

MONTGOMERY COUNTY SHERIFF QUARTERLY

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SR., 13TH SHERIFF OF MONTGOMERY
COUNTY**

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Rise Media Group, LLC

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a publication of the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office, Montgomery County, Alabama

A MESSAGE FROM SHERIFF DERRICK CUNNINGHAM



Welcome to the New Year 2026. The MCSO made many great strides in 2025. We achieved 100% full employment with all of our sworn law enforcement positions. This is a remarkable accomplishment in our present times. Law enforcement agencies nationwide have faced a severe officer shortage driven by increased resignations and

retirements post-2020, intense labor market competition, declining public perception and morale, and challenges with recruitment due to societal pressures and scrutiny due to high profile events.

In order to address these challenges, we have made several changes in our recruitment methods. Realizing that we needed to appeal to a new and growing workforce, we specifically focused on changing the manner in which we advertised and recruited young people. Generation Z, also known as Zoomers, is more tech-savvy and social media driven than past applicants/generations. With that in mind, we began utilizing multiple social media platforms that we had not previously entertained. We had been relying on Facebook but realized we were missing a key demographic. We started advertising and posting on Instagram, YouTube and TikTok and found instant results. Our application pool for young people increased significantly. We were able to successfully hire energetic, enthusiastic and dedicated young people to work and serve at the MCSO. I am proud to say many of our new law enforcement officers have graduated at the top of their police academy classes and are successfully beginning their law enforcement careers with us. We have also attracted experienced APOSTC certified law enforcement officers to our agency as well. We presently have a waiting list of hundreds of interested applicants awaiting the rare opening at the MCSO. The good news is we will have additional opening soon.

This past October the MCSO received a \$1.25 million grant from the U.S. Department of Justice COPS Hiring Program to hire 10 additional deputies. The funding will enhance patrol coverage, increase community policing and improve visibility in both rural and urban areas. The grant will pay for the deputies' salaries and benefits. The ancillary cost for each sworn member is greater than their pay. I am working closely with the Montgomery County Commission in order to secure funding for equipment, vehicles and training in order to expand our personnel numbers. With this grant Montgomery County citizens will feel the positive impact of more law enforcement officers in their communities. The grant requires that the Montgomery County Commission fully fund the law enforcement positions at a minimum of three years after the federal grant funding expires. We are steadily working on recruiting correctional personnel too. We have improved their pay and benefits and have created an ad campaign seeking outstanding qualified correctional candidates. If you wish to see the video advertisement, please visit our website at montgomerysheriff.com.



(L -R) Commissioners Justin Castanza, Carmen Moore-Zeigler, Doug Singleton, Sheriff Cunningham and Chief Deputy District Attorney Michelle Davidson held a press conference announcing grants to law enforcement and the district attorney's office.

For the past year the Montgomery County Commission has also been supportive of providing funding for public safety overtime. Beginning in May of 2024, the commission authorized an overtime budget increase for MCSO deputies to increase patrol and enforce traffic laws in the Shoppes at Eastchase.

The results have been very positive. The merchants at Eastchase have reported a decrease in retail theft, and an improvement in the driving conditions in and around the mall. As time goes by, we have issued fewer traffic citations in the area, indicating an improvement in driving habits and a safer environment.

The relationships we have developed at Eastchase have grown. Our deputies frequently walk through the shopping mall and stores and speak to the shoppers and merchants. The networking has improved communications, and many retail thefts have been prevented or suspects quickly apprehended. This has led to the owners and management of the property working in a cooperative partnership with the MCSO and establishing a new substation at Eastchase. We held the ribbon cutting on November 13th. The substation is not permanently staffed; however, law enforcement officers frequent the location to complete reports, take a break, meet citizens, and plan patrol priorities for the mall. We plan on conducting roll calls of different MCSO divisions and other community events in the future at the substation.



MCSO Substation Ribbon Cutting at the Shoppes at East Chase

(L -R) Sheriff Derrick Cunningham, Mayor Steven Reed, Richard Holman, Sr. Manager Shoppes at Eastchase, Dr. Ishnella Kaur, M.D., CEO/Founder, 5Rivers CRE, LLC, Representative Reed Ingram, Lieutenant Rick Thompson, Corporal LyTonya Haywood, Commissioner Doug Singleton, MPD Chief of Operations Denise Barnes, Captain Frederick Johnson, Commissioner Justin Castanza, Mayor Gordon Stone.

One recent community activity we sponsored at our Eastchase location was an ACT/SAT class for students. MCSO staff members worked directly with our high school students by utilizing the march2success.com platform to empower them to boost their performance on future critical standardized tests. Montgomery County students were provided with practice tests, valuable resource materials on admissions, financial aid, scholarship information, comprehensive planning guides, strategies, tutorials, as well as what to expect on testing day. I wish to remind parents what an excellent opportunity this is for our young people to prepare for their college admissions. They can master and improve their scores and may take the class as many times as they wish. It is a free service to all Montgomery County high school students.

We constantly strive to be visible in the community. This past fall we held another “Coffee with a Deputy” at Starbucks on Vaughn Rd. where we engaged citizens stopping by for a morning coffee or hosting the Faith and Blue Prayer Service at First Baptist Church where we, along with the clergy and public, prayed for unity, victims of crime and our public safety officials. It was a great evening of fellowship and prayer for all who attended. I am very grateful for the support of the religious community in Montgomery County.

