

NASSAU COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



BEHIND THE BADGE NEWSLETTER



January—March
2016

SHERIFF'S MESSAGE

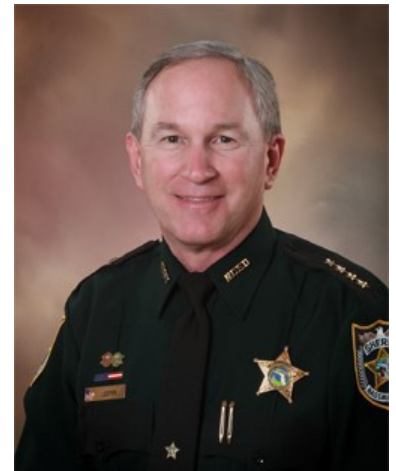
I want to thank everyone for your continued support and dedication to serve and protect our citizens in a courteous and professional manner. Preserving freedom and democracy, in a society as complex as ours, is not easy and it takes dedicated professionals to carry out our duties and responsibilities. All of us have been very busy lately and as an agency we have accomplished a great deal this past year, but 2016 promises to be even bigger and better as we have set more goals to reach and we will ultimately get to move into our new facilities.

We have received preliminary data from the FDLE Uniform Crime Report for 2015, which indicates a reduction of 16.2 % in Nassau County's Crime Rate over the previous year even though our population increased 1.7 %. Although there are many factors that play into these statistics, it can be partially linked to the dedication, efforts and due diligence

our employees make as we serve and protect our citizens each day. As our county continues to grow, along with that growth comes more opportunity for criminal activity, so we must continue to be proactive in our efforts.

Please stay safe!

Bir



ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY

The Nassau County Sheriff's Office held their 2015 "Employees of the Year" awards ceremony on Thursday, March, 31, 2016 at Florida State College Nassau Campus. Several employees were recognized for their outstanding efforts during 2015. "Their dedication and commitment to our community, have placed themselves in harm's way to keep citizens from being harmed; who through their experience have saved a life of a citizen; or through their exceptional and outstanding service have ensured the quality of life all of us have come to expect living in Nassau County," said Sheriff Bill Leeper.

Several local businesses also partnered with the Sheriff's Office to recognize our award winners as well. They are The Seaside Amelia Inn, Omni Resort Amelia Island Plantation, Hampton Inn Amelia Island, The Fairbanks House, Amelia Hotel at the Beach, Hampton Inn & Suites, and the Residence Inn Marriott.

Those honored were:

Front row seated left to right: Communications Officer of the Year Megan Collins, Civilian of the Year Celeste Haddock, Volunteer of the Year Theresa Stull.

Back row standing left to right: Patrol Deputy of the Year Tim Beazley, Detention Deputy of the Year Nicholas Thornton, Supervisor of the Year Sergeant Robin Patterson, Investigator of the Year Detective Charity Rose.



TRAFFIC SAFETY AWARDS



At the NCSO annual awards ceremony, Sheriff Bill Leeper recognized Deputy Kellam Paolillo and Deputy Dallas Palecek for their efforts in traffic safety and keeping Nassau County roadways safe for all motorists in 2015.

Pictured left to right: Deputy Paolillo, Deputy Palecek and Sheriff Leeper.

LIFE SAVING AWARD

On August 5, 2015, Deputy Ralph Dempsey Revels responded to a cardiac distress call at the Raceway gas station at SR 200 and I-95.

Upon arrival, Deputy Revels encountered a 65 year old male who had collapsed at the front door of the business. As he assessed the individual, he noticed the male subject was non-responsive and was beginning to turn blue as he attempted to provide first aid. The man was not breathing and had no pulse, so Deputy Revels, resorting to his first aid training, immediately began measures to attempt resuscitation of the individual by performing CPR.



Deputy Revels quickly and calmly cleared the man's airway of any obstruction and began chest compressions. He continued the compressions until Nassau County Fire/Rescue personnel arrived on the scene several minutes later. Fire/Rescue personnel continued CPR on the subject for several more minutes. Thankfully, he was eventually revived and subsequently transported to Nassau Baptist Hospital for further observation and treatment.

Doctors at the hospital determined the individual had suffered a heart attack and believe, as a direct result of the quick response and actions of Deputy Revels, that the man is still alive today.

"We thank Deputy Revels for his heroic actions that day, as well as his commitment to serving our community and representing our agency with pride and professionalism," said Sheriff Bill Leeper.

