

MONTGOMERY COUNTY SHERIFF QUARTERLY

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A MESSAGE FROM SHERIFF DERRICK CUNNINGHAM

I write this to you during Holy Week, a very reverent and reflective time of the year. Spring has arrived, and nature is once again reminding us everywhere of the signs of rebirth

that are a profound part of our faith. The MCSO held our annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 30, 2024, at the campus of Auburn Montgomery. I am most appreciative of Chief Brenda Mitchell of the Auburn Montgomery Police Department and the faculty at AUM for their partnership with us over these many years in making this event a yearly success. It is one of our larger events of the year, as hundreds of children, their parents and families hunt Easter eggs and receive prizes. The relationships and trust we forge at our community events throughout the year is immeasurable in building our standing with the public we serve.



MCSO Annual Easter Egg Hunt at Auburn University Montgomery campus.

The MCSO interactions are certainly not limited to the many annual public events we sponsor year around. My staff and I attend weekly meetings with homeowner

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associations throughout Montgomery County to include most of them in the city limits of Montgomery. Listening to citizens' concerns and solving problems is a top priority in my administration. My accessibility to the public is important to me. Our media interactions, both social, local, print and corporate, is something we set a top priority on. My senior staff have all received advanced education and training in media relations and the importance of maintaining a good relationship with the news industry.

We are also extensively involved with local civic organizations, churches, schools, professional standards associations in addition to state boards and our federal government law enforcement partnerships. In this publication, you will see me and my senior staff spending the President's Day holiday serving coffee to citizens at Starbucks on Vaughn Rd. We enjoyed the morning interacting with Montgomery residents and have promised to return as a "coffee barista" again soon. We also recently volunteered and provided a meal for the Friendship Mission Soup Kitchen on Mobile Highway. We were joined by Montgomery County Commissioner Carmen Moore-Ziegler and her husband, Mr. Henry Ziegler II, and Montgomery City Councilman (and MCSO Foundation board member) Oronde K. Mitchell. We feel it is very important to support this organization throughout the year, not just during the holiday season.



Coffee with a Deputy (L-R) Assistant Chief Wesley Richerson, Captain Randy Pollard, Starbucks Manager Chris Owenby and Sheriff Derrick Cunningham



The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office Foundation provided dinner to the homeless at the Friendship Mission Soup Kitchen on Mobile Highway. Joined by Sheriff Cunningham is MCSOF board member Montgomery City Councilman Oronde K. Mitchell, Montgomery County Commissioner Carmen Moore-Ziegler and her husband, Mr. Henry Ziegler II and employees/volunteers from the MCSO and the Montgomery County Commission.

This past year I had the honor of representing the Kiwanis Club of Montgomery as the President of the Alabama National Fair. The ANF generated great fun and entertainment for over 100,000 visitors to the Garrett Coliseum and fairgrounds, producing charitable income for many local nonprofit agencies that serve the youth of the River Region. On Tuesday, March 12, 2024, the Kiwanis Club awarded \$339,812 in grants to twenty-seven of these well-deserved organizations. The grants are a direct result of the ANF, the Pete Peterson Trust, and the Kiwanis Club of Montgomery Foundation. The Kiwanis Club of Montgomery is the fourth largest Kiwanis Club in the world, and the ANF is the organization's major annual fundraiser.



Sheriff Cunningham announces at the Montgomery Kiwanis Club meeting, the charitable grant recipients for this year's Alabama National Fair fundraising efforts.



*2024 grant recipients from the Montgomery
Kiwanis Club -
Alabama National Fair charity gift giving.*



*Sheriff Cunningham reads to schoolchildren at
Garrett Elementary School during Read Across
America Week.*

Some of deputies joined me this past month during Read Across America week and read to local school children. Read across America aims to encourage reading and

educate children on the power of literacy. My calendar is always full of such activities, as interacting with children is one of my favorite things to do. Recently, we also hosted a barbecue for members of the MCSO Law Enforcement Explorer Unit 2590 and their families. I am very proud of their accomplishments. This June, Corporal LyTonya Haywood will be receiving a prestigious award from the National Sheriff's Association for her contributions in sponsoring an explorer post. More news on this in the upcoming summer publication of MSQ.



*Cadet in the Park Day (L-R) Deputy Jermyius
Young, Deputy Markiseus Love, Corporal Cedric
Law, E-911 Supervisor Jason Mims and Sergeant
Marshawn Garner serve barbeque to the members
and families of MCSO Cadet Unit 259. The event,
held at Elton Dean Park, included great fellowship,
food , group activities and intramural games.*

With regards to these strong affiliations, in this edition of MSQ you will find a photograph taken at our recent annual Alabama Sheriff's Association legislative barbecue held at Union Station in Montgomery. This is very important yearly event where sheriffs from throughout Alabama and members of the Alabama Senate and House of Representatives gather in an informal setting of food and fellowship to discuss legislative matters



The Alabama Sheriff's Association hosted the annual legislative barbeque at Union Station in Montgomery.

effecting law enforcement and the citizens of Alabama. It is a very productive occasion that often results in a better understanding of the many challenges and objectives these two branches of government, the executive and legislative, face each day. One common discussion with lawmakers is legislation governing the possession of firearms, a societal issue of great importance.