The MACS (Metro Area Crime Suppression) Unit continues to serve a pivotal role in public safety in Montgomery County. Members include the MCSO, Alabama Law Enforcement Agency, Alabama Attorney General Office, Montgomery Police Department and the U.S. Bureau Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives agencies. The MACS Unit has made thousands of arrests, seized drugs, recovered stolen property and confiscated machine gun conversion devices, commonly known as “switches” that permit a pistol to fire ammunition in a fully automatic mode. These



MCSO “Coffee with a Deputy” at Starbucks on Vaughn Road



Sheriff Cunningham speaks at the Faith and Blue Prayer Service at First Baptist Church. Pastors joined law enforcement in praying for unity, victims of crime, and our public safety officials.

illegal weapons are extremely lethal, and with the large capacity magazines we have seized [with them] make them increasingly dangerous. When used in an assault, particularly when large crowds are present, the outcome is typically horrendous as many innocent bystanders are injured or killed.

This past fall we held our final jail management class for 2025. Twenty municipal and county correctional officers attended the three-week course. This class provides correctional officers curriculum on jail operations and administration, correctional case law, inmate care, and self defense and de-escalation tactics. The MCSO also hosted the final Alabama Sheriff's Association quarterly business meeting held in November. In the meeting we discussed future legislation in the 2026 Alabama Legislature, recent financial state audits for sheriff's offices, food service for jails, and updates on the Alabama Sheriff's Association Foundation. The ASA asked the MCSO Honor Guard to present the United States Flag at a ceremony held at the Alabama State Capitol near the law enforcement memorial in late November. This U.S. flag, which will be flown in all 50 states, territories and U.S. military cemeteries will fly at the United States Capitol on July 4, 2026, in celebration of our nation's Semiquincentennial.



Class 25-3C MCSO Jail Management Graduation



Sheriff Cunningham hosted the Alabama Sheriff's Association Quarterly Business Meeting at the MCSO Training Facility.



The MCSO Honor Guard presented the colors of the National Flag Foundation and to the Alabama Sheriff's Association Executive Director Sheriff Huey "Hoss" Mack.



I am excited about the future initiatives at the MCSO. We are steadily making progress on our renovations to the Montgomery County Detention Facility. The work has been extensive, breaking through the foundation, replacing water and sewer lines, electrical, lighting, refurbishing stainless tables,

floors, and bathroom fixtures, total renovation and expansion of the kitchen facility, along with technological upgrades on cell doors, camera systems and a refurbished medical unit to house inmates that require closely monitored mental health treatment. The fire alarm and ventilation system was completely overhauled, and since the original manufacturer is no longer in business, replacement parts had to be specially made in order to bring the building up to code. Also replaced is the Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) system, which provides short-term electricity during a power failure, and supports the electronic doors, monitoring and emergency lighting, and was also replaced due to the old unit being no longer sustainable. I am hopeful the completion of the project and the extensive rehabilitation will be completed by the end of 2026.

We continue to repair and renovate the Carnegie Building located at 131 S. Perry Street in preparation for establishing the MCSO Criminal Intelligence Center. Once completed, it will expand our ability to utilize technology, the monitoring of public cameras throughout Montgomery County, along with several other law enforcement investigative offices. (More on this in the near future when we open the new CIC).

We closed 2025 in a very festive manner. The annual MCSO Toy Drive and Angel Tree were very successful this year, with hundreds of Montgomery County citizens and county employees donating their time and money to support our worthwhile causes. We donated toys, clothes and hygiene products to those less fortunate in our community. Aids to Inmate Mothers and the Friendship Mission are two of the charities that we sponsor every year. The members and clients are so appreciative of the gifts we provided them. It is one of the best things we do every year. We also enjoyed participating in local parades and celebrations, handing candy out to children and sharing fellowship with our citizens.



MCSO Foundation Christmas Toy Drive



*2025 MCSO Foundation Angel Tree Donation -
Aid to Inmate Mothers*



*2025 MCSO Foundation Angel Tree Donation and Holiday Meal -
Friendship Mission*

The beginning of a new year brings great opportunities for all of us. We jokingly talk of how new year's resolutions are quickly broken. However, the prospects for the MCSO for 2026 have been in the making for some time. I believe in future strategic planning, hard work, and meeting deadlines. I eagerly look forward to the increase in personnel, both sworn and corrections, the opening of the expanded MCSO Criminal Intelligence Center, and the community events that bring us together. Here is to a successful and prosperous 2026!

In Your Service,

Demick Cunningham
Demick Cunningham
Sheriff



2025 Staff Members at the Montgomery Christmas Parade - December 12, 2025

DRUG RECOGNITION EXPERT TRAINING

Lieutenant Ricky Thompson was recently awarded the 2025 Alabama Drug Recognition Expert Program Instructor of the Year. In the past several years Lieutenant Thompson has been instrumental in training and educating law enforcement officers in Alabama in DRE methods and procedures. A few years ago, Montgomery Sheriff Quarterly printed an article on DRE training and the importance of making our roadways safe. This article is a continuation of the dedication our agency strives in keeping Montgomery County citizens safe on our roadways.