CITIZEN APPRECIATION

Deputy Mark Murphy was instrumental in locating an elderly male who had wandered off and was missing. Deputy Murphy located the man and returned him home safely. The individual's wife was so appreciative she painted a picture for Deputy Murphy as a reminder of his good deed.

Pictured: Deputy Murphy with Sheriff Leeper



HEROIN SHOWING UP IN NASSAU COUNTY

Over the past three years, since Sheriff Bill Leeper has been in office, undercover Nassau County Sheriff's Office Narcotics Detectives have been busy arresting individuals for selling marijuana, cocaine, crack cocaine, methamphetamine, and prescription medication. In fact, hundreds of drug dealers have been arrested, taken off the streets, and are serving time in jail as a result of their efforts. But now narcotic detectives can add heroin to the mix.

"Until recently, Nassau County has largely dodged the return of heroin across the United States and throughout the state of Florida, but it appears the drug is becoming more prevalent in our area," said Sheriff Bill Leeper. In fact, according to Leeper, the opiate-based street drug is possibly to blame for three overdose deaths and two near-death overdoses in Nassau County since February 17, 2016. The three deaths occurred in Fernandina Beach, Callahan, and Hilliard. The two near-deaths occurred in Callahan.

Heroin-related deaths can be detected by looking at the number of deaths in a wider area. Several counties around Nassau and across Florida are also seeing an increase in heroin overdose deaths.

Leeper believes the Nassau County heroin deaths is linked to the quality of the heroin that is now reaching local streets, and

whether it's mixed with other drugs. Investigators have frequently seen heroin mixed with fentanyl, an opioid medication often used to treat chronic pain. It is used as a "booster sedative," making up for the typical low potency of heroin smuggled into the United States from Mexico.

Leeper said it appears that the purity level of the heroin on the streets now has increased significantly and it's deadly. "What you took yesterday may not be the same thing you're taking today, and it may kill you," Leeper said. "It's like playing Russian roulette. If you want to go and shoot up heroin, it may be the last time that you ever shoot up heroin," Leeper added.

Often, those hooked on opiate painkillers will switch to heroin because it is much cheaper than pills per hit once heroin is established in an area, or if the user no longer has easy access to the prescriptions. One of the unknowns about heroin is that there is no way to determine how potent it is until it is taken, often intravenously. That makes catastrophic overdoses a real possibility with each use. "Some addicts overdose not knowing what

they bought on the streets, while others try it knowingly in an attempt to get an increasingly better high," said Leeper

Law enforcement officers say they see a direct tie between heroin use and abuse of prescription painkillers like Oxycodone. Patients become hooked on these prescribed medications, then go in search of supplies on the black market when their prescriptions run out. On the street, heroin costs about \$10 for a fix.

Tackling demand involves finding treatment for more users and pushing for alternative drug courts, which focus on providing help for addicts who commit crimes rather than sending them through the regular criminal justice system.

Sheriff Leeper said he is trying to raise awareness about the epidemic and call attention to the warning signs. Those can include track marks or sores on arms or legs, weight loss or other changes in appearance, or sudden crimes,

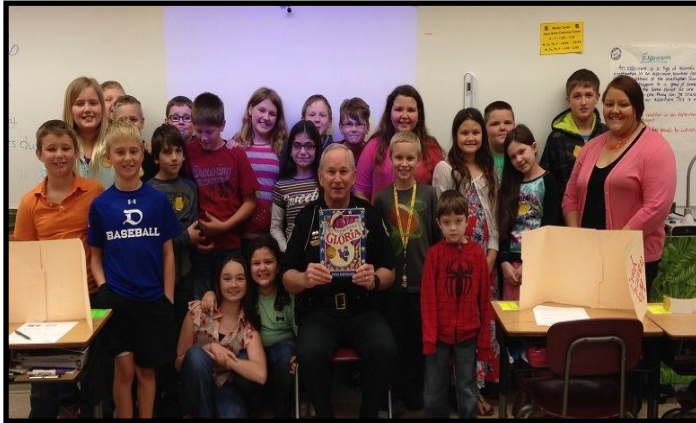
like stealing or prostitution. Users also often have drug paraphernalia with them, like syringes or small plastic bags. If you suspect a loved one is using heroin, Leeper said do whatever you can to get that person into treatment or rehab.

"If you are a drug dealer, we are coming after you. If you are a drug addict, you need to know there are some bad drugs on the street right now and the next 911 call we get could be as a result of your death. If you need help in getting off these deadly drugs, please call us and we will get you in touch with local organizations who can assist, but you truly have to want to get help," Leeper concluded.



