



BOLO & Quarterly Report

HIGHLANDS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE BULLETIN

2nd Quarter | April-July 2024

Ramos honored by State's Attorney

Detective Louis Ramos, who monitors sexual offender and predators (as well as career offenders) for our Special Victims Unit, was honored by District 10 State's Attorney Brian Haas May 2 in Bartow with the Law Enforcement Officer Meritorious Service Award.

Det. Ramos monitors over 200 offenders/predators in our county. Mr. Haas commended Det. Ramos for his "aggressive" and "tenacious" work to ensure that offenders follow the registration rules, as well as being very knowledgeable of the statutes that govern registered offenders and predators.

"Detective Ramos takes a two-pronged approach, educating the offenders about the requirements and holding those who don't follow the law accountable," Mr. Haas said, adding that Det. Ramos was a "key partner" for the State's Attorney.



Det. Louis Ramos (center) with SVU Sgt. Steven Ritenour (left) and Sheriff Blackman.

"I am very proud of Louis and want to congratulate him for this well-deserved honor," Sheriff Blackman said. "He is one of our hardest-

working deputies and goes above and beyond every day to make sure offenders are doing what they are required to do."

HCSO's Marrero graduates from FDLE Analyst Academy

Congratulations to our Analyst Dorothy Marrero on her graduation from the Florida Law Enforcement Analyst Academy on May 7.

According to the FDLE, the graduates were challenged with hands-on training, assignments, quizzes and presentations during the six-week academy.

They developed the skills necessary to complete individual and group research projects.

The students took a comprehensive examination following the completion of all

course work and successful graduates are recognized as Florida-certified law enforcement analysts.

The goal of the Florida Law Enforcement Analyst Academy is to provide a uniform training curriculum in the area of law enforcement analysis.

In addition, the analyst academy sets the foundation for a professional career path in criminal and intelligence analysis and investigations for non-sworn personnel in law enforcement.



(from left) are Sgt. Tim Mee, Undersheriff Mike Brown, Dorothy Marrero, Analyst Hannah Souther and Sgt. Vinny Forest.

Quarterly Statistical Information



Administrative calls	27,175
911 calls	13,809
Texts to 911	255
ADT text alarms	206

Computer Aided Dispatch reports

Total assigned	33,424
HCSO (56.0%)	18,722
HCFR (17.8%)	5,956
SPD (15.6%)	5,222
LPPD (6.5%)	2,188
APFD (2.1%)	706
SFD (1.8%)	617
APBR (>1%)	13

911 Hang-up Auto Callback System

Total	521
Accepted	24
Rejected	167
No response	330

FINANCE

Payroll transactions processed	2,415
Payable checks processed	559
P-card purchases	837



I.T. REQUESTS: **909**



INMATES BOOKED 742 **INMATES RELEASED 752**

AVERAGE DAILY JAIL POPULATION 548

Inmate meals served	149,485	Medical Fees Charged	\$253,040.491
Daily food cost per inmate	\$2.24	Medical Fees Collected	\$6,408.47
Instructional Program Hours	1,050	Subsistence fees charged	\$78,738.60
Inmate Transport Miles	---	Subsistence fees collected	\$16,918.34
Transports to State Prison	74	Inmate per-diem charged	\$15,820.40
CMP Participants	10	Inmate per-diem collected	\$7,060.2017
\$ saved in labor	\$18,720.00	\$ saved by inmate labor	\$233,519.00

ARRESTS



Patrol	421
DUI arrests	10
Crime Suppression Unit	48
Sex Off./Pred. Unit	23

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS



TOTAL ITEMS IN EVIDENCE: 86,248
 NEW EVIDENCE ITEMS 2,507 ITEMS DISPOSED 2,499

CIU cases assigned	75
CIU cases open	114
SVU cases from DCF	257
Active ICAC cases	159
SVU cases open	133
Current offenders/predators	187
Career offenders	37
Juvenile sex offenders	2
Offender registrations	298
Crime scene lab cases	75
Crime scene call outs	89
Cell phones/computers processed	45
Warrants received	132
Served/Active	383/1,632

THERAPY DOGS



Forensic interviews 89

Community events 29

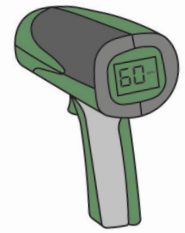
COURT-RELATED SERVICES



Cases in court	6,358
Inmates taken to court	1,503
Persons through security	26,154
Judicial/civil processes received	1,600
Judicial/civil processes served	1,539
Judicial/civil processes pending	61

