriff’s Office and says she never looked back. She told me she feels that she has the perfect career and couldn’t be happier.
The support division opened the years first Sheriff's Citizens Academy, led by Captain Wilson and Lt. Johnson. Participants got an active look into various units, including the VIPR volunteer unit, Explorer Unit, Mounted Patrol, and Animal Services Unit.

Participants in the Sheriff's Citizens Academy got an in-depth tour of the NHC Sheriff's Crime Scene Investigation, or CSI Unit, during their second meeting.

In addition to viewing the Crime lab, which houses the tools for removing fingerprints from items and uncovering serial numbers from defaced weapons, citizens also got to see the firearms investigation area, evidence vault, on-site CSI Truck, and sex offender registry.

The third week of the Sheriff's Citizens Academy gave participants the opportunity to learn about Wilmington Police Department, the New Hanover Sheriff’s Detective Division, and Domestic Violence Unit.

A large portion of the calls that the Sheriff’s Dept. and the Police Dept. relate to domestic violence. Citizens also got a close look at the S.A.B.L.E. Helicopter unit.

The District Attorney’s office, Clerk of Court, Judicial Official, and Public Defender helped demonstrate the inner workings of the New Hanover Criminal Justice System during the fourth meeting of the Academy.

Participants got an active look at a court hearing through a mock trial presented by the NHC court system.

The fifth week of the Academy let citizens see and understand the workings of the civil process and the deputies who guard and monitor the courthouse in downtown Wilmington.

The Judicial services division demonstrated the importance of courtroom security, inmate handling in the courts, and other steps to ensure safe and fair trials in the Courthouse.

For their sixth week, participants got a special presentation from the Vice and Narcotics division, led by Captain J.A. Hart and his team. Hart and his colleagues discussed gang violence and drugs present in New Hanover County.
By Detective Division

It is almost impossible to completely prevent any fraud against you, however, there are ways to minimize your risk, or minimize the damage from fraud if you are compromised.

- Make frequent checks of your credit report to look for accounts which you did not open, or possibly use the services of a credit monitoring or identity theft protection company.
- Do not provide PIN numbers, Social Security Numbers or Bank Account numbers over the phone. If your bank is legitimately calling you, they already have that information and they do not need to ask for it.
- Do not transmit your financial information via non-secure internet sites.
- Do not send money for “tax purposes” or “legal fees” in connection with lotteries, sweepstakes or other contests. If you did not buy a Jamaican lottery ticket, you did not win the lottery in Jamaica.
- Do not deposit checks for large amounts into your personal account and wire the bulk of the money from your account to an unknown third party. The check is going to be found to be counterfeit and your account will be debited for the full amount by the bank. Particularly if the check is sent from company A and the check is from the account of company B.
- No law enforcement agency will ever solicit you to wire money or ask you to pay a fine using a pre-paid credit or debit card if you miss jury duty, have to pay a fine, or have to bail someone out of jail.
- If you owe the IRS money for unpaid taxes, you will get an official letter in the mail or an agent will contact you in person. Again, you will not be told to pay the money via Western Union or pre-paid credit / debit cards.
- If you are ever in doubt that someone is a law enforcement officer, local state or federal, ask to see credentials. If they are legitimate they will show them to you.
JUDICIAL SERVICES: Day in Court? Prepare For It!

By Judicial Services

There are many different things you can do to prepare yourself for a visit to the courthouse.

1. To make things easier, the best thing you can do is travel lightly. Don’t jam a lot of non-essential items into your pockets.

2. Make sure to leave all items that are, or can be construed as weapons in the car. For example, the trusty pocketknife that has many purposes. Handcuff keys are another example of something that isn't illegal but can not come into the building. Please remember that people who come to courthouse have the potential to go to jail.

3. Dress appropriately to be seen by a judge. For example, no shorts and no shirts that have derogatory wording. If your attire looks like you would fit into a bar it may not be appropriate.

