



# THE LCSO VOICE

LEE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

THE LCSO VOICE May 2018

## MESSAGE FROM THE SHERIFF



### PROUD TO SERVE

The horrific Feb. 14 shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School is a community's worst nightmare, leaving many to question how could it happen – and could it happen here.

As your Sheriff, I promise you that our agency, in partnership with the Lee County School District, the Board of County Commissioners and our elected representatives, is doing all it can to maintain the safety

and security of our 93,000 plus students in public and charter schools.

In the short-term, we have added 40 School Resource Officers (SROs) to the 60 already embedded in our schools by immediately reassigning Lieutenants, Sergeants, Supervisors and Deputies through the end of the school year. We also are increasing our presence by directing Patrol deputies to utilize school facilities to complete reports, encouraging Detectives to use school facilities as a base of operations whenever possible and urging Patrol deputies to increase their already frequent area checks of schools during every shift. The Lee County

Sheriff's Office plans to hire and train more deputies as school resource officers to replace agency members who are temporarily assigned to schools. Our goal is to have a deputy assigned to each and every school as quickly as possible. Even before the Parkland shooting, Sheriff's Office officials and the school district had taken steps to prepare for the threat of mass violence. In 2017 all SRO's completed active shooter on campus training and LCSO Youth Services Division personnel also met with school district safety and security specialists to conduct emergency response training with principals, assistant principals and school staff.

See **SHERIFF**, Page 3

### Message Highlights:

- SAFETY IN SCHOOLS
- MARJORY STONEMAN DOUGLAS HS PUBLIC SAFETY ACT
- LCSO PROGRAMS
- WORKING TOGETHER

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## LCSO TO HOST FIRST-OF-ITS-KIND EVENT

The Lee County Sheriff's Office is pleased to partner with the Lee County Department of Public Safety & the Lee County Trauma District in a community presentation of

### A Citizen's Response to Active Shooter & Mass Casualty Events



When: Saturday, June 16

Where: Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall

13350 FSW Pkwy, Fort Myers

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Registration required online at [www.sheriffleefl.org](http://www.sheriffleefl.org)

For more information call: 239-258-3280

**FREE EVENT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**





An abandoned vehicle remains under water in Bonita Springs days after Hurricane Irma hit Southwest Florida.



Cpl. Bobby Hunter helps a hearing impaired resident find a food and water distribution location.



LCSO worked closely with the National Guard in Lehigh Acres during and after Irma.

## LESSONS FROM IRMA; PREPAREDNESS IS KEY

If Hurricane Irma taught us anything, it's to be prepared. Some parts of Lee County are still recovering from damage left behind after the September storm.

Researchers at Colorado State University estimate 14 named storms for the 2018 Atlantic hurricane season with seven of them expected to become hurricanes and at least three predicted to reach category 3 strength or worse. On average, the Atlantic produces 12 named storms and three major hurricanes.

During Hurricane Irma, LCSO worked closely with Lee County Public Safety at their Emergency Operations Center along with each of the county's municipal police departments, state agencies and non profit organizations,

such as the American Red Cross. Working together, we are able to provide residents the most accurate, up-to-date information before, during, and after a storm.

With only a few more weeks until hurricane season officially begins, it is extremely important that you develop your emergency plan and replenish your hurricane supply kit *before* a storm approaches. Many families were caught by surprise and unprepared when they were ordered to evacuate during Hurricane Irma, causing long lines at the grocery stores, gas stations, and on roadways.

There are a number of resources and guides on the Lee County Public Safety website (see box) along with information about hurricane preparedness seminars that are open to the public.

Hurricane season is June 1 through November.