Alabama is an open carry and permitless carry state as it relates to pistols and firearms. As you are aware from my previous writings, when this legislation was signed into law two years ago, I had serious reservations. It is no secret that gun crime is on the rise nationally. Montgomery is no exception to this phenomenon. Current Alabama law allows a 19-year-old (18 years-old for active, retired or honorably discharged veterans or law enforcement officers) to possess a concealed firearm without a permit. This is a great responsibility for an individual. What many people are unaware of though is that traveling to other states does not guarantee the same rights as in Alabama. Presently during spring break, for those traveling to Florida (which is also a permitless carry state) to vacation, many

are unaware that the laws differ in that a nonresident must be 21 years of age (rather than 19) in order to conceal-carry a firearms without a permit. I encourage our citizens to familiarize themselves with laws governing firearm possession in other states and be aware that individual states vary in distinctive ways which, if a citizen is caught up in an unfortunate set of circumstances, they may find themselves under arrest if they misidentify the law being identical to Alabama statute. Information is power.

Open carry of a firearm is legal in Alabama. From time-to-time my office receives calls from citizens reporting someone with a weapon exposed, walking in a public place. One recent call reported a man with a high-powered assault rifle carrying the weapon in a sling, walking down a roadway in Montgomery. The caller sent a photograph of the armed citizen, and expressed how alarming it was to see this type of behavior in broad daylight. I couldn't agree more. It is alarming. However, there is no provision in the law for law enforcement to take any action; it is legal for this man to open carry this firearm. It is my observation, with over 35 years of law enforcement experience, that the advent of the permitless carry law has created some unintended consequences in our communities. This is an unfortunate example of that.

Juvenile violent crime is growing at an alarming rate. Currently we have 9 juveniles in the Montgomery County Juvenile Detention Facility charged with some type of homicide, e.g., manslaughter, murder or capital murder, and 12 juveniles (under the age of 18) charged as adults in the adult detention facility. Twenty-one young people under 18 years-old [that] have been charged with taking the life of another

person. Let that sink in. When I have had conversations with those in the juvenile justice system, everyone is equally shocked at this alarming trend. I attended the National Sheriff's Association convention in Washington D.C. in January. While I was there, I saw on the local news channels the reports and rise of armed carjackings in the city. The most shocking thing about this violent crime surge was the fact that most of them were being committed by 12- and 13-year-olds. Mere children. The serious problems plaguing the major cities in the United States may very well end up on our doorstep if more is not done to stop this violent trend. With that in mind, the possession of a firearm on a school campus in Alabama by an 18-year-old is not against the law. The student may be expelled from the school for violating school rules, but there is no criminal charge that can be made (due to Alabama law). When I state this issue at community meetings, our citizens are shocked to hear this fact. Something needs to be done in the legislature to reverse this shortcoming in our law.

As I have publicly stated and written several times in this newsletter, I am a strong supporter of the Second Amendment and the right for citizens to own and carry firearms. Gun laws should not hinder nor harm law abiding citizens. But I also believe we should have common sense gun legislation that keeps our law enforcement officers and citizens safe. Background checks, pistol permits, and keeping weapons out of the hands of individuals, whether it be age appropriate, of a mental defect, and more importantly out of the hands of criminals, has proven to be a strong mechanism in maintaining safe communities. I hope all of you will work with law enforcement on creating laws that keep our neighborhoods, businesses, schools, and worship places safe.

On the training and technology front, in February the MCSO hosted an Axon exposition for local law enforcement. New and updated technology for car and body camera equipment, crime scene video evidence, evidence management systems, virtual reality training and "smart" less lethal defense weapons were presented to local agencies. The number of sheriff's offices, police departments and state agencies that utilize this equipment is growing. It is a tool that has no equal in investigations and court presentations. The first responder/deputy to a crime scene with a body camera has proven to be one of the most critical elements in providing evidence at trial. It is indispensable in convincing a jury of proof beyond a reasonable doubt.



Sheriff Cunningham hosted Axon and other law enforcement agencies for an exposition on February 16, 2024. Axon manufactures cars and body camera equipment, crime scene video evidence, evidence management systems, VR training and "smart" less lethal defense weapons for law enforcement. MCSO is a leader in this field of technology.

As you may be aware, two years ago we purchased a K-9 “gun dog” —a German Shorthaired Pointer named Hannah. She has been instrumental in recovering firearms in the field, and searching large areas (in a short period of time) that would take a large amount of law enforcement personnel to conduct in a significantly longer period. This past month the MCSO secured a new member of our team to work in the Montgomery County Detention Facility, another German Shorthaired Pointer. His name is Charlie. Charlie is a “contraband dog” assigned to the MCDF. His K-9 handler is newly promoted Corporal Andra McFolley who underwent several weeks of intensive training with Charlie. Charlie can detect contraband, drugs, tobacco, spirits, cellular and electronic devices. Charlie is the first contraband K-9

in use in Alabama. He has already proven himself as a tremendous asset to the MCDF operations. We look forward to Corporal McFolley and Charlie’s continued contributions in keeping the detention facility free of contraband in the future.