4. There is no food or drink allowed in the courthouse, so please finish the drinks beforehand.

5. Make sure you give yourself plenty of time to find a parking space and bring change for the parking meters. The closest parking to the courthouse have meters. Several blocks up the way you can find parking that is free. There is also a parking deck close by.

Court Win for NHSO

By Ken Williamson

Basketball court that is! Congratulations to New Hanover County Sheriff’s Office for their win over Brunswick County Sheriff’s Office in the 2nd Annual Relay for Life Charity Basketball game on March 10th. The money raised will go to the American Cancer Society.

Buying or Selling On the Internet??? Remember these safety tips!

1. Trust your instincts.
2. Don't go alone.
3. Insist to meet at a public place such as the Sheriff's Office.
4. Do not meet in a secluded area.
5. Do not invite strangers into your home, and do not go to theirs.
6. Be cautious when buying/selling high value items.
7. Perform the transaction during daylight hours.
8. If it sounds too good to be true, it normally is.
9. Tell a friend or family member about your intentions.
10. Take your cell phone with you.
Support Services - Deputies Visit New Hanover County Schools

By Carol Scheidegger

Mary C. Williams Elementary School

In February, Lt. R.K. Johnson and deputies L. McKoy, R.T. Teachey, and D.L. Greer visited Mary C. Williams Elementary School on Career Day to talk to the first and second graders about their careers with the New Hanover County Sheriff’s Office. They also shared their personal stories of how they have been successful in their lives. They focused on the importance of being good students and staying out of trouble. Dep. Greer told them, “You are the heroes of the future. Go to school, respect others, and learn all you can.” The children eagerly participated and the visit ended in a very lively question and answer session.

Williston Middle School

Lt. R.K. Johnson and deputies L. McKoy, T.L. Grady, and M.L. Grier also visited Williston Middle School in March to talk to a group of seventh and eighth grade boys that are in a volunteer mentor program managed by the Wilmington Chapter of 100 Black Men. The chapter is part of a National Organization aimed at keeping young black men out of trouble and focused on their education.

The officers discussed various topics that were suggested by the adult mentors such as how the boys should appropriately interact with law enforcement if they should find themselves in such a situation. The deputies emphasized that because they are minors, they should ask right away for their parents to be contacted and present before they answer questions. The deputies also told them to remain calm, respectful, and always keep their hands visible to the officers. They explained that the officers are parents, spouses, and regular people that also want to go home at the end of the day. If a person is being questioned by law enforcement and reaches into their pocket or backpack, officers may think they are reaching for a weapon and react accordingly. They also coached them to never run if they are stopped, that running never helps a situation and causes them to appear guilty. They cautioned the boys to choose their friends wisely and not to hang out with people that could get them into trouble. They were also advised to tell a parent or another trustworthy adult if they are aware that someone is doing something that they shouldn’t. The boys were engaging and asked the officers very thoughtful questions.
R.A.D. Systems of Self-Defense, Inc. is a self-defense class available through the New Hanover County Sheriff’s Office. The classes are one night a week for 4 weeks, aiming to provide educational defense tactics and increase awareness for women of all ages.

R.A.D. was launched at New Hanover County Sheriff’s Office by Corporal David Desso in 2013 with the first classes being offered for the deaf and hearing impaired. Corporal Desso has 43 years law enforcement experience and has been with NHCSO since 2008. He became a certified R.A.D. instructor in 2007. He’s very passionate about this program and took the lead in organizing the training classes, to make sure this was available for the women of New Hanover County.

“I wanted to head up this program for New Hanover County Sheriff’s Office in hopes that no woman would ever become a victim of sexual assault or abduction,” Desso said. “Realizing in the past, women have primarily depended on the male for protection, only to become a victim of the one she relied on. Every woman has the inner power to protect herself against sexual assault and just needs the self-confidence and tools to obtain this.”