Picture: Sheriff Bill Leeper speaks at a news conference in Jacksonville with Duval County Sheriff Mike Williams on the rise of overdose deaths involving heroin.

READ-A-BOOK DAY



Sheriff Bill Leeper visited Callahan Intermediate School on Thursday, January 28, 2016, to participate in their Celebrity Read-A-Book Day. Sheriff Leeper visited with Ms. Rowan, Ms. Drury, Ms. Carofano, Ms. Grubbs, and Ms. Johnson's classes.

Pictured: Sheriff Leeper with Ms. Rowan's 4th Grade Class

SCHOOL CROSSING GUARD APPRECIATION DAY

February 05, 2016, the Nassau County Sheriff's Office celebrated School Crossing Guard Appreciation Day. School Crossing Guards play a critical role in keeping students safe. At schools throughout Nassau County, crossing guards are often the first face that walking students see at the start of the day and the last face they see before they head home. "We are so fortunate to have a committed group of crossing guards in our county," said Sheriff Bill Leeper. "The safety and wellbeing of each of our students is our mission each day. I'm thankful for the valuable service that our crossing guards provide."

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NTSA), young children and the elderly are the most vulnerable for pedestrian accident related injuries. Skilled crossing guards can reduce the chances of accidents.

These men and women report to work every day, rain or shine, ready to embrace a child in a special way. For many of these children, the crossing guards serve as positive role models supporting their educational journey. Show your appreciation to school crossing guards by giving an enthusiastic thanks by tooting your car horn, waving, or simply saying 'Thanks.'

Nassau County School Crossing Guards: Back Row: Merrill "Bubba" Reynolds, James Thompson

Front Row: Suzan Skipper (Retired), Tammy Vanzant, Delores Doyle (Retired), Donna Altimore, Eleanor "Grace" Conway. Not pictured: Teresa Carter, Helen Horne, Lesia Waldrip, Lorraine Darlington



Promotion Ceremony

On Monday, February 29, 2016, Sheriff Bill Leeper promoted Detective Charles Lucas to Patrol Sergeant. Sergeant Lucas started his career with the Sheriff's Office on July 13, 2006 as a corrections deputy. He was transferred to the Patrol Division on January 4, 2010 and reassigned to the Criminal Investigation Division on August 7, 2013.

Pictured: Sheriff Bill Leeper presents a sergeant badge to newly promoted sergeant Charles Lucas.



MOTOR UNIT TRAINING

Nassau County Sheriff's Office attended motor training in January. There were motors in attendance from our agency, St. Johns County Sheriff's Office, Clay County Sheriff's Office, Jacksonville Sheriff's Office, Flagler County Sheriff's Office, St Augustine Police Department and Florida Highway Patrol.



BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN SAFETY TRAINING

Just another day at the office for Special Operations as they learn to ride bicycles properly. They were also taught how to properly fit bike helmets and design bicycle rodeos in order to provide safety to children in our community.



BLOODHOUND KENNEL UPGRADE

In February the Jail & Detention Center upgraded the bloodhound kennel by expanding the area where the dogs can exercise, providing additional security and adding a drain system for washing out the cages.



BLUE LIVES MATTER

An Orange Park resident recently visited NCSO with his new Chevrolet Camaro with a Blue Lives Matter hood. He is traveling to other counties getting law enforcement officers to sign the hood in support of the important work they do each day protecting our communities before he donates it to the Fraternal Order of Police in Clay County.



CONCOURS D'ELEGANCE

Communications personnel setting up operations from the EOC Communications trailer at the Concours d'Elegance event. Communications Manager Ricky Rowell, Communications Officer Linda Ottinger and EOC volunteer James Brooke hard at work during the event



GARY WILLIAMS RETIREMENT

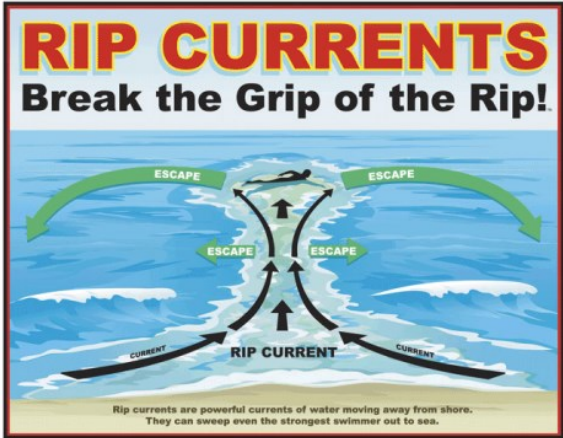


Sheriff Bill Leeper presents Sergeant Gary Williams with a retirement plaque. Sergeant Williams retired from NCSO on February 29th after more than 22 years serving and protecting Nassau County.