We also held our first (of four) MCSO Jail Management Course of 2024. Several law enforcement agencies from Alabama sent correctional officers for this three-week course that we provide free of charge. I am continuing to work with my fellow law enforcement executives in Alabama on mandatory training requirements for correctional officers in city and county detention facilities. It is my hope in the near future a training standard will be established to address this in municipal and county jails to improve the knowledge, skills and abilities for those that work in corrections at the local level. Implementing this standard will only strengthen the profession, increase wages and attract more people to the corrections profession.



Sheriff Cunningham, Corporal McFolley and the new Montgomery County Detention Facility “Contraband K-9” Charlie, a German Shorthaired Pointer.



MCSO Jail Management Graduation

Recently the MCSO Emergency 911 Center went through much needed technology and hardware upgrades. The old Motorola 911 call system, Emergency Call Works (ECW) was swiftly approaching the end of its serviceable use. The new system, also produced by Motorola, is VESTA, a next generation and enhanced call handling and mapping software system that makes an emergency communications operator’s

(ECO) job more efficient, which in turn enhances public safety. ECOs may now customize their information matrix on their computer screens, and search audio data in real time. The E-911 Center also has premium rapid SOS, which gives the ECOs the technology to import GPS calls and locate and monitor the caller on a GPS map, allowing dispatchers to quickly send emergency services to their location. With ever evolving technology in communications, it is very important that we stay current with emergency E-911 systems that provide us with the very best public safety tools to respond quickly and efficiently to emergencies. National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week is April 14th - 20th this month. I encourage everyone to think of the thousands of ECOs nationwide and here locally that we call "the voice behind the microphone." They play such an important and vital role in the emergency services world, for the public, law enforcement, fire, rescue, emergency management agencies, etc. None of the other components could work without the diligent and dedication people that staff our E-911 centers throughout the United States. I am very proud of our ECOs. Most all of the MCSO E-911 staff are veterans in their profession and possess a wealth of knowledge and experience that keep our deputies and the public safe.



In this edition of MSQ, you will find an article on Inmate Growth Naturally and Intentionally Through Knowledge (I.G.N.I.T.E.). It is sponsored by the National

Sheriff's Association. I am very proud for the MCSO to be the first law enforcement agency in the State of Alabama to offer this program to inmates in the Montgomery County Detention Facility. I do not take my role as your sheriff as strictly to enforce the law. I have to do more to improve our county. It is a major focus of my administration to improve the quality of life



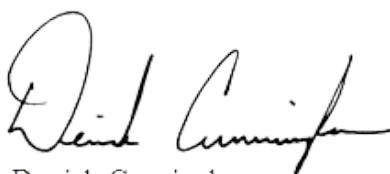
in our community. IGNITE will provide inmates with opportunities to learn a trade or profession and secure employment post incarceration. I consider it a game changer in corrections and hope other county agencies follow suit. Please read more about this initiative in the IGNITE article. We welcome volunteers, community members, companies and prospective employers to assist us in this endeavor. Please contact my office for more information.

As many of you are aware, I am a member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. Many of my friends are members of the Greek-letter sororities and fraternities under the collaborative umbrella council of the National Pan-Hellenic Council that promotes interaction through forums, meetings and other media for the exchange of information, and exchange in cooperative programming and initiatives

throughout the world. Community awareness, action through education, economic and cultural service activities and contributions are the primary focus of these organizations. This past February I was honored by the Montgomery Alumni Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. as their 2024 Citizen of the Year award. Chief Arthur Baylor (ret.), a lifelong friend and Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity alumnus (and fellow law enforcement officer) presented the award to me. I was very proud to accept it and am thankful for their support.

It is a very exciting time for the MCSO as we prepare for the warmer weather and the many events and activities that spring and summer bring. We are looking forward to the upcoming deputy in the park, the youth and senior fishing rodeos and camp show-n-tell. With the school year ending, I know families will be enjoying youth baseball, travelling and enjoying the outdoors, fishing, hiking, camping or just enjoying an Alabama sunset. It is my hope that all of you have a safe and enjoyable start to your summer.

Sincerely,



Derrick Cunningham
Sheriff



Chief Arthur Baylor (ret.) presents Sheriff Cunningham with the Montgomery Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. 2024 Citizen of the Year Award.

CORRECTION

The previous MSQ issue was incorrectly categorized as “Winter 2024 - Issue 1,” however it should have been “Fall 2023 - Issue 4.” Rise Media Group apologizes for the error and any confusion this oversight may have caused.



In Memoriam

DEPUTY SHERIFF JERMYIUS YOUNG



Deputy Sheriff Jermyius Young was involved in a serious on-duty motor vehicle accident on April 3, 2024. Tragically, he passed away from his injuries on April 5th. He was 21 years old. Deputy Young began his MCSO career at the age of 18 as a correctional officer in the Montgomery County Detention Facility. After (only) one year of employment, he was awarded the MCDF Correctional Officer of the Quarter in 2022 for his hard work and attention to duty. Deputy Young graduated from the police academy in October of 2023.

Deputy Young was also served his country as a member of the United States Army Reserve, completing United States Army basic training in 2020. He held the rank of Specialist in

the Alabama based 206th Transportation Company, 828th Transportation Battalion, and 642nd Regional Support Group (Brigade).