Deputy Latrice Mckoy is also one of the certified R.A.D. instructors. She’s been with the Sheriff’s Office since January 2014, gaining her certification in October 2015. She also earned her ‘Replicating Adverse Dynamics’ certification in July 2016.

“My goal and passion in training this class is to increase awareness, build confidence and empowerment,” Deputy Mckoy said. “A lot of women don’t realize how strong they are, not just physically, but mentally and emotionally as well. They’ve never been in a situation where they had to defend themselves, and I hope they never will be, but since they haven’t had to do it, they feel as if they can’t, and that’s not the case. Teaching them how to be aware of their surroundings, and to be and appear confident, can take away the opportunity for an attack to take place.”

Deputy Mckoy looks forward to further advancing her R.A.D. certification in August of 2017.

The following deputies are also certified R.A.D. instructors: Sgt. J. Pope, Deputy M. Brashier, Detective J. Blevins, Sgt. W. Montjoy, and A. Morton

I recently attended the classes with Corporal Desso and Deputy Mckoy. Their conviction and compassion towards the training and the women is exceptional. I learned several self-defense moves that were focused on utilizing a woman’s stronger features. I was amazed by all the self-defense moves that I can do, even if the attacker is bigger. This experience was empowering; I was surprised by the increased confidence that I felt after these training classes. I’m thankful that NHCSO has made this program available to our community.

To sign up for classes, please contact: Deputy Mckoy at 910-798-4134 or lmckoy@nhcgov.com.
New Hanover Sheriff’s Office worked alongside the Special Olympics of Wilmington on Saturday, February 11th to take part in the annual Polar Plunge at Kure Beach. Hundreds of participants lined the beach and took the plunge, which raised nearly $50,000 for Special Olympics.

This is the 13th year the Polar Plunge has taken place at Kure Beach. If you would like to support the Special Olympics, additional donations can be made at plungenhc.com.

Participants took part in a 5k walk and run around Kure Beach, in addition to visiting vendors from Wilmington and the Carolina beach area. The NHSO VIPR and Explorer units also took part in the polar plunge.

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**Animal Services**  
*By Carol Scheidegger*

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**McGruff Says**

**SPRING (DENTAL) CLEANING**

In case you missed it, it’s a good time to get your dog or cat’s teeth cleaned. Periodontal disease is the most common disorder that affects cats and dogs. Dental disease can cause much more than just bad breath for your pet; it can cause tooth, bone, and gum loss and lead to heart disease.

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**It’s Spring: Be mindful of PEST PREVENTION**

Pets are out and about more this time of year, so now is a great time to check if your pet is up to date with their flea, tick, and heartworm prevention medication. Talk to your veterinarian about which options are best for your pets.
DO YOU KNOW THESE PEOPLE?
These are images from cases the New Hanover County Sheriff’s Office is trying to solve. Please look through the images to see if you can help identify any of the suspects from the crimes.

If you can help identify any of the suspects please call the Sheriff’s Office Detective Division or anonymously through Submit A Tip

See more at: http://www.newhanoversheriff.com/cases/#sthash.PFHqwHnI.dpuf

Date: March 17, 2017
Case Number: 2016-10347

Date: March 15, 2017
Case Number: 2016-10143

Date: January 17, 2017
Case Number: 2017-00455

Description: The male’s first name may possibly be Neil and the female may be Amanda.

Date: January 20, 2017
Case Number: 2017-00518

The NHCSO VIPR Unit sincerely hopes you have enjoyed this newsletter. It is our hope that it serves to increase transparency and deepen the citizen’s awareness of the activities of the New Hanover County Sheriff’s Office. There are many programs that can be of service to the citizens of New Hanover County and they will be highlighted through the newsletter each quarter. Printed copies of the newsletter will be available to read in various places throughout the county but we welcome you to sign up for electronic copies by sending your name and email address to NHSNews@nhcgov.com. Your comments and suggestions are always greatly appreciated, and can be directed to this same email address. We would love to hear from you!

Sincerely,
Carol Scheidegger, VIPR 128