HUMAN RESOURCES

New Hires	7
Civilian	4
Sworn	3
Part-time civilian	0
Part-time sworn	0
Applications processed	47



TRAFFIC STOPS 2,809

TRAFFIC CITATIONS 866

WRITTEN WARNINGS 535

K-9 deployments



Service calls 1,176

Animals impounded 671

Animals adopted/rescued/reunited 443

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE

Crime Prevention presentations 8

SafetyNet contacts 10

Crime victims served 191

Victim Advocate services provided 897

Lifesaving efforts honored

Deputies Glenn Burnsed and Justin Norris, and Dispatchers Jillian Kingery, Ashleigh Prieto and Danielle Burnsed were honored at the May 7 Highlands County Board of County Commissioners, Government meeting for their roles in saving the life of 4-year-old Gracin .

On March 3, Gracin was involved in an accident at his home that nearly took his life. Our dispatch team took the call from his frantic mother while Gracin's father attempted to drive him to the hospital.

Deputy Burnsed met them along the way and began rendering first aid, including clearing Gracin's airway and using a defibrillator. Deputy Norris and Fire-Rescue units quickly arrived and took over care, transporting Gracin to a landing zone for an emergency transport by Aeromed.

When Gracin came home on April 14, the HCSO and Highlands County Fire-Rescue were there to greet him with gifts and hugs. It was

We are so proud of their efforts on this traumatic day and so happy that there was a happy ending.





Maintenance Foreman Darrel Jones was sworn in as a Detention Deputy May 9.

Detention Deputy Brandon Loeb (top left) was sworn in May 30, Deputy Mason Eicher (top right) was sworn in June 13 and Detention Deputy Destany Beck was sworn in June 27. Join us in welcoming them to the family!

New Hires

NAME	HIRED	POSITION
Larissa Johnson	05/15/24	Telecommunicator
Brandon Loeb	05/29/24	Detention Deputy
Ronda Story	05/29/24	Administrative Support Officer
Kayla Comeau	06/12/24	Animal Services Officer
Mason Eicher	06/12/24	Deputy Sheriff
Destany Beck	06/26/24	Detention Deputy
Maria Godoy	06/26/24	Telecommunicator



On May 30, we celebrated two promotions. Wayne Gunn (left) was promoted to lieutenant in the Training Unit and Scott Williams (right) was promoted to lieutenant over the Animal Services, K-9, Ag and Environmental units. Congratulations to both!

Upcoming Years of Service Anniversaries

July							
Jeremy Ahrens	5	Robert Roe	13	James Murphy	22	Patricia Fennell	2
Cameron Armstead	4	Connie Rousseau	20	Robert Neale	31	Jacklyn Fertig	6
Dawn Barfield	12	Christopher Smith	24	Tamara Neale	8	Cindy Foster	1
Jason Beck	29	Omar Speakman	3	Kathleen Perez	17	Austin Garza	16
Paul Bogaert	14	Alycia Tate	31	Luis Pratts-Martinez	19	Michael Halloran	2
Michael Chambers	1	Dale Vaughn	26	Christopher Ritenour	23	Maylin Hernandez	10
Justin Clemmons	19	Judy Watkins	13	Steven Ritenour	16	Ashley Jackson	2
Robert Copeland	16	John Weed	21	Ashlee Robitaille	6	Kenneth Johnson	32
Ryan Davidson	6	Samuel Wilson	12	Eddie San Miguel	7	Lars Kirkegard	17
Arianna De Arce	5	Oliver Worley	16	Corey Snell	11	Shanese Leverson	2
Michael Dean	4			James Spires	36	Cody McClelland	1
Paul Deshazo	2	August		Linda St. Laurent	1	Crystal McGann	30
Alejandro Gamez	4	Michael Ahrens	21	John Steffner	20	Ian McRoy	2
James Green	2	Timothy Albright	8	David Stewart	29	Jay Murfield	8
Allan Holmes	9	Dustin Bennett	14	Katrina Thomas	13	Howard Pearson	2
Darin Hood	25	Anthony Carlson	1	Scott Williams	19	Lizette Peralta	34
Samuel Jacobs	4	Joshua Clemente	1	Stephanie Yancey	3	Michele Percy	12
Lisa Johnston	2	Stephen Dawson	3			Eric Porter	18
Wesley Jones	7	Travis Dunn	10	September		Shannon Roberts	26
Jillian Kingery	11	Michael Huften	19	Benjamin Anderson	3	Jose Robles	8
John Lott	22	Caleb Lott	5	John Barcinas	30	Marco Robles	3
Curtis Ludden	33	Royce Marlow	8	Paul Blackman	31	Patrick Seaser	26
Nathan Nichols	10	Jorge Martinez	13	Alexandra Brock	10	Kevin Smith	9
Lindsey Reinhart	17	Destiny McCartney	5	Rebecca Carpenter	3	Roger St. Laurent	20
		Larry Meinke III	7	John Ellington	5	Kenneth Young	18