Sheriff Cunningham remembers him as more than just a deputy who showed up for work every day. The Sheriff noted that Deputy Young volunteered and participated in numerous MCSO community events, and was a counselor for the MCSO Explorer Unit 2590, mentoring young people aspiring to enter the profession of law enforcement.

Deputy Young will be remembered for his smile and eager to please attitude, his loyalty, unselfishness commitment to his fellow deputies, and his efficiency. Please keep Deputy Young's parents, Brandon and Jaquanta Smith, his siblings, family and friends in your prayers.

THE COMPREHENSIVE VIEW OF JUSTICE-INVOLVED YOUTH IN ALABAMA

BY DR. SCOTT HOLMES, LPC, NCC, ICAADC

DIRECTOR, MONTGOMERY CO. YOUTH DETENTION FACILITY

Youth under the age of 18 who are accused of committing a delinquent or criminal act are typically processed through a juvenile justice system. While similar to that of the adult criminal justice system in many ways, processes include arrest, detainment, petitions, hearings, adjudications, dispositions, placement, probation, and reentry, the juvenile justice process operates according to the premise that youth are fundamentally different from adults, both in terms of level of responsibility and potential for rehabilitation. Whereas sentencing for a serious crime following a guilty verdict in the criminal justice system often results in jail or prison time, the juvenile justice system seeks to avoid incarceration whenever possible.

The primary goals of the juvenile justice system, in addition to maintaining public safety, are skill development, habilitation, rehabilitation, addressing treatment needs, and successful reintegration of youth into the community. The juvenile justice system takes a significantly more restorative approach than the adult criminal justice system. A truly successful case for youth would result in the adolescent learning from the experience without exposure to the severity of an adult prison, altering their decisions and life course moving forward, and having no future contact with the juvenile or criminal justice systems.

Often, youth who are involved with or at risk of being involved with the juvenile justice system have co-occurring life difficulties or disabilities that lead them to cross paths with the justice system at a particular moment and/or that have significant



significant impacts on their emotional, mental, physical, and behavioral well-being. The notion that children and youth are not innately violent or cruel is the driving force behind the juvenile justice system. There exists a firm belief that youth can and will lead healthy and constructive lives if given the opportunity to grow instead of being presumed irredeemable and segregated from their communities. Learn more about the juvenile justice process.

States, however, have the right to set lower age thresholds for processing youth through the adult system. In addition, some states automatically process any individual, regardless of age, through the adult criminal justice system for some serious offenses.

Prevention and Early Intervention

Typically, juvenile delinquency follows a trajectory similar to that of normal adolescent development. In other words, children and youth tend to follow a path toward delinquent and criminal behavior rather than engaging randomly.

Individuals whose antisocial behavior begins in early childhood are two to three times more likely to perpetrate more severe and violent repeat offenses than youth whose delinquent behaviors begin in adolescence.

Early Intervention

Considering the growing body of research, we now know that the better and more cost-effective place to stop the “cradle to prison pipeline” is as close to the beginning of that pipeline as possible. Early intervention prevents the onset of delinquent behavior and supports the development of a youth’s assets and resilience. It also decreases rates of recidivism by a significant 16 percent when youth do go on to engage with the justice system. While many past approaches focus on remediating visible and/or longstanding disruptive behavior, research has shown that prevention and early intervention are more effective.

Intervening early “not only saves young lives from being wasted,” but also prevents the onset of adult criminal careers and reduces the likelihood of youth perpetrating serious and violent offenses. This in turn reduces the burden of crime on society and saves taxpayers billions of dollars.

Reentry

Reentry is the final point in the juvenile justice processing continuum and incorporates programs and services that assist youth transitioning from juvenile justice placement back into the community. An effective reentry program involves collaboration between the juvenile justice facility staff, probation/parole officers, and

case managers with other child-serving systems and community partners and agencies. This process begins well in advance of a youth’s release and ensures that the youth is linked with effective community-based services, which can be critical to their long-term success.

Since one of the goals of reentry planning is to link youth with community physical and mental health services and other supports that will be available after contact with the juvenile justice system ceases, reentry is a logical point in the juvenile justice system for a partnership with communities.

These efforts are typically managed/supervised by a probation/parole officer. Communities must partner with correctional facilities to provide reentry planning and services to youth who will continue to require care upon release. These efforts need to begin early, shortly after the youth enters the facility, and should, whenever possible, involve the youth, their family, residential facility staff, the probation/parole officer, schools, mental/behavioral health service providers, and other representatives from the community-based agencies that will be working with the child or adolescent on release from care.