**THANK
YOU FOR YOUR
SERVICE!**

BEACH SAFETY TIPS

- 1. OBEY WARNING SIGNS AND FLAGS**
- 2. SWIM NEAR A LIFE GUARD**
- 3. NEVER SWIM ALONE**
- 4. DON'T DIVE IN HEADFIRST**
- 5. SUPERVISE CHILDREN CLOSELY, EVEN WHEN LIFEGUARDS ARE PRESENT**
- 6. CHECK WEATHER CONDITIONS BEFORE YOU SWIM**
- 7. DON'T SWIM UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF DRUGS OR ALCOHOL**
- 8. DON'T SWIM AFTER DARK**



RIP CURRENTS
Break the Grip of the Rip!

The diagram shows a central 'RIP CURRENT' flowing away from the shore, with 'CURRENT' arrows pointing towards it from the sides. Green arrows labeled 'ESCAPE' point away from the rip current towards the shore.

Rip currents are powerful currents of water moving away from shore. They can sweep even the strongest swimmer out to sea.


IF CAUGHT IN A RIP CURRENT

- ◆ Don't fight the current
- ◆ Swim out of the current, then to shore
- ◆ If you can't escape, float or tread water
- ◆ If you need help, call or wave for assistance

SAFETY

- ◆ Know how to swim
- ◆ Never swim alone
- ◆ If in doubt, don't go out

More information about rip currents can be found at the following web sites:
www.ripcurrents.noaa.gov
www.usla.org



FIRST QUARTER AWARDS



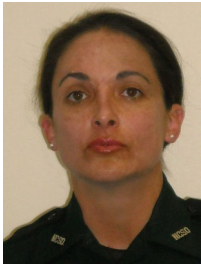
SUPERVISOR OF THE QUARTER

Corporal Joy Edgy



INVESTIGATOR OF THE QUARTER

Detective Anthony Green



PATROL DEPUTY OF THE QUARTER

Deputy Lisa McCumber

DETENTION DEPUTY OF THE QUARTER

Brian Higginbotham



COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER OF THE QUARTER

Joyce Fisher



CIVILIAN OF THE QUARTER

Jayne Woods



SERVICE ANNIVERSARY

15 YEARS

LARRY WYANT
NETWORK TECHNICIAN

GRACE MASON
911 COMMUNICATIONS

10 YEARS

DETECTIVE DARRELL HICKOX
CID

DEPUTY MICHAEL ROWE
TRANSPORTATION

5 YEARS

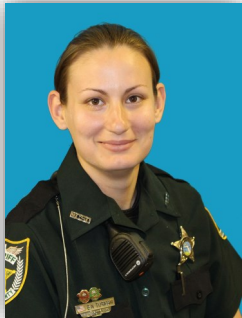
DETECTIVE TIM BEAZLEY
CID

DETENTION DEPUTY BRIAN HIGGINBOTHAM
CORRECTIONS

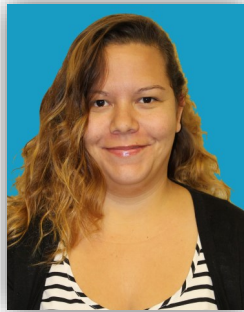
DETENTION DEPUTY JASON JONES
CORRECTIONS

Happy Anniversary

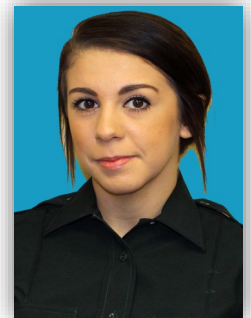
Welcome **OUR NEW TEAM MEMBERS**



Brandy Turman
Patrol



Danielle Rubio
911 Communications



Megan Salis
Corrections



Paul Bobola
Corrections



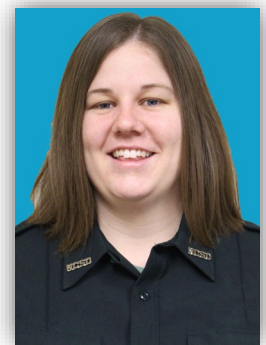
Garth Holton
Patrol



James Ballard
Patrol



Chelsea Beazley
911 Communications



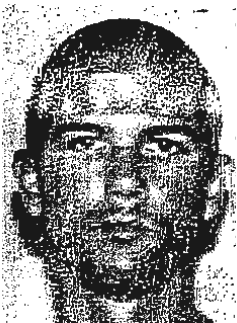
Jennifer Hires
Corrections

Sudoku

		7	5	9	8		3	
3	8	4			1	9		
						8	2	
	3	2	6		4	1		
		1		8		3	6	
6	7		3	1				8
1		3		4	6		8	
	4				2	5	1	
7	2		1	3				4

Guess who?