The MCSO is committed to keeping our roadways safe from impaired drivers. Every year thousands of people are killed and severely injured due to alcohol-related crashes in the United States. A common misconception about driving under the influence is that an individual is only impaired by alcohol; however, other factors must be considered. The Standard Field Sobriety Test (SFST) was developed to assist law enforcement officers in determining impairment when encountering someone suspected of driving under the influence. In addition to alcohol, drugs such as cannabis, Xanax, and dust-off are factors that contribute to impairment. Training law enforcement officers in SFST, Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE), and the Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) program, while allowing them to gain experience in administering the test, allows them to determine impairment in someone operating a vehicle under the influence. Law enforcement must use reliable tests to aid them so that motorists and pedestrians may be kept safe on the roadways.

Every minute, a person is killed or injured in the United States by an impaired driver. A study in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, in 1975 showed that officers failed to detect DUI/DWIs seventy-eight percent of the time.



Alabama Law Enforcement Agency (L) Corporal Paul Thompson, Drug Evaluation & Classification Program State Coordinator, and (R) Trooper Triston Charles, Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Taste Coordinator present MCSO Lieutenant Rick Thompson with the 2025 Drug Recognition Expert Instructor of the Year Award.



This means for every DUI/DWI arrest; three others were released by officers. Before 1994, half of all the drivers killed in accidents had been drinking.

From 1975 to 1981, a battery of field sobriety tests was developed under funding by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), US Department of Transportation. The tests include Walk-and-Turn (WAT), One-Leg Stand (OLS), and Horizontal Gaze Nystagmus (HGN). In the mid-1970s, extensive scientific research studies were sponsored by NHTSA through a contract with the Southern California Research Institute (SCRI) to determine which roadside field sobriety tests were the most accurate. Officers were taught the three-test battery, then asked to perform them. It showed that they could detect impairment using these tests at a rate of HGN - seventy-seven percent accurate, WAT - sixty-eight percent accurate, and the OLS - sixty-five percent accurate at a BAC of .10 or higher.

The original study used officers that were taught the three-test battery and then performed the test. In 1998, a San Diego study used officers that had been taught the three-test battery and had used the three-test battery for years in the field. This study showed an overall accuracy rate of ninety-one percent correct arrest decisions of someone at .08 BAC or higher. The study also showed that officers were eighty-eight percent accurate with HGN, seventy-nine percent accurate with the WAT, and eighty-three percent accurate with the OLS. Comparing the two studies shows that officers who are taught the test, use the test in the field, and get experience using the test accurately determine impairment in someone operating a vehicle.

Several studies show the reliability of the three-test battery in alcohol and other substances impairing someone. An evaluation of the sensitivity of the SFSTs to detect impairment due to marijuana intoxication used forty individuals to study if the SFST could be used to effectively identify impairment in someone under the influence of cannabis. Three different types of cigarettes were used with THC dosages of 0% THC (placebo), a low dose of 1.74% THC (0.813 gm), and a high dose of 2.93% THC (1.776 gm) given to the participants in the study. The participants were then administered the SFST. The test was administered to the participants five minutes after smoking, fifty-five minutes after smoking, and one hundred and five minutes after smoking cannabis.

This study showed that officers just using the three-test battery could recognize an impairment of someone under the influence of cannabis at moderate to high levels of THC at about a fifty percent rate based on the ninety-four percent by a previous study. The results suggest that the SFST battery is a moderate predictor of impairment caused by low and high doses of cannabis by just using the three-test battery. However, the study suggested that officers trained in the DRE program recognize drug impairment at higher rates. This research differs from other sources by focusing on the SFST being administered to recognize impairment in drivers under the influence of cannabis only.

Officers attend a three-day class on the SFSTs, including PowerPoints, demonstrations, wet labs, and tests to teach them the SFST. This class teaches the officer the history of the SFST with the studies, and the three-test battery, and then allows them to practice the test on volunteers that have been dosed with alcohol. Afterward, the participants must take a test to pass the class.

Officers also participate in a two-day class in ARIDE to help them determine substances that cause impairment other than alcohol. The participants have a review of their SFST, and they are taught other tests such as the modified Romberg test, the finger to nose test, and the lack of convergence test. The participants are also introduced to the seven drug categories that cause impairment in drivers. The participants are then given a test and must achieve an eighty percent or higher score to be certified in ARIDE.

Drug Recognition Expert training consists of 104 to 120 Hours, including ARIDE (pre-requisite - 16 hours), Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement, Phase I - DRE Pre-School (16 hours), Phase II - DRE Main School (56 hours), Phase III - Field Certification (16-32 hours) then the final knowledge examination and a re-certification training every year (8 hours). Members of the LAPD developed the origin of the drug evaluation program in the early '70s. In 1979 the DRE program was in place with LAPD. In 1987, NHTSA standardized it, and the program was underway in Alabama in 2008. Currently, there are 88 DREs in Alabama.



Implementation of the Drug Evaluation Classification Program has improved officer knowledge and training by better training in Standardized Field Sobriety Tests (SFST), Impairment Recognition, Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE), Method of Impairment, and the Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor (TSRP).

Many MCSO deputies are trained as Drug Recognition Experts. With the developing challenges of addressing the numerous types of illegal drugs introduced in our society, law enforcement officers should be trained and familiar with the many signs and symptoms these drugs exhibit from individuals. The MCSO remains steadfast in preventing impaired drivers from our roadways.