IGNITE: INMATE GROWTH NATURALLY AND INTENTIONALLY THROUGH EDUCATION

The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office is proud to announce the Detention Facility will be offering an inmate education program called "IGNITE." IGNITE stands for Inmate Growth Naturally and Intentionally Through Education. It was developed by Sheriff C. Swanson in Flint, Michigan. The National Sheriff Association recognized the possibilities of such a program and is making it available in other county facilities in the United States. The purpose of this program is to effect a

change in the lives of individuals while they are incarcerated. A detention facility is a unique environment. Most all inmates housed are pre-trial detainees, along with some county sentenced population. Those awaiting trial are considered innocent in the eyes of the law. The IGNITE program in other facilities has held classes on financial literacy, job readiness, OSHA training, Servesafe (a food handlers program), parenting classes, CDL, and a variety of adult enrichment classes. The first course offered in the MCDF will be a financial literacy class. This class will cover the topics on banks vs. credit unions, what is a credit report, how to apply for a loan, and how to create a budget. As community involvement increases, we hope to offer a job readiness class that will prepare inmates to enter the job force by offering communication skills, both verbal and written, critical thinking, problem-solving abilities, resume writing, and interview techniques. The MCDF will also be offering OSHA training on health and safety of hazards they may encounter on a job. The MCDF is also making arrangements to bring Servesafe into the facility. This is a program designed to educate food service workers on food safety, preventing foodborne illness and food allergies and maintaining cleanliness in large kitchens.

The inmate tablets in the facility are equipped with EDOVO, which is a learning platform that offers hundreds of different courses. It has everything from basic social studies to parenting classes. If an inmate wants to participate in the financial literacy class, they must complete two anger management classes, "Beyond Prison," probation and parole class, and a class called "Big Talk People and Family." Presently there are 6 inmates enrolled in the financial literacy class. In the future the Ignite Program may be used as a condition of release by the courts and may lead to employment opportunities that may prevent reoffending. An individual may be released from the detention facility and have a guaranteed job waiting for them. IGNITE consists of classes utilizing the inmate tablet system as well as in person teachers. The tablet system is offered by the MCDF communications provider contracted by Montgomery County. The tablets are paid for by the inmates. Instructors come from a variety of backgrounds. Volunteers are permitted to participate after a review of the content of the knowledge or a skill to share. This program also offers faith-based classes.

Incarceration in a detention facility is often referred to as “Dead Time” meaning that if an individual is sentenced to serve time in prison, the time they have to remain in the facility does not always count towards their prison sentence. This can be a difficult time for inmates to remain awaiting their trial. IGNITE is considered a cultural change for jails in providing structure and activity for those awaiting their trials and sentencing. The program has shown that having IGNITE classes to occupy an inmate’s time leads to positive behavior and a reduction in violence. This program is also incentive based, meaning that positive behavior is rewarded. If an inmate violates the rules of the detention facility, they are ineligible to participate in the program for a period of time. It also means that we celebrate performance. If an inmate completes a class, they are eligible to receive commissary items or a pizza party. When an individual completes The IGNITE program, they receive a certificate with a graduation ceremony. The Montgomery County Sheriff’s Office will be the first facility in the State of Alabama to offer IGNITE. We hope this will be a game changer for the inmates in our custody and the operations of the MCDF.

It is the goal of Sheriff Cunningham to assist the inmates in reentry into the community, to provide job education and training, reduce recidivism, assist families, and improve the quality of life for our citizens and allow our communities to prosper.

TASK FORCE FORGES COLLABORATIVE EFFORT

In July 2006, the U.S. Marshals Gulf Coast Regional Fugitive Task Force (GCRFTF) was established and became fully operational through the enactment of the Presidential Threat Protection Act of 2000. As one of the pioneering Regional Fugitive Task Forces, it has forged partnership agreements with more than 71 federal, state, and local agencies, boasting eight fully operational offices.



From its inception, the Montgomery County Sheriff’s Office has been a crucial collaborator, contributing highly trained and dedicated personnel to aid in the investigation and apprehension of the region’s most violent criminals. At present, the MCSO dedicates three deputy sheriff corporals on a full-time basis to the GCRFTF, stationed at the Montgomery field office. Deputy Sheriff Corporals Sean Clemons and Abate Desta focus on the fugitive apprehension unit, while Corporal Michael Morrow is dedicated to the Sex Offender/Missing and Exploited Children unit.

This collaborative effort traces its origins to the tenure of the late Sheriff D.T. Marshall and continues to thrive under the leadership of Sheriff Derrick Cunningham. The GCRFTF has achieved remarkable success, apprehending over 70,800 fugitives since its establishment. It has made an extraordinary impact on capturing the region’s most dangerous and violent fugitives, consistently striving to enhance community safety.

Between January 1, 2023, and December 31, 2023, the U.S. Marshals Gulf Coast Regional Fugitive Task Force successfully closed a total of 794 fugitive cases with apprehensions. This dedicated task force also executed 974 felony arrest warrants during this period. These statistics underscore the effectiveness and diligence of the task force in identifying, pursuing, and bringing to justice hyperviolent individuals with outstanding warrants. Such accomplishments contribute significantly to enhancing public safety and upholding the rule of law within the Gulf Coast region. The task force's collaborative and strategic initiatives in this period underscore its dedication to addressing violent crime and securing the community. The success achieved owes much to partnerships with federal, state, and local agencies, along with the invaluable assistance provided by Sheriff Cunningham and the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office.