### HAVE A PLAN

- ⇒ Know your evacuation zone
- ⇒ Prepare several sheltering options for your family
- ⇒ Prepare your Emergency Supply Kit now. Some items to include:

- Drinking Water (1 gallon per day per person for 7 days)
- Non-perishable food
- Battery powered radio
- Flashlights
- Medications
- Baby/infant needs
- Pet Supplies

For more information visit [www.leegov.com](http://www.leegov.com)

## PROTECT YOURSELF: FREE SENIOR SAFETY SEMINARS

June 14 at 10 a.m. - **Internet Safety**

July 12 at 10 a.m. - **Personal Safety on Vacation**

August 9 at 10 a.m. - **Home Repair Fraud**



All seminars will take place at the United Healthcare Medicare Store:

Daniels Crossing Shopping Center  
6900 Daniels Pkwy. #23-C, Fort Myers

Seating is limited. Call (239) 561-9142 to reserve your spot.





SHERIFF From Page 1

Within the greater Southwest Florida community, this Agency has long offered, and will continue to conduct active shooter training, situational awareness seminars and threat assessments for individuals and organizations who wish to prepare for worst case scenarios.

The long-term solution has yet to be determined. In March, the Florida Legislature and Gov. Rick Scott enacted "The Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act," which requires a sworn law enforcement officer at each school in the state. The safety act provides \$162 million for safe-school officers.

There is consensus among law enforcement that the state funding is insufficient and that municipal and county funding will be required to implement the mandated safety measures. However, the exact number of deputies required and who is responsible for the additional costs have yet to be decided.

Lee County School District Superintendent Dr. Greg Adkins has stated that he does not support personnel carrying firearms on campus, and I support school personnel carrying firearms on campus, and I respect his decision.

I also support the right of citizens to defend themselves when faced with a crime in progress situation until law enforcement arrives. Working together as a caring community, we will enact lasting and meaningful safeguards that ensure your child's safety. You have my word.

*Mike*

**For more information on the Sheriff's Office active shooter training, situational awareness seminars, and threat assessments, call 258-3280. All services are free.**

## SHRED EVENT CUTS CHANCES OF ID THEFT FOR SWFL

### BOOST IN RECENT TURNOUT SHOWS INTEREST IN SHREDDING

The community turnout at a recent Shred Event held at Miromar Outlets in south Lee County is proof that residents are taking appropriate measures to keep from becoming a victim of identity theft.

The annual fundraising event sponsored by the Pilot Club of Fort Myers shredded more than 7,720 pounds of paper and raised \$1,697 to benefit the Sheriff's Office Project Lifesaver Program. That's \$500 more than last year!

Project Lifesaver is a program implemented by LCSO that provides support and assistance to families whose loved ones tend to wander due to Alzheimer's, Dementia, or Autism.

For more information on how you and your loved one can participate in the Project Lifesaver program, call 258-3280.

Our next shred event will be held in North Fort Myers this November. Stay tuned for information.



Coordinator Kathy Freshwaters helps unload boxes of documents at a shred event at Miromar Outlets.

### What to Shred to Protect Against ID Theft

- |                   |                 |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Bank Statements   | Tax Forms       |
| Medical Documents | Receipts        |
| Expired I.D.'s    | Canceled Checks |
| Pay Stubs         | Bills           |



## FREE SWIM AT TICE COMMUNITY POOL



**SYAL inspires youth in an effort to transform their lives to become healthy, civic-minded citizens of Lee County through community based activities and programs.**

The Lee County Sheriff's Office Youth Activities League (SYAL) invites you to the FREE open swim at the Tice Community Pool beginning June 11 through August 3 from Noon to 4 pm.

The Tice Swim program is entering its 4th consecutive year of FREE swim lessons and open swim in the afternoons. On Wednesdays, Staff Officer Darryl Aubuchon from the LCSO Dive Team shows off his dive equipment and gives kids a chance to test it themselves.

For more information on registering for lessons and details on the afternoon swim, call (239) 437-5759.