START YOUR 2026 OFF WITH SELF-CARE

In the past few decades, the United States military has incorporated not only treating the physical wounds of service members, but addressing their mental wellbeing too. Post-deployment reunion and reintegration is a fundamental component in assisting service members when returning from military operations.



The average person will experience at least one traumatic event in their lifetime. Law enforcement officers experience around 180 in a career. The MCSO has incorporated the mental health and social functioning paradigm as well, by implementing training, peer support initiatives, and employee assistance programs. It is important that all individuals focus on their mental health.

In recent years, a growing uneasiness and an undercurrent of anxiety have emerged in the United States. Psychologists, therapists, social workers, and doctors across the medical spectrum agree that we are in the middle of a genuine national mental health crisis. A time like this can serve as an impetus for reclaiming self-care as a movement, which could have a profound and lasting impact on this country and the world. As the late beloved activist and writer Audre Lorde said, self-care is not “self-indulgent” but rather an act of “self-preservation.”

Self-care reaches beyond the individual. In Sanskrit, the term for self-actualization and individuation is *samadhi*, which means enlightenment or union with the divine. This word recognizes that we are more than just our individual selves: we are a sum of all the parts that surround us. Every life is of value, and we are all connected; when we recognize this, we can embark on the healing work that addresses the traumas of our culture.

Today, we are seeing calls for change and transformation of our world. We are seeing people rise up in their power to assert that their lives are important, valuable, and worth fighting for. We are also showing solidarity by giving our friends and loved ones messages of strength and support as they dismantle systems that are oppressive and archaic. By starting with the inner work, we address many of our root issues and work our way through them. If we all simultaneously commit to healing ourselves and healing our trauma, our own healing becomes a contribution to the health and wellness of our communities, our descendants, and the world.

Take a moment to imagine the power of a self-care movement, a wave of kind care connecting communities, healing our bodies and minds, sustaining our energy and momentum, and helping us all live healthier, happier, and more balanced lives.

By taking small, consistent steps, self-care becomes a foundation for a healthier, more balanced, and more capable life. Self-care is crucial because it’s the deliberate practice of tending to your physical, emotional, and mental needs, preventing burnout, boosting resilience, and improving overall well-being, allowing you to manage stress better, increase energy, and show up more fully for yourself and others. It’s not selfish; it’s essential maintenance to keep you healthy, reduce illness risk, enhance mood, build better relationships, and maintain focus and productivity.

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Key Benefits of Self-Care:**Stress Management:**

Reduce stress, anxiety, and feelings of anger or overwhelm, helping you cope with life's pressures.

Mental Health:

Alleviates depression, boosts happiness, improves focus, and fosters emotional resilience.

Physical Health:

Lowers illness risk, increases energy levels, and can mitigate the inflammatory effects of chronic stress.

Better Relationships:

Allow you to give more to others by first replenishing your own resources, leading to stronger connections.

Prevents Burnout:

Helps recalibrate and find balance, preventing emotional and physical exhaustion.

What Self-Care Looks Like:It's personalized but covers various areas:

- Physical: Sleep, nutrition, exercise, hydration, doctor visits.
- Emotional: Journaling, hobbies, mindfulness, spending time in nature, setting boundaries.
- Mental/Intellectual: Reading, learning, creative pursuits, engaging your mind.
- Social: Nurturing healthy relationships, seeking support.

NOTES

1. Audre Lorde, *A Burst of Light: Essays* (Ithaca, NY: Firebrand Books, 1988),
2. Martin Luther King Jr., speech at the second convention of the Medical Committee for Human Rights, Chicago, March 25, 1966, quoted in John Dittmer, *The Good Doctors: The Medical Committee for Human Rights and the Struggle for Social Justice in Health Care* (New York: Bloomsbury Press, 2009).
3. Aisha Harris, "A History of Self-Care: From its radical roots to its yuppie-driven middle age to its election-inspired resurgence," *Slate*, April 5, 2017,

*Dr. Scott Holmes, P.A., LPC-S, ICAADC, CCHP
Juvenile Detention Director
Montgomery County Sheriff's Office*

BUILDING ORDER IN A GROWING NATION: THE RISE OF MUNICIPAL POLICING AND THE BOSTON MODEL



This article is a MSQ series on the origins of U.S. law enforcement, how modern-day criminal justice practices were influenced by European movements, and American expansion in the

19th century. We began this series on the origins of the sheriff office, the Age of Enlightenment that promoted ideals that are the foundation of present-day law enforcement, court and penology systems. This article explores the early evolution of municipal police departments, namely the Boston Police Department.

The Boston Police Department is considered the oldest municipal police department in the United States. Before the existence of a formal police department, the first night watch was established in Boston in 1635. The next development began in 1838 when a bill was passed in the General Court that allowed the city to appoint police officers, paving the way for the creation of a formal police department.

The BPD was formally founded in 1854 and is presently the 20th largest law enforcement agency in the country. At the time of its founding, the BPD constituted one of the first paid, professional police services in the United States. The department was closely organized and modeled after Sir Robert Peel's (London) Metropolitan Polices Service. A 14-inch club replaced the old hook and bill, which had been in use for 154 years.