USMS GCRFTF (Montgomery Office) notable arrests:

1. The U.S. Marshals Service Gulf Coast Regional Fugitive Task Force (GCRFTF) successfully apprehended Alabama Department of Corrections escapee Tandion Stoudemire. Stoudemire, serving a 23-year sentence for Attempted Murder, had escaped from Staton Correctional Facility in Elmore County. The task force located and arrested him without incident at a residence on Woodley Road in Montgomery.
2. Jamie Williams, a suspect in two separate homicide cases, was rearrested following his release on bail. The latest arrest led to the revocation of his bond. Williams faced additional charges, including Unlawful Possession of Marijuana in the Second Degree. The U.S. Marshals Task Force previously arrested him in connection with two homicides.
3. The U.S. Marshals Gulf Coast Regional Fugitive Task Force arrested 19-year-old Raymond Kemp for Capital Murder in connection with the shooting death of a 16-year-old in Montgomery. Kemp was located in Cocoa, Florida.
4. Fugitive Capital Murder suspect Jeffrey J. Pruitt, accused of Burglary and Assault as well, was apprehended by the U.S. Marshals Gulf Coast Regional Task Force in Montgomery. Pruitt was found hiding in an abandoned house, charged in connection with the death of Nakel Johnson, who was held captive and tortured.
5. Murder suspect Brandon Earl Kelley was captured in Montgomery after the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office, Montgomery Police Department, Alabama Law Enforcement Agency, and U.S. Marshals Fugitive Task Force collaborated. Kelley faced charges of Murder, Robbery, Burglary, and Unlawful Breaking and Entering in connection with the death of Jacob Ford.

6. The U.S. Marshals Gulf Coast Regional Task Force and the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office arrested John E. White and Adrian L. Moultrie in connection with the fatal shooting of Dewane Wooten on Riverside Road. Both individuals have been charged with Murder.
7. The U.S. Marshals Gulf Coast Regional Fugitive Task Force located and arrested Murder suspect Irvin Garcia Messino in connection with the shooting death of a Montgomery man. Messino fled the area and assumed a false identity to avoid apprehension.
8. Ibraheem Yazeed, charged with kidnapping and Murder of Aniah Blanchard, was captured by U.S. Marshals in Florida, after a brief foot pursuit off the I-10 Pine Forest Road exit in Escambia County.
9. Howard James Smith, Jr. and Cashawon Deon Smith were indicted for Murder in the shooting death of LaBrandon Tatum in Waugh, Alabama. The details of the crime remain undisclosed.
10. Qinxuan Pan, accused of shooting Yale graduate student Kevin Jiang, was arrested in Montgomery by U.S. Marshals after three months on the run. The arrest followed a warrant with a \$5 million bond, citing charges of Murder and Larceny. Pan, a Massachusetts Institute of Technology graduate student, was considered "Armed and Dangerous." The 29-year-old allegedly shot Jiang near the Yale Campus and stole a car in Massachusetts, driving it to New Haven.

PROMOTIONS



Sheriff Cunningham congratulates Sergeant Nekia Key on her promotion.



Sheriff Cunningham presents Lieutenant Anthony Boykin with his promotion, accompanied by his wife, Brittany Murphy-Boykin.



Sheriff Cunningham presents Sergeant Kelli Schofield with her promotion.



Sheriff Cunningham presents Corporal Jessica Bozeman with her promotion.



Sheriff Cunningham congratulates Corporal Kyla Emerson with her promotion.



Sheriff Cunningham congratulations Corporal Andra McFolley with his promotion.



Sheriff Cunningham congratulates Corporal Carl Andrews on his promotion.

NEW DEPUTIES WELCOMED



Sheriff Cunningham welcomes new Deputy Sheriff Demarcus Hutchinson



Sheriff Cunningham welcomes new deputies who recently graduated from the police academy. (L -R) Bryan Lewis, JaQuan Williams, Keywaun Bennett and Jeremy Kearns

CIVILIAN OF THE FIRST QUARTER: MARLA HUDGINS, IDENTIFIATION CLERK

Identification Clerk Marla Hudgins has excelled and is a valuable asset to the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office in our efforts to manage adult/juvenile sex offenders.

In January of 2024, Hudgins requested all sex crime convictions from local courts from 2015 to the current date. Once she received the information, she cross-referenced the data with MCSO's records of registered sex offenders. Hudgins identified numerous subjects who were convicted of sex crimes who were mandated by state law to register as a sex offender, but fail to do so.



In short, Hudgins identified a crucial element in the local sex offender registry. Individuals were being convicted of sex crimes that require registration, however, the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office had not been notified of these offenders on a consistent basis. With that knowledge in hand, Hudgins now routinely requests sex crime convictions from the courts. Hudgins also took on the painstaking task of locating the sex offenders who failed to register because of this issue. Not only did Hudgins assist with getting noncompliant sex offenders registered in Montgomery County, but she also contacted other law enforcement agencies across the United States, making them aware of noncompliant offenders living within their jurisdictions.

ID Clerk Marla Hudgins is the perfect example of the difference one person can make when diligence and persistence are exercised. Ms. Hudgins' efforts are worthy of recognition and praise. The citizens of Montgomery County and beyond are safer because of her dedication to go the extra mile.