## 2018 TORCH RUN REACHES MILESTONE



**K9 Kylo and Dep. Richard Castellon assisted Crime Prevention Specialist Ann Kelly while speaking to a ladies group at Heron Pond in Lehigh Acres.**



**The 2018 Law Enforcement Torch Run to benefit the Special Olympics celebrated 35 years this year. Participants ran 6 miles to raise awareness and funds to benefit Special Olympics Florida. The race started and ended at LCSO headquarters in Fort Myers.**



## SHOUT OUT From Page 4

### SGT. SAMMY GONZALEZ COMPLETES TREK TO TALLY



Undersheriff Carmine Marceno cheers on Sgt. Sammy Gonzalez as he takes his first steps in a 390 mile journey to Tallahassee to present a check to Concerns Of Police Survivors (C.O.P.S.)

In just seven days, Sgt. Sammy Gonzalez completed a nearly 400-mile run from LCSO headquarters in Fort Myers to Tallahassee to raise money for Concerns Of Police Survivors (C.O.P.S.) The money raised will go to help families of fallen officers. Sgt. Gonzalez, along with the Florida Run for the Fallen team held fundraisers and trained for a year to complete the task.



Sgt. Sammy Gonzalez enjoys a moment with his wife and daughter after finishing his run at the FL. Sheriffs Association in Tallahassee.



The Florida Run for the Fallen team presented C.O.P.S. with a check for \$20,000. Pictured from LCSO from left to right, Dep. Josiah Smith, Sgt. Sammy Gonzalez, Sgt. William Lusk.

### SWFL CRIME STOPPERS EARNS REGIONAL AWARDS



Pictured left to right; Eric Berglund, Kyra Gravitt, John Scrivanich, Trish Route, JoAnn Beaumont, Amy Southards.

Congratulations to Southwest Florida Crime Stoppers for winning three prestigious awards at the 37th annual Southeastern Crime Stoppers Association training conference. Honors include Most Productive Program in the Southeastern U.S., 2017 Advertisement of the Year, and Secretary JoAnn Beaumont, was awarded the inaugural Freddi Moody Memorial award. Coordinator Trish Route was also elected President of the Southeastern Crime Stoppers Association.



**HAVE YOU SEEN THESE PEOPLE?**

Wanted as of 5/01/18



**Efrain Gomez-Morales**  
Sexual Battery



**Angel Morales-Carrasco**  
2nd degree murder



**Miguel Medina**  
5ft. 6 in.  
171 lbs.  
VOP Vehicular Homicide



**James Lanier**  
5 ft. 6 in.  
170 lbs.  
D.O.B: 11-25-63  
VOP Battery



**Alejandro Mendoza-Carbajal**  
5 ft. 4 in.  
160 lbs.  
D.O.B. 12-8-80  
Felony warrant, BW FTA attempted second degree murder



**Eric Padilla**  
5 ft. 11 in.  
205 lbs.  
VOP Obstruct Police



**Tomas Miguel**  
5 ft. 3 in.  
130 lbs.  
D.O.B. 1-1-82  
VOCC battery second offense and cruelty toward child



**Burion West**  
6 ft. 3 in.  
200 lbs.  
Cocaine Sell



**Troy Bolin**  
5 ft. 7 in.  
120 lbs.  
D.O.B. 8-25-60  
Felony warrant, sexual battery on a child less than 12 years of age



**Dean Trevil**  
6 ft. 1 in.  
220 lbs.  
D.O.B. 1-11-85  
Felony warrant, failure to appear aggravated battery



## IN HER OWN V.O.I.C.E.; VOLUNTEER'S DOOR PRIZE COMES FULL "CIRCLE"

You wouldn't think a circular saw could lead you to a long lost friend but that's exactly what happened to V.O.I.C.E (Volunteer Observers Impacting Community Effort) volunteer, Jean Schoenthaler. While attending the V.O.I.C.E. Appreciation Luncheon in April, Schoenthaler won a circular saw. "Just what every woman wants," she thought jokingly. She brought it home and the next day went to have her car serviced.