In 1851 the first Irish-born police officer, Bernard "Barney" McGinniskin was appointed. It generated considerable controversy due to anti-Irish sentiments at the time. McGinniskin was fired was rehired until taking a job as a U.S. inspector. BPD appointed Horatio J. Homer its first African American officer in 1878. He was promoted to sergeant in 1895 and retired in 1919 after 40 years of service. The first female BPD officers were introduced in 1921.

BPD was an early adopter of police firearms, likely using revolvers like the Colt Model 1851 Navy. It was one of the first U.S. police departments that purchased and issued firearms en masse, rather than officers relying on personal weapons. In 1878 the first department telephones were installed on a trial basis.



1870s Boston Police Officer

In 1919 Police Commissioner Edwin Upton Curtis refused to allow the creation of a police union. 1,117 BPD officers went on strike due to stagnant wages and poor working conditions. The city soon fell into riots and public chaos. Governor Calvin Coolidge intervened to end the situation, sending in the state national guard to restore order. Coolidge announced that the "police did not have the right to strike against the public safety."

The strike ended when Coolidge hired replacement officers, many of whom were returning servicemen from World War I, and the former officers were refused reentry into the department. Ironically, the new officers hired in the wake of the strike received higher



salaries, more vacation days and city-provided uniforms, the very demands the original strikers were requesting. The BPD strike set a precedent for further movements to stymie police unionization around the country.

Many of the innovations and challenges facing the Boston Police Department were shared by most all law enforcement agencies in the United States. Due to its origins in 17th century colonial America, the Boston Police Department holds a distinction in our national history and U.S. law enforcement tradition.



SHERIFF PETER BLACKWELL MASTIN, SR.

13TH SHERIFF OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

There were several yellow fever epidemics in Alabama during the 1800s. In 1854, yellow fever broke out at Montgomery, and killed many residents, including officials such as Judge Nimrod Benson and Sheriff Henry Peebles, who died of the disease during his first year in office. During this turbulent time, Peter Blackwell Mastin, Sr. was appointed by Alabama Governor John Winston to serve the remainder of Sheriff Peebles' term.

Mastin arrived in Montgomery County around 1834 and served in the Creek Indian War as an orderly sergeant in Captain Hazard Henry's company in 1836. That same year he married Mary Myrick and built a home and mill on Ramer Creek in south Montgomery County, where he grew corn and produced lumber for a number of years, amassing a great fortune. Mastin also introduced a canal system that spread to all the black prairie counties of the state.

In 1851 he moved his family to Montgomery and built a French-style plantation named "Fairview" where present day Mastin Lane (named after him) is located. The grand plantation faced Norman Bridge Rd. Fairview Avenue was named after the estate. During this period, no home in the county contained more elaborate antique furnishings. The stately mansion was the scene of many social events, hosting an elegant ballroom and was considered the greatest showplace in Montgomery County. The home was razed in the 1920's.

The Mastin lands embraced some 160 acres located on Woodley and Norman Bridge Roads. Normandale Shopping Center stands on the land once owned by the Mastin family. Sheriff Mastin actually ran for the office of sheriff in Montgomery County three times, but in every election came very close, but was unfortunately defeated. Sheriff Mastin died in 1865 at the age of 53-54. He is buried in an unmarked grave in Oakwood Cemetery.

NEW DEPUTIES SWORN IN



Sheriff Cunningham administers the oath of office to new Deputy Sheriffs (Top L-R) Aaron Treubig and Christopher Ocampo; Tyler Smith; (Bottom L-R) George "Beau" Russell; Courtney Ward

DEPUTY JAMES DANIELS DEPUTY OF THE 4TH QUARTER 2025



On October 3, 2025, deputies and officers from the Montgomery Police Department responded to 6000 E. Shirley Ln regarding a possible burglary attempt. The key holder arrived, the building was cleared, and surveillance footage was reviewed. The footage revealed the suspected vehicles. A traffic camera detected the vehicles near Ray Thorington Rd. The MPD and MCSO responded to the area. A brief pursuit of both vehicles resulted in the suspects fleeing on foot in a neighborhood. Deputy James Daniels was stationed nearby and a suspect walking near the fence line a short distance from area.

Demonstrating attention to detail and quick thinking, Deputy Daniels calmly activated his blue lights and approached the individual. He handcuffed the subject, identifying him as a 16-year-old juvenile. The subject spontaneously admitted to being in the vehicle pursued by law enforcement in the neighborhood. Due to Deputy Daniels' attention to detail and calm demeanor, the juvenile was taken into custody without incident.

DEPUTY ERIC DUNN

2025 MCSO DEPUTY OF THE YEAR

On February 27, 2025, Deputy Dunn observed a traffic collision between a school bus and a vehicle at the intersection of E. South Boulevard and Woodley Road. He promptly alerted MCSO dispatch and requested medical and fire personnel, as he was concerned about possible injuries to the occupants of the vehicles involved.

Deputy Dunn observed smoke coming from the front of the Camry. Noting that the driver of the vehicle was entrapped. Deputy Dunn swiftly jumped into action as the engine bay caught fire. He advised dispatch that the driver was entrapped, and the vehicle was ablaze. He immediately retrieved the fire extinguisher from his patrol vehicle and extinguished the flames.