Answers on page 16



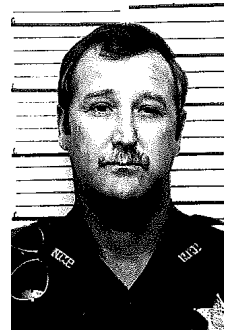
1



2



3



4

MOST WANTED Recipes

SLOW COOKER TACOS AL PASTOR

INGREDIENTS

- ◇ 1 (5-pound) boneless pork shoulder roast (Boston butt), extra fat trimmed off
- ◇ 1 (12-oz.) bottle of beer (I used Modelo Negro, or use chicken stock)
- ◇ 2 chipotles in adobo sauce
- ◇ 1 fresh pineapple, peeled and cored, then roughly chopped
- ◇ 1/2 cup chopped red onion
- ◇ 3 tablespoons chili powder (not cayenne)
- ◇ 2 tablespoons fresh lime juice
- ◇ 2 tablespoons white vinegar
- ◇ 2 teaspoons kosher salt
- ◇ 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- ◇ 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
- ◇ tortillas, for serving



DIRECTIONS

- ◇ Cut the pork shoulder into 2-inch cubes. Add the pork to the bowl of the slow cooker.
- ◇ Add the chipotles in adobo, pineapple, red onion, chili powder, lime juice, white vinegar, salt, cumin and black pepper to a blender or food processor. Puree until the mixture is completely smooth, about 30-60 seconds. Stir in the beer until it is evenly combined. Then pour the mixture on top of the pork, and toss until the pork is evenly coated.
- ◇ Cook on low for 8-10 hours, or on high for 4-5 hours, until the pork is completely tender and shreds easily with a fork. Use two forks to shred the pork, then toss it in the remaining juices.
- ◇ Serve warm on tortillas, garnished with optional toppings.

optional toppings: crumbled queso fresco, (extra) diced fresh pineapple, chopped fresh cilantro leaves, chopped red onions, diced avocado.

SMOKED SAUSAGE & RICE

INGREDIENTS

- ◇ 1 tbs olive oil
- ◇ 1 tbs butter
- ◇ 1 lb Hillshire Farms Smoked Sausage sliced 1/4-inch thick
- ◇ 2 cups broccoli florets
- ◇ 1 1/2 cups cooked brown rice - I use minute rice to save time!
- ◇ 1 tsp garlic powder
- ◇ 1 tsp onion salt
- ◇ 1/4 tsp pepper
- ◇ 1/2 tsp salt
- ◇ 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese

DIRECTIONS

- ◇ In a large pot melt butter over medium-high heat.
- ◇ Heat a large skillet over medium-high heat. Add butter and olive oil until melted.
- ◇ Add the sliced smoked sausage and cook for about 5 minutes until sausage begins to brown.
- ◇ Add the broccoli and cover. Reduce heat to low and cook about 5 minutes more - stirring occasionally.
- ◇ Add the cooked rice, garlic powder and onion salt to the skillet.
- ◇ Stir well.
- ◇ Add the shredded cheese - stirring well until the cheese is melted.
- ◇ Remove from the heat and serve warm.



BEHIND

THE

BADGE

NEWSLETTER

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3	8	4	7	2	1	9	5	6
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8	3	2	6	5	4	1	7	9
4	9	1	2	8	7	3	6	5
6	7	5	3	1	9	2	4	8
1	5	3	9	4	6	7	8	2
9	4	6	8	7	2	5	1	3
7	2	8	1	3	5	6	9	4

Answers:

1. Sgt. Jeff Stull 2. Lt. Ryan Van Tassell 3. Sgt. Michelle Christensen 4. Bailiff James Silcox

We hope that you have enjoyed this issue of the Nassau County Sheriff's Office *Behind the Badge* Newsletter! If you have articles or information for the next newsletter, please contact Sheena Hobbs at 904-548-4012 or by email at sshobbs@nassauso.com

As always, please stay safe!