Promotions & Transfers

NAME	DATE	MOVE
Scott Williams	05/15/24	Promoted to Lieutenant in the Animal Services Unit
Wayne Gunn	05/15/24	Promoted to Lieutenant in the Training Unit
Cyril Wright	06/26/24	Transferred as from Detention Security Squad to Operations Support
John Lott	07/03/24	Transferred as from Detention Operations Support to Security Squad

College Degrees

NAME	DATE	MOVE
Kevin Gentry	12/14/23	Graduated SFSC with Bachelor of Applied Sciences in Supervision and Management
Alexander Hill	12/14/23	Graduated SFSC with Bachelor of Criminal Justice Technologies

Academy Graduation

NAME	DATE	MOVE
Darrell Jones	4/18/24	Graduated SFSC Corrections Academy

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Congratulations to the fifth-grade class at Lake Placid Elementary School for winning the DARE poster contest and earning a celebration today.

They got to see a simulated drug arrest starring K-9 Gentry and some of our SWAT team members. They also got to meet K-9 Hooch and a few lucky students even won some prizes.

Alexandria Diaz was the creator of the winning poster. Congratulations to her for such a nice job!



Congratulations to Kinsley Myers on being awarded the Deputy William J. Gentry Jr. Memorial Scholarship! Kinsley is a Sebring High School senior who will be attending Florida State on a pre-med course of study. She is the daughter of our Sgt. Chris Myers and his wife, Courtney.



Shawn Martz of Insight Auctioneers & Sales was the top bidder in the Sheriff for a Day auction to benefit United Way of Central Florida and he cashed in his prize May 23.

DISPATCHERS HONORED



National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week was the week of April 14 and our dispatchers were honored with a proclamation by the Board of County Commissioners, as well as with a luncheon served by the command staff. Highlands Fire & EMS Foundation and Old Florida Homestead and High Pasture Farm also donated boxes of fresh food. We also want to thank all of the following who pitched in to honor our dispatchers: EMC1 Wireless, Motorola Solutions, Aeromed, Shirley Johnson, Dee's Place, 3 Gens Grill, NGA911, Gateway Removal Services, LLC, Sebring Police Department, Sebring Fire Department, Highlands County Emergency Management, Highlands Fire & EMS foundation, Old Florida Homestead, Lake Placid High School Student Government Association, George White - Sebring Firemen's Association.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Members of the COPS ADAPT Unit, along with Sheriff Blackman, joined in the Highlands County Walk for Hope June 29 in Avon Park to help raise awareness about gun violence. Several of the people who took part in the walk have lost sons, brothers and fathers to gun violence, and some of them spoke to the group after the walk.



Sheriff Blackman had the honor of being invited to give the morning prayer for Cornerstone Christian Academy at Avon Park Lakes Baptist Church April 24. It was the first day of their nine days of prayer leading up to National Day of Prayer on May 2



Sheriff Blackman spent the morning of May 4 at the annual Bicycle Rodeo in downtown Sebring.



Sheriff Blackman was on hand at the Seniors and Law Enforcement Together (SALT) Council meeting June 18 to help honor Capt. Kenny "KJ" Johnson for his hard work for the group. KJ was faced with the difficult task of reviving the group after COVID put a halt to the meetings, and under his guidance, the group has once again flourished. Today's meeting had a great turnout. With the help of KJ's grandson, Dawson, Sheriff Blackman presented KJ with an award from the SALT Council to thank him for his leadership.



Therapy Dog Stella said goodbye to her first grade Reading Buddies today at Avon Elementary School and also got to lead the Pre-K graduation parade May 15.

PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL CEREMONY

Thank you to all who took part in our Peace Officers' Memorial Ceremony May 7. Emcee - Sgt. Vinny Forest; Prayers - HCSO Chaplain Bill Trucano; Pledge of Allegiance - Sgt. Jason Mulligan; National Anthem - Nelly Ford; Guest Speaker - Former Sheriff Susan Benton; Roll Call - Deputy Preston Miller. Also, thank you to the Sebring Police Department and Florida Highway Patrol for participating in the honor guard for this special day.



HCSO mourns loss of K-9 Lady, Therapy Dog Trey

On May 21, we were heartbroken to share the news about the passing of retired K-9 Lady, who was recently diagnosed with an aggressive cancer. Lady joined the HCSO as a single-purpose narcotics K-9 in October of 2013. She retired (along with her partner, Deputy Jose Molina) on April 18, 2023. She averaged more than 300 deployments and 60 arrests per year during her distinguished career with the HCSO. Exactly a month later, we lost Therapy Dog Trey, who also lost a courageous fight with cancer. Trey had hundreds of deployments as a Therapy Dog through the Reading Buddies program, being there for children going through the difficult process of the interviews and court cases that follow being the victim of a crime and many other community events. They will both be greatly missed.



EXPLORERS ACADEMY

Explorers Post 2247 hosted the Glades County Sheriff's Office Explorer post May 29-31 for another Explorer Academy. The cadets spent the three days learning and going over the types of scenarios they are graded on at the annual convention. They covered crime scene investigation, building clearing, domestic dispute calls, traffic stops and shooting.



We held a surprise farewell luncheon for Lt. Clay Kinslow May 23 as he enters into the final days on duty before a well-earned retirement. Lt. Kinslow has been with the HCSO for 16 years and served in several roles before spending the past seven years as the supervisor of Animal Services and, more recently, leading the K-9 Unit. "Lt. Kinslow took a difficult task when we assumed responsibility for Animal Services and did it phenomenally well," Sheriff Blackman said "The improvements he and his staff have made at Animal Services are remarkable, and that is a result of his leadership. He has been a very important part of our team here at the Sheriff's Office and will be missed. We wish him all the best in his well-deserved retirement."

Volunteer Appreciation



Did you know we have more than 80 volunteers here at the Highlands County Sheriff's Office?

From in the jail to out in the community, we could not do what we do without the time and effort donated by these selfless individuals (and pups). April 17, we held an appreciation event for them.

Please join us in thanking our volunteers for helping your Sheriff's Office!



By Shirley Johnson
HCSO Volunteer Coordinator

Wings of Faith Women of Hope

It is with great pleasure that we shine the spotlight on the amazing Wings of Faith Women of Hope from Wings of Faith Christian Worship Center.

They bring the powerful fire of the gospel to our female inmates on Saturday, a day that many people are relaxing with family. Being inspired by the word of God, they illuminate Cell 12 with gospel singing, praise and worship, and bible study that turns into a revival each time they volunteer. The entire unit atmosphere changes because the holy spirit enters with them, and it can't be shaken. Many are touched with shouting and will have joy of tears running down from their eyes because of hope and feeling the breaking of chains; even though they are locked behind walls and doors, chains of burdens and worrying just hit the floor. The females know that these women are



The Wings of Faith Women of Hope Ministry.

vessels and conduits of the Lord, and it shows.

They are committed to serving others and our Detention Bureau is truly blessed to have such a devoted group of women who loves to serve gratefully at our facility. Their ministry is one that you just can't sit still on, it moves you in a way that only shows it's not of self, but the Spirit of the Lord.

Whenever, I enter Cell 12 after Wings Women of Hope has been in the room, I get bombarded with details of how powerful the worship service was and asked why they can't come more often, or told those ladies are on fire with the word of God, plus they always touch us deep in our hearts.

I know that these women are doing it all for the Glory of God and to bring someone to the realization of salvation. Their ministry brings

hope to the hopeless, strength to those who feel weak and a sense of worth for those that might feel lost or worthless. They are reminded that when you hit the bottom, just look up and rise. Jeremiah 29:11 is for everyone that has faith to believe for they will receive. The Women of Hope are messengers of that very scripture and more.

Bishop Robert Shannon, the church leader, said the mission of Wings of Hope is to empower others by restoring families, and breaking chains that will produce lasting change, which only comes for our Heavenly Father.

It's an honor for the HCSO and the Detention Bureau to congratulate the Wings of Faith Women of Hope: Rev. T. Knight, Janice Skinner, Pastor Gwen Shannon, Minister Johnnie Walters, and L. Ramos-Harper as Volunteers of this quarter.