Emergency medical personnel and city fire units arrived shortly thereafter and utilized the Jaws of Life to extricate the victim, who was transported to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. Several children occupying the school bus also sustained minor injuries from the accident.

Deputy Dunn's rapid decision-making was instrumental in saving many lives from a possible fatal collision.

CORRECTIONAL OFFICER JOSHUA TATUM

CORRECTIONAL OFFICER OF THE 4TH QUARTER 2025



Correctional Officer Joshua Tatum attentiveness was fully displayed one evening during his tour of duty. On September 8, 2025, Officer Tatum conducted a security check in J1/4 South. His keen observational skills and commitment to maintaining safety within the facility led to the discovery of contraband that had been smuggled into the facility.

By promptly reporting his observations to his lieutenant, he played a crucial role in ensuring the security of the facility and the safety of those within it. Officer Tatum has proven to work with diligence and vigilance. His actions during this security check exemplify the highest standards of discipline and attentiveness that are essential in ensuring a secure environment.

SERGEANT MICHAEL LANE CORRECTIONAL OFFICER OF YEAR 2025

On January 17, 2025, Sergeant Michael Lane proceeded to the MCDF booking intake to receive an arrestee. Following procedure, Sergeant Lane questioned the subject about having any weapons or sharp items. After the subject denied having any weapons, Sergeant Lane conducted a search, discovering he had concealed a gun.

With diligence and devotion to completing each task, Sergeant Lane prevented a dangerous situation from occurring inside the facility. Sergeant Lane's performance exemplifies the core values of the MCDF and his ability to remain calm when confronted with a threat.



JUVENILE DETENTION OFFICER ALBERT SMITH 2025 JDO OF THE 4TH QUARTER

Juvenile Detention Officer Albert Smith is a retired part-time veteran officer with the Montgomery County Youth Detention Facility. He is dedicated to training his peers. Due to his extensive experience with the Department of Youth Services, he directly contributes his skills and knowledge in juvenile justice by offering suggestions and strategies in operational practices for youth detention centers. Aside from his willingness to train, JDO Smith is hardworking and dedicated officer. He completes all necessary tasks given with the most logical conclusions. Furthermore, his negotiation and crisis de-escalation techniques have proven to be effective while training new officers. It is without reservation that he deserves to be awarded this recognition.

2025 JUVENILE DETENTION OFFICER OF THE YEAR JDO DESMOND HARRIS

Juvenile Detention Officer Desmond Harris has been employed with the Montgomery County Detention Facility since March 13, 2017. JDO Harris works in the youthful offenders' unit, where his "calm and consistent manner" has diffused many tense situations, according to the colleagues and supervisors. He has an excellent work ethic, as evidenced by his willingness to work extra shifts to assist other shifts that are short-staffed. Outside of work, he enjoys playing basketball, being with family, and working on community events with his high school alma mater, George Washington Carver High School in Montgomery, Alabama. It is without reservation that he deserves this prestigious honor.



EOC MICHAEL HAMNER **MCSO CIVILIAN OF THE YEAR 2025**

On July 20, 2025, at approximately 12:11 AM, Deputy Riego advised that an Alabama State Trooper (MACS Unit) was in pursuit of a vehicle on I-85 northbound near the 15-mile marker. The vehicle eventually exited in Shorter and continued along U.S. Highway 80 toward Tuskegee. During this active pursuit, the State Trooper lost radio communication with his dispatch center. Deputy Riego was able to locate the trooper at the intersection of Cross Keys Road and U.S. Highway 80 where he had been involved in a motor vehicle accident with injuries. He was unable to communicate with his radio due to the severity of the accident.



Emergency Communications Operator Michael Hamner promptly contacted Macon County Sheriff's Office dispatch and requested EMS response. Upon receiving uncertain information from Macon County Dispatch regarding EMS status, EOC Hamner waited for an appropriate period, then proactively reestablished contact and requested Haynes LifeFlight to respond to the scene due to the critical nature of the trooper's injuries.

When it became apparent that the Macon County dispatcher was unfamiliar with LifeFlight procedures, EOC Hamner used his training, judgment, and presence of mind to contact Haynes LifeFlight directly. As a result of his actions, the injured Trooper was successfully airlifted from the scene and transported to Baptist South Hospital for emergency medical care.

EOC Hamner's professionalism, situational awareness, and ability to remain calm under pressure were critical in ensuring the timely dispatch of life-saving resources. His swift actions exemplify the highest standards of service in emergency communications and reflect great credit upon himself and the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office.

EOC WENDY DEESE **MCSO CIVILIAN OF THE 4TH QUARTER 2025**



Recently Lieutenant Jessie Oliver was investigating an application for an alcohol license in Montgomery County. As part of the review, dispatch was contacted to determine the calls for service for the location over the past 12 months. Emergency Communications Operator Wendy Deese responded to the request.

EOC Deese determined there were 277 documented call reports related to the address. The inquiry was specifically interested in calls related to alcohol consumption, overconsumption, or criminal offenses influenced by alcohol.

Rather than simply forwarding raw data, EOC Deese took the initiative to review the computer-aided dispatch notes and provide the exact information needed. Without being asked, she went beyond the minimum expectation to ensure the accuracy and usefulness of the information.