JUVENILE CORRECTIONAL OFFICER OF THE FIRST QUARTER: OFFICER CASSIMERE CHERRY

Juvenile Correctional Officer Cassimere Cherry is ambitious and dedicated as evidenced by her willingness to go above and beyond when called on. During a recent shortage of staff due to the illness of a lead officer, it was without question that JCO Cherry assumed the role of a leader, and carried out several details that are usually performed by a supervisor. She volunteered to cover shifts on the female unit, as well assist in the training of new officers. In addition



to the aforementioned, JCO Cherry was instrumental in reducing the need for force during an altercation with a male detainee who attempted to cause harm to another officer. She immediately intervened and deescalated situation, while the juvenile male was secured in his cell. It is without reservation that JCO Cherry is the Juvenile Correcational Officer of the 1st Quarter 2024.

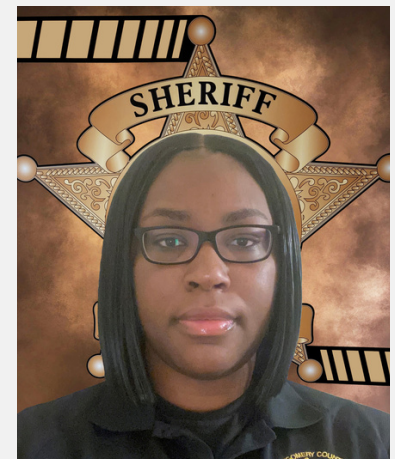
DEPUTY OF THE FIRST QUARTER: CORPORAL STEVEN M. JOHNSON

On February 16, 2024, at approximately 2:00 p.m., Corporal Steven M. Johnson was patrolling the area of Ray Thorington Road between Foxchase Drive and Williamsburg Drive. While in the area, he observed three suspects loading a camouflage four-wheeler into the bed of a black Dodge pickup truck. Corporal Johnson recognized that this four-wheeler as one reported by our Criminal Investigations Division. Corporal Johnson called Corporal Morrow in investigations and requested any additional identifiers that could be on the four-wheeler. Corporal Morrow advised that a “pink Browning” decal would be located near the fuel tank. Corporal Johnson noticed the identifying decal on the four-wheeler. He requested backup and conducted a stop of the suspect vehicle. The occupants of the vehicle were detained. After being read his Miranda Rights, the passenger, Tramaine Grandison, claimed he was the sole person responsible for possessing the stolen four-wheeler. Grandison was subsequently charged with Receiving Stolen Property 1st. Cpl. Johnson’s vigilance during patrol directly resulted in the recovery of stolen property and the prosecution of a criminal. Another occupant of the same vehicle was also arrested on unrelated charges. The victim was able to respond to the scene to collect their property. Cpl. Johnson did an outstanding job and should be recognized for his efforts as the MCSO Deputy of the 1st Quarter 2024.



CORRECTIONAL OFFICER OF THE FIRST QUARTER: HALEY PRUITT

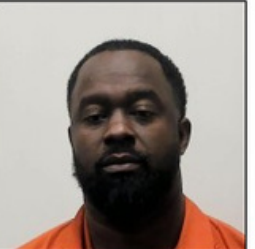
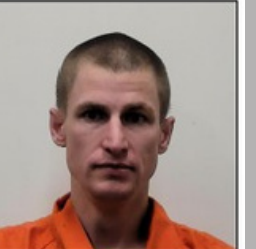
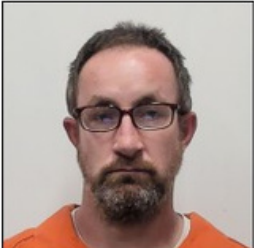
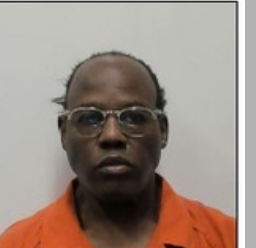
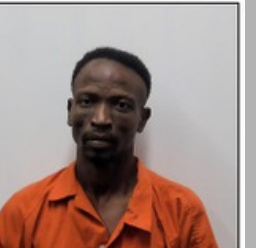
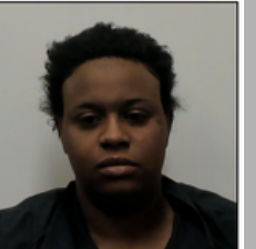
Correctional Officer Haley Pruitt began working at the detention facility in July of 2022. She has proven to be a diligent worker and her attention to detail led to the recent discovery of two shanks. She has proven to be an effective control booth operator. On January 21, 2024, she was assigned as a control booth operator and observed an inmate in the dayroom with what appeared to be to be a small item wrapped in a sheet. The inmate appeared to be brandishing something to another inmate in an adjacent cellblock. Officer Pruitt immediately notified her supervisors who responded and conducted a cell search. They were able to recover a shank from the inmate.



