

# NASSAU COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



Captain Promotion

## *Behind the Badge Newsletter*



**JULY - SEPTEMBER  
2015**

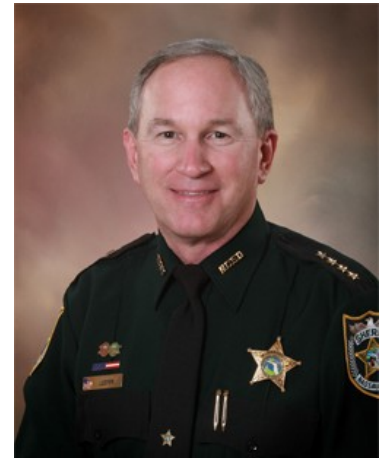
## SHERIFF'S MESSAGE

As I have stated in the past, during our first two years here we had to concentrate our efforts on upgrading our facilities, equipment and resources. This has resulted in a new 911 Call Center for our communications officers, a new Sheriff's Administration Building, and a new Fleet Maintenance Building, which should all be finished by next year. We have worked to improve the technology we utilize and provide the necessary equipment, tools, and training to offer better services to our citizens and to be a more efficient and professional agency.

Our new 911 communications center is almost complete and we will be slowly transferring our dispatch operations during the month of October. Once we are fully operational and everything is working fine we will hold a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the public. Our new Administration Building is still on track to be complete by next summer.

We have also reached out to the public to be more involved with the Sheriff's Office through our citizen's academy, community advisory teams, and increased volunteer opportunities.

Over the next two years our goal is to turn our attention toward improving employee benefits. Our goal is to make sure NCSO is one of the best law enforcement agencies to work for and one our citizens are proud of and support.



I appreciate the work you all do every day as we serve and protect our community. We will continue to look for ways we can be better and I hope our efforts are making a difference.

Please stay safe!

*Sheriff Bill Leeper*

*Bill*

# NCSO NAMED TOP AGENCY IN STATE

Nassau County Sheriff's Office has been selected by the Florida Department of Transportation's Law Enforcement Liaison Program as having the top traffic safety program in the state of Florida, for law enforcement agencies having 76 to 150 sworn officers.

The announcement was made at an awards ceremony on Friday, July 17, 2015, in Orlando where NCSO, which has 113 sworn officers, was recognized for their efforts in the field of traffic safety. Florida Law Enforcement agencies were judged by an independent panel of national traffic safety experts on five criteria: policy, training, public information & education, enforcement, and overall effectiveness in the reduction of vehicle crashes, injuries and fatalities that occur within their county. The Sheriff's Office was also recognized for having the 2nd best DUI enforcement program in the state of Florida. This recognition represents a significant accomplishment for the sworn and civilian employees that make up NCSO.

This is the first time NCSO has been recognized as having the top overall traffic safety program in the state. "I am very proud of all the men & women who work



hard each day to protect our citizens and make Nassau County as safe as possible to live, work, and raise a family. From the sworn and civilian personnel in the agency, the excellence in the operation is a total team effort," said Sheriff Leeper.

The Sheriff's Office was awarded two crystal statues for their efforts, as well as \$27,000 worth of traffic safety equipment.

*Lieutenant Hank Martinez, Deputy Stephen Jones and Deputy Dallas Palecek accept NCSO's Top Agency Award in Orlando at the FDOT Law Enforcement Liaison's annual award ceremony.*

## TEEN DRIVER CHALLENGE

The Nassau County Sheriff's Office conducted its first Teen Driver Challenge class on Friday, July 24th and Saturday July 25th. Twelve teens attended the free class which consisted of classroom training covering topics like vehicle dynamics, human factors, responsibility, liability, drug & alcohol use, night driving, aggressive driving and road rage. Deputies from NCSO taught the class, which also included the students driving their own vehicle on a driving track.

The Teen Driver Challenge program is not an advanced driving course, but is a defensive driving program designed to help teens boost their driving skills and lessen the chances of being involved in a crash. Students are awarded a certificate of completion, which can be presented to their automobile insurance carrier for a possible reduction in insurance rates.



Teen Driver Challenge

**National Law Enforcement Liaison Program**  
 Traffic Safety is Public Safety

## SAFE ZONE

In an effort to make online transactions safer for both buyers and sellers, the Nassau County Sheriff's Office is now allowing citizens to use its parking lot to complete sales setup through online sites such as eBay and Craigslist.

The goal of creating a "Safe Zone" is to deter crimes from occurring during such transactions.