Her actions may seem small, but they reflect a commendable level of diligence and commitment. EOC Deese demonstrated a genuine willingness to help and a refusal to settle for the bare minimum.

EOC Deese consistently goes above and beyond in every aspect of her duties, demonstrating an unwavering commitment to both her responsibilities and the people she serves. She approaches every call with professionalism, compassion, and a genuine concern for the well-being of others. Whether supporting deputies, assisting her fellow dispatchers, or taking the extra time to ensure accuracy and clarity in her work, she routinely exceeds expectations without being asked. Her reliability, work ethic, and heartfelt investment in those around her make her an invaluable asset to the agency and a true example of what exceptional public service looks like.



GRIEVANCE CLERK KIMBERLY CARTER MCDF CIVILIAN OF THE 4TH QUARTER 2025 & YEAR

Kimberly Carter is a Grievance Clerk for the Montgomery County Detention Facility. She is cross trained in other duties with responsibilities ranging from front reception to mail assistant. As with all assignments, Ms. Carter maintains a positive attitude. She is always ready to offer her assistance, support and guidance to others. So, it came as no surprise when Ms. Carter expressed interest in becoming a property clerk. As before, she performed in her new position with devotion and

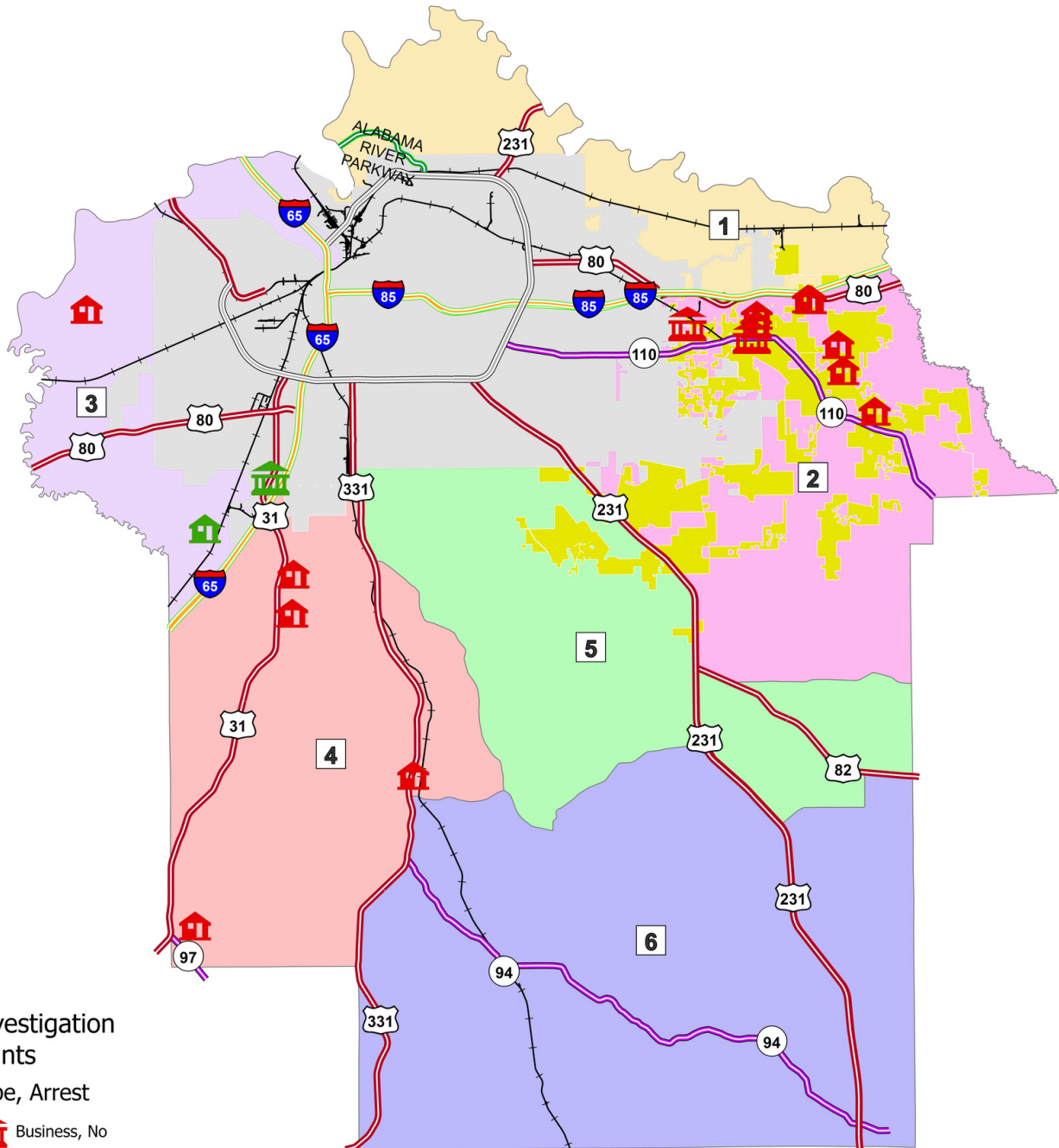
perseverance. She has a strong work ethic and constantly works overtime to help cover the rush hours. During her short time with the MCDF, she has truly become an asset in helping with the day-to-day operations of the facility. We are delighted to have Kimberly Carter as the MCDF Civilian of the 4th Quarter and Civilian of the Year.