While sitting in a packed waiting room, she pulled out her newspaper hoping to avoid small talk with fellow customers but couldn't help chuckling to herself. She could feel the eyes of an older gentleman sitting next to her so she smiled and said, "I won a circular saw at an event yesterday and every time I think of it, it makes me laugh." Wouldn't you know, that gentleman has a hobby of restoring and selling

antique cars, which led him to talk about roads in his wife's hometown of Caldwell, where he was going to send one of his finished vehicles. "Caldwell, *New Jersey*?" Jean asked. "I know Caldwell, New Jersey very well, that's where I grew up."

As the pair exchanged street names and last names, Schoenthaler realized they are more connected than she thought. The gentleman is married to "Rita", Schoenthaler's childhood friend and neighbor. They lost touch after high school back in 1959. Since then, Schoenthaler went on to become a college dean and librarian. Rita is a retired speech pathologist who now lives with her husband in Punta Gorda. Needless to say, they have a lot of catching up to do and already have plans to meet up. So much for not wanting small talk.



**Jean Schoenthaler at the V.O.I.C.E. Appreciation Luncheon in April. She plans to give her new circular saw to her nephew.**



**Public is Invited**

## **2018 Fallen Officer Memorial Ceremony**

*To Honor Those Who Paid The Ultimate Price*

Wednesday, May 16, 2018

9:00 a.m.

Centennial Park

2000 W. First Street

Ft. Myers, FL. 33901



## DEPUTY OF THE QUARTER



Sgt. Smalls

Sgt. Sylvester Smalls understands that law enforcement isn't always about catching criminals. In fact, ask anyone who knows him and they will tell you that his reach goes far beyond the long arm of the law.

For years, Sgt. Smalls has been a lighthouse to hundreds of young people and their families as a teacher, coach, friend, confidante, and leader. He has spent countless hours mentoring numerous children into early adulthood and in-

stilling in them the desire to better themselves by setting goals like graduating high school and attending college. Over the last ten years, Sgt. Smalls has raised awareness of programs influencing local youth by organizing 13 fishing tournaments and multiple car shows that have resulted in more than \$30,000 raised for the Sheriff's Youth Activity League (SYAL) and the Sheriff's Youth Ranch.

Most notably, Sgt. Smalls helped start a basketball showcase for high school and junior college students in an effort to present their talents to college scouts offering scholarships. In 2017, this event was renamed "The Stef'an Strawder Memorial Showcase" and sanctioned by the National Collegiate Athletic Association. Stef'an Strawder was a local high school basketball player killed during a mass shooting event and a friend of Sgt. Smalls whom he

often mentored. In addition, Smalls has helped nearly 30 local high school athletes obtain athletic scholarships to college, even personally driving several teens out of state on his own time and with his own finances to meet with coaches and sign with colleges. He is currently working on a program that will provide the opportunity for up to 15 local students to attend college in South Carolina through academic scholarships, financial aid, and work-study programs.

The Lee County Sheriff's Office is proud to recognize Sgt. Sylvester Smalls for his work and dedication in helping to build bridges between local youth and law enforcement.



Beans

Tridone

## VOLUNTEER OF THE QUARTER

The Lee County Sheriff's Office is proud to recognize V.O.I.C.E. Volunteers John Beans, John Tridone, and Roger Wood (Posthumous) as the recipients of the 2018 Volunteer of the First Quarter Award for their assistance in a diving accident that occurred at Crescent Beach Family Park. On January 3, 2018

a 911 call was received in reference to a man found bleeding from the abdomen after diving into the water on Fort Myers Beach. Beans, Tridone, and Wood responded to the park to assist in the call for help. While the park ranger stayed with the injured man and his wife until EMS arrived,

these three men assisted with pedestrian and vehicle traffic so that medics could arrive safely on scene. Our volunteers are outstanding and the work they do is extraordinary. We are glad to have them as part of the LCSO