"Today's technology makes it more convenient than ever for sellers and buyers of personal items to find each other," said Sheriff Bill Leeper. "Unfortunately, it also has created an opportunity for thugs to take advantage of unsuspecting citizens. We cannot do much about the international scams, but we can provide a safe haven for those wishing to complete these transactions here in Nassau County."

"If even one honest citizen is spared the trauma of being a victim, the program will be worthwhile," Leeper said. "Citizens should know that if the other party refuses to meet at the Nassau County Sheriff's Office, they are up to no good." Citizens are encouraged to utilize the Sheriff's Office parking lot, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. If transactions need to be completed outside of normal business hours or on weekends citizens may still use the parking lot, which is well-lit and under 24-hour video surveillance.



## RECORD BREAKING BLOOD DRIVE!

Did you know that only about 5% of the general population gives blood? Reasons for needing blood include cancer, car accidents, organ transplant, heart and other diseases. For many patients, a blood transfusion is the difference between life and death.

Recently, NCSO employees stepped up to the challenge of helping our local communities with a blood drive.

We registered 28 people, 1 deferred, 2 unusable, 6 double red cells so the total collected was 31 units. That is amazing and our best yet!



Our next drive is scheduled for December 8, 2015 from 9:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. in the Sheriff's Office parking lot. What better way to give during the holiday than saving lives. Be sure to mark your calendars!

**Give blood**   
the ultimate renewable resource

## SAFE KIDS ACADEMY

The Nassau County Sheriff's Office recently presented the NCSO Safe Kids Academy.

The Safe Kids Academy was conducted in a classroom setting and the children, ages 5-8, received hands on practical experience in six major topics of instruction, which were taught by Sheriff's Office personnel. The children learned self-defense techniques, practiced dialing "911" where the child communicated with a pre-recorded dispatch system, learned about stranger awareness, internet safety, anti-bullying and participated in a fire safety drill.

At the end of the class the children received a certificate of completion.



Safe Kids Academy Graduation



## EXPLORER OF THE QUARTER

**EXPLORER SERGEANT** Lacie Gibson was selected, by Explorer Lieutenant Riley Storey, as Explorer of the quarter.

Lieutenant Storey submitted the follow narrative:

*"Over my year and a half with the NCSO Explorer Unit I have been privileged to witness each Explorer grow, as leaders and individuals. One Explorer stands out in particular, and that is Lacie Gibson.*

*Lacie has grown from a novice Explorer into a strong leader since my time here. She demonstrates the ability to lead others, maintain a professional standard and appearance, as well as staying dedicated and loyal to the post. Lacie is a great asset to the Nassau County Sheriff's Office Explorer Unit!"*

Real-World Career Experiences  
**Exploring**<sup>®</sup>

## DRUG ARREST CONVICTION

U.S. District Judge Timothy J. Corrigan sentenced Shavon Tavin Anderson (22, Nassau County) to five years in federal prison for distributing cocaine and possessing a firearm as a convicted felon. He pleaded guilty on April 15, 2015.

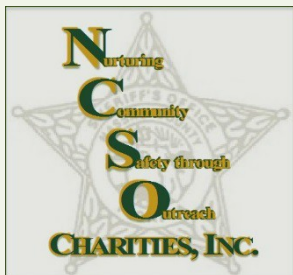
According to court documents, on February 6, 2015, Anderson met with an undercover (UC) Nassau County Sheriff's Office detective. The UC was part of a DEA Drug Task Force operation. During the meeting, Anderson sold the UC cocaine and marijuana. During a follow-up meeting the next week, Anderson again sold cocaine to the UC.

On March 5, 2015, Anderson met with the UC for a prearranged drug sale. Anderson was supposed to provide the UC with half a kilogram of powder cocaine in exchange for \$24,000. At the meeting, Anderson provided the UC with a smaller amount of powder than had been discussed, but the UC agreed to purchase it anyway. The powder was later determined to be fake cocaine. When agents moved to arrest Anderson, he exited the UC's vehicle and began running. As he fled, agents observed that Anderson had his hand on a firearm that was tucked in his waistband. Anderson was apprehended and the loaded firearm was recovered. At the time of his arrest, Anderson had multiple prior felony convictions and was prohibited from possessing a firearm or ammunition under federal law.

"Partnering with our federal agencies allows NCSO to expand our pursuit of those who sell illegal drugs in Nassau County. These drugs destroy lives and families," said Sheriff Bill Leeper.

This case was investigated by the Nassau County Sheriff's Office and the DEA Drug Task Force. It was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Kevin C. Frein.