LINE COOK TONDA DANSBY MCJDF CIVILIAN OF THE YEAR

Ms. Tonda Dansby was unanimously chosen to be awarded civilian of the year at the Montgomery Youth Detention Facility. Ms. Dansby works as a line cook and is known for her smile and positive attitude while serving our youth in detention. She is ambitious and dedicated as evidenced by her willingness to go above and beyond when called on. During the recent shortage of staff due to the illness of another kitchen employee, it was without question that Ms. Dansby assumed leadership role and carried out several responsibilities that are usually performed by a supervisor. It is without reservation that she deserves this honor.



Montgomery County Burglary Map October - December 2025

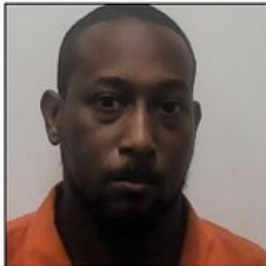


Investigation Points

Type, Arrest

-  Business, No
-  Business, Yes
-  Residential, No
-  Residential, Yes
-  City of Montgomery
-  Town of Pike Road

MCSO ARREST REPORT 4TH QUARTER 2025



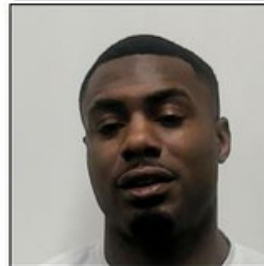
Brown, Patrick
DV Strangulation
Fierness Trail



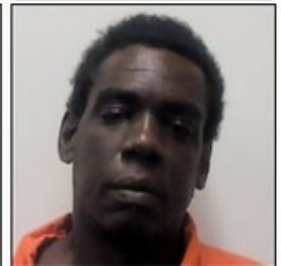
Culver, William II
Damage Utility Property
Jackson Ferry Road



Evans, Maxie IV
DV-Burg 2, Theft 2, ATEPO,
Warrants



Flowers, Deshaun
Rec Stolen Prop 1
Eddie L. Tullis Drive



Floyd, Ivan
Rec Stolen Prop 1
Dozier Road



Jackson, Donarian
Destruct State Prop By Inmate
S. McDonough Street



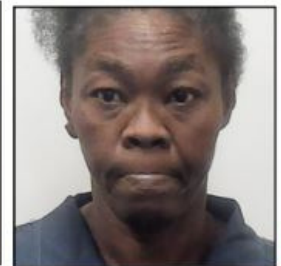
Jackson, Kiara
Theft of Property 3
Tallapoosa Street



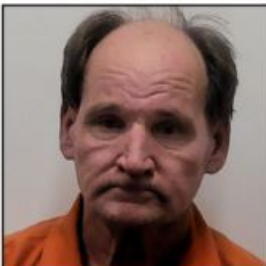
Ledbetter, Thomas
Damage Utility Property
Jackson Ferry Road



Livingston, Daniel
Burglary 3 , Theft of Prop 1
West McLean Road



Nickerson, Valerie
Burglary 3, Retail Theft 2
Mobile Highway



Price, Charles
Murder
Troy Highway



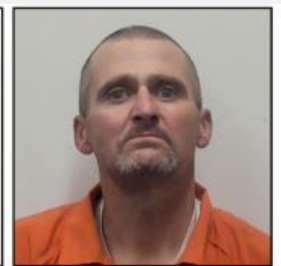
Simon, Dwan
Robbery 1
Atlanta Highway



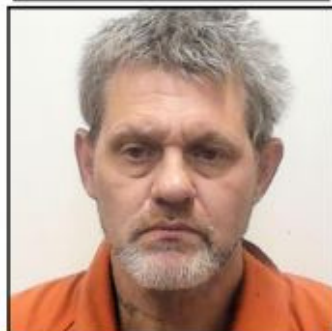
Steiner, Timothy
Burglary 3, Retail Theft 2
Mobile Highway



Strickland, Robert
Damage Utility Property
Jackson Ferry Road



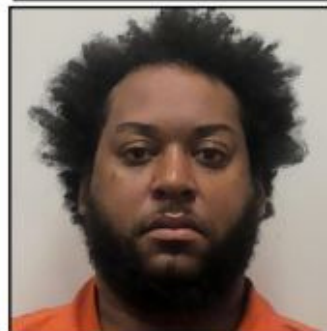
Westgate, Lance
Rec Stolen Property 1
Wetumpka Highway



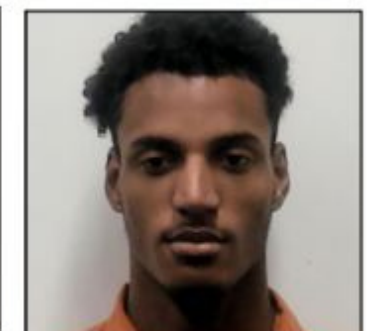
Woodruff, Tommy
DV 2—Assault 2
Troy Highway



Gadson, Dirick Jr.
Theft of Prop 1, CPFI
Warrants



Brown, Christopher
DV Strangulation
Meriwether Trail



Anderson, Zayvion
Swatting
Vaughn Road



To:

Place
Postage
Here

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