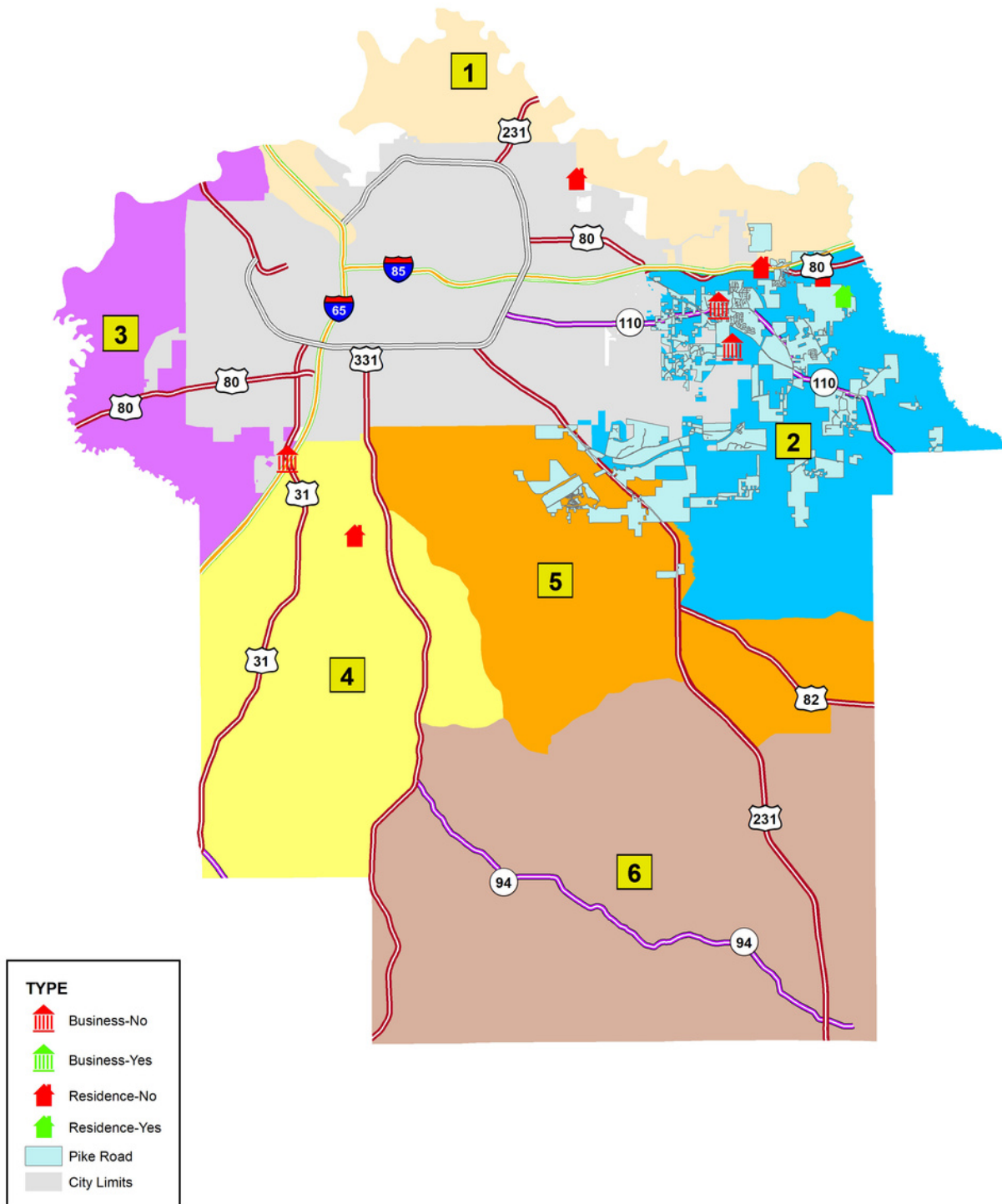
Officer Pruitt has been instrumental in assisting during other cell searches. On a second occasion Officer Pruitt was assisting with a routine cell search and found another shank

wrapped in a sheet and stuffed in a mattress. Officer Pruitt was able to find this weapon because she was thorough and did not treat the cell search as “routine.” She contributed to the safety of the facility by removing these weapons out of the inmates’ possession. For her dedication to duty and attention to detail, Officer Pruitt is the Correctional Officer of the 1st Quarter of 2024.

2024 M.C.S.O. INVESTIGATIONS 1ST QUARTER FELONY ARRESTS

		
Abrams, Stephen D. D.V. Strangulation Double Oak Ave.	Baker, Anthony Jr. Rec. Stolen Prop. 1st Pike Road/Georgia Wash.	Dunlap, Cody A. Theft of Property 1 Wax Myrtle Crt.
		
Dunlap, Cory M. Theft of Property 1 Wax Myrtle Crt.	Hardwick, Khalfani Att.Murder / D.V. 1	Jackson III, Sterling Burglary 3 Lakeview Dr.
		
Martin, James Assault 2 S. McDonough St.	McKinney, Marlin K. Theft of Property 1 Wax Myrtle Crt.	Moultrie, Adrian L. Murder Wares Ferry Rd.
		
West, Derek L. Jr. Receive Stolen Property 1 Pike Rd.	White, John E. Murder Wares Ferry Rd.	Cowart, Quanesha Obstruct. Just. False I.D. Troy Hwy

Montgomery County, Alabama 2024 1st Quarter Burglary Statistics





To:

Place
Postage
Here

Montgomery County Sheriff's Office
115 South Perry Street
Montgomery, AL 36104