## GOLF TOURNAMENT



NCSO Charities, Inc. and Sheriff Bill Leeper held their annual charity golf tournament at North Hampton on Friday September 11th. The event was a fundraiser for the

Sheriff's Office "Shop with Cops program" and the "Florida Sheriff's Youth Ranches." We had a great turn out and want to thank all of those who volunteered and participated to make this event such a success.

The winning team was Team Chism Development. *Pictured right.*



*Pictured: Sheriff Bill Leeper with the winning team of Cole Watson, Bryan Chism, Jarrod Sullivan, and Mark Meirdierck.*

# Tips for a Safe and Healthy Life



Take steps every day to live a safe and healthy life.

## EAT HEALTHY.

- Eat a variety of fruits, vegetables, and whole grains every day.
- Limit foods and drinks high in calories, sugar, salt, fat, and alcohol.
- Eat a balanced diet to help keep a healthy weight.

## BE ACTIVE.

- Be active for at least 2½ hours a week. Include activities that raise your breathing and heart rates and that strengthen your muscles.
- Help kids and teens be active for at least 1 hour a day. Include activities that raise their breathing and heart rates and that strengthen their muscles and bones.

## PROTECT YOURSELF.

- Wear helmets, seat belts, sunscreen, and insect repellent.
- Wash hands to stop the spread of germs.
- Avoid smoking and breathing other people's smoke.

- Build safe and healthy relationships with family and friends.
- Be ready for emergencies. Make a supply kit. Make a plan. Be informed.

## MANAGE STRESS.

- Balance work, home, and play.
- Get support from family and friends.
- Stay positive.
- Take time to relax.
- Get 7-9 hours of sleep each night. Make sure kids get more, based on their age.
- Get help or counseling if needed.

## GET CHECK-UPS.

- Ask your doctor or nurse how you can lower your chances for health problems based on your lifestyle and personal and family health histories.
- Find out what exams, tests, and shots you need and when to get them.
- See your doctor or nurse as often as he or she says to do so. See him or her sooner if you feel sick, have pain, notice changes, or have problems with medicine.

healthy **LIFE**  
for



# NCSO IMPLEMENTS VIDEO VISITATION SYSTEM IN JAIL

The Nassau County Sheriff’s Office has implemented an inmate video visitation system at the Jail/Detention Center in Yulee. This new system will facilitate in increasing security within the center, as well as cutting down the time corrections officers have to move inmates for these family & friend visits, which will also cut down on costs. Currently a corrections officer must escort the inmate from their cell block to the visitation area and remain just outside the visitation room until the visit is complete, which is up to 30 minutes.

“We decided as a cost saving to the county as well as to the citizens of Nassau County or relatives or friends of the inmates, we looked into doing a video-conferencing system for the inmates,” said Sheriff Bill Leeper.

Prior to the commencement of the video visitation system, the receptionist would check in a long line of visitors and schedule their visits with the particular inmate for one 30 minute visit per day. Male visitation occurred on Friday and Sunday 9-11 am and 1-4:30 pm., with female visitation scheduled on Wednesday and Saturday with the same hours. On occasion numerous

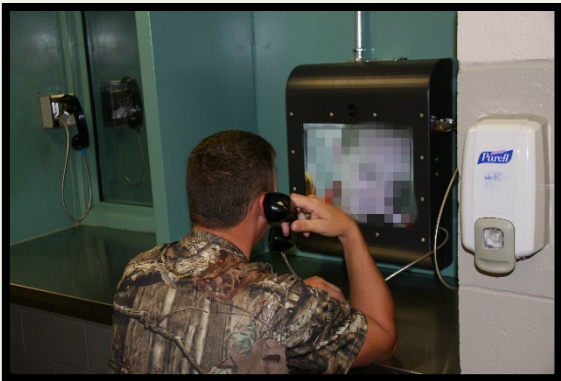
visitors would arrive at the jail at the same time, which created several issues in scheduling the visit. This new system is expected to reduce the long wait times visitors have been experiencing in the lobby.

Under the new video visitation system, visitors will schedule their visits at least 24 hours in advance through the sheriff’s office website [www.nassauso.com](http://www.nassauso.com) or phone at 904-548-4002. The system will then schedule the time and day of the visit, which eliminates visitors having to be turned away. Another positive feature added for the inmates and their families and friends is the system operates on a seven day a week schedule instead of limited days, so visits are more convenient

for everyone involved. The hours of visitation will remain from 9-11 am and 1-4:30 pm.

Normally when an inmate has visitors they are going to come to the window and check in with us then they are going to go over to our visitation room,” said Leeper. “We have to shuffle inmates back and forth from their cell block, up to the area to where they meet with the visitor.”

Instead of visiting through glass, the inmates will use a web-cam stationed in their cell blocks. Now they can visit right from their cell. The corrections officer doesn't have to move or shuffle people around. Plus, the new system will eventually allow family members to visit with inmates from the comfort of their own home.



The upgrade is part of a recent contract negotiation with the sheriff’s office inmate phone vendor and won’t cost the county any additional funds. The video system equipment was purchased utilizing inmate welfare funds. “There is no cost to the taxpayers for the equipment or installation. Maintenance and integration is covered by the inmate phone provider,” Leeper said.

# EXPLORER UNIT

This is monumental as it is the first time the Explorer’s have been permitted to train using firearms. NCSO would like to take a moment to thank all those who have contributed to training our Explorers.



# K9 RETIRES

After nine years of fighting crime and sniffing out drugs in Nassau County, ten-year-old Sheriff's K-9 "Flash" is officially retired. Flash's skills have slowly diminished over the past couple of years and his effectiveness as a drug dog has weakened.

During his career, Flash was responsible for the recovery of over 22 pounds of marijuana throughout his service. Flash was also trained in searching for cadavers.

In addition to all of his crime fighting accomplishments, Flash has participated in a wide range of exhibitions for thousands of people including civic groups and clubs, private organizations, youth groups and several school presentations and has always been a favorite with the children.



Deputy Kelley pictured with Flash.

Flash's job was to sniff out various drugs: methamphetamines, heroin, MDMA/ecstasy, cocaine, crack and marijuana. Flash has served the agency well over the years serving alongside three different handlers.

Flash was paired up to work and live with Sheriff's Deputy Chris Kelley and his family. Upon being asked about what he will miss most about working with Flash, Deputy Kelley said, "Flash had an incredible attention to detail and focus. He gave 100% to everything he did. He was a community dog. He could go from being with a room full of second graders one moment to chasing after and apprehending a bad guy the next moment."

Flash will go live out his retirement years with his previous handler, Corporal Russ Clark in Tallahassee.

Deputy Kelley recently received a new K-9 partner, Diesel, who also has joined his family.

## CAPTAIN PROMOTION

NCSO is pleased to announce that Lieutenant John Anstett was promoted to Captain on September 1st. He will head up our Investigations/Narcotics Division. Please join us in congratulating Captain Anstett as he moves into a new leadership role in our agency.

He brings over 15 years of experience with NCSO (several of those in investigations) and will be an asset in this area.



*Congratulations*  
**CAPTAIN ANSTETT**



## WHAT'S COOKING?

### BANANA PUDDING by Mary Mercer

Ingredients: 3-6 bananas  
 2 (3.4 oz.) box instant Vanilla pudding  
 2 cups of milk (I use can evaporated milk to make it richer tasting)  
 1 box of Vanilla Wafers  
 8 oz. container of Cool Whip  
 8 oz. container of sour cream

#### Instructions:

- In a bowl, combine pudding and milk.
- Stir until creamy.
- Add in sour cream and 4 oz (half the container) of cool whip.
- Stir until combined.
- In a dish, add a layer of chopped bananas and vanilla wafers
- Spread on a large spoonful of the pudding mixture
- Repeat the layering process again, ending with the pudding mixture.
- Spread on the remaining cool whip.
- Crush about 4 vanilla wafers and sprinkle on top.
- Refrigerate for 3 hours.
- Serve cold.

**Notes:** Cook time is chill time.

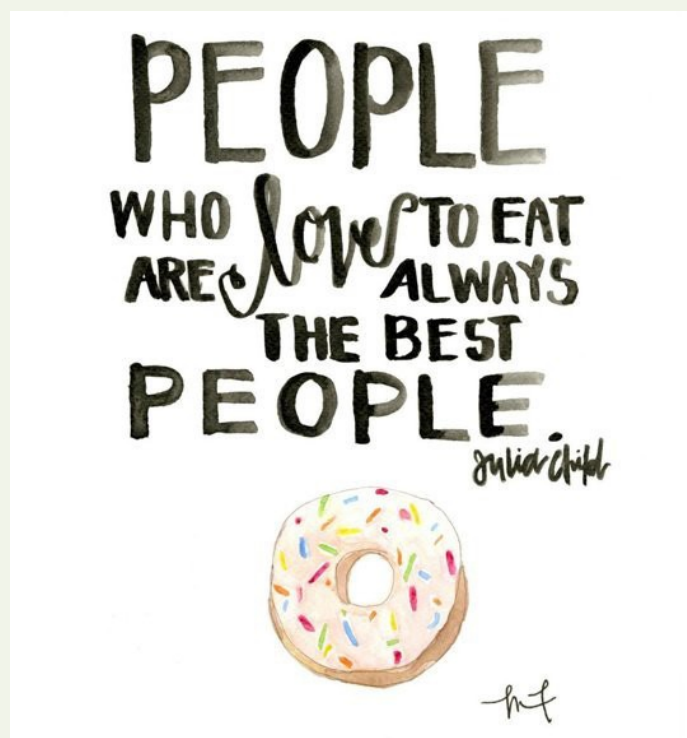
**TIPS:** Refrigerate until cold (I usually chill 1-3 hours before serving.) Don't use banana flavored pudding. Make individual servings by layering in clear cups. So cute! Feel free to layer and decorate how you please. If you want to add something unique, sliced strawberries add a special touch!

### KING RANCH CASSEROLE by Sheena Hobbs

Ingredients: 1 med. chicken  
 1 med. onion  
 1 med. bell pepper  
 1 (10 oz.) can Rotel  
 2 cans cream of chicken soup  
 2 cans cream of mushroom soup  
 1 (8 oz.) bag Doritos (taco flavored)  
 10 oz. pkg. cheddar cheese

#### Instructions:

- Boil chicken until tender
- Set aside 1 cup broth.
- Skin chicken and cut into small pieces, place in large bowl
- Add chopped onions and bell pepper, Rotel tomatoes, cream of chicken and cream of mushroom soups; **mix well.**
- In casserole dish begin layering chicken mixture, Doritos, and then cheese. Continue layering until all the mixture is used.
- Pour 1 cup of broth over mixture. Bake at 350 degrees until mixture bubbles all over.



# Welcome **OUR NEW TEAM MEMBERS**



Josh Moyers  
*Patrol Deputy*



Lindsey Patterson  
*Dispatcher/Communications*



Scott Bratton  
*Dispatcher/Communications*



Joe Nordeng Jr.  
*Control Room Operator*



Chris Richards  
*Dispatcher/Communications*



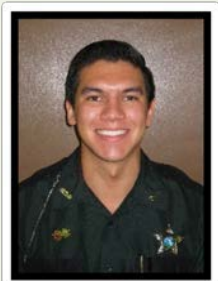
Donnie Nelson  
*Control Room Operator*



Edward Williams III  
*Detention Deputy/Corrections*



Sidney Beckom  
*Control Room Operator*



M. Caleb DeLaCruz  
*Patrol Deputy*



Domenica Miller  
*Dispatcher/Communications*



Alyssa Fender  
*Patrol Deputy*



Debbie Riley  
*Control Room Operator*

## SECOND QUARTER AWARDS



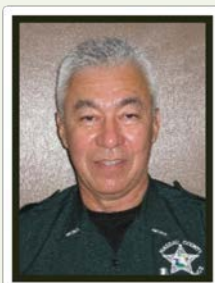
**DEPUTY OF THE QUARTER**  
Nolan Chancey  
*Patrol Deputy*

**CIVILIAN OF THE QUARTER**  
Harvey Owen  
*Control Room Operator*



**DISPATCHER OF THE QUARTER**  
Susan McDonald  
*Communications Dispatcher*

**SUPERVISOR**  
Sergeant Robin Patterson  
*Special Operations*



**DETENTION DEPUTY  
OF THE QUARTER**  
David Douglas  
*Corrections Division*

## SERVICE ANNIVERSARY

**15 YEARS**  
Charles Gander  
*Corrections*



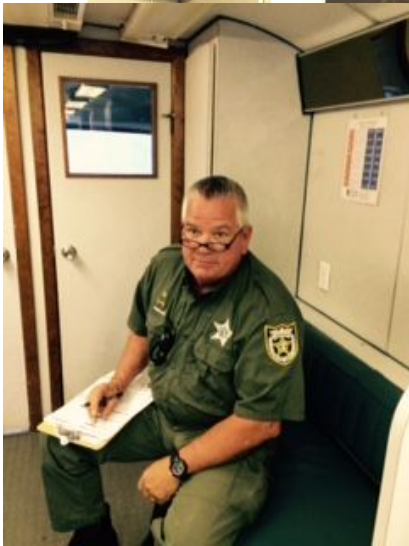
**15 YEARS**  
Rodney McConnell  
*Investigator*



**20 YEARS**  
David King  
*Sergeant Patrol*



**Thank You**  
*for your service*



BEHIND  
THE  
BADGE  
NEWSLETTER

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*Nassau County Sheriff's Office*



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](mailto:sshobbs@nassauso.com)

**As always, please stay safe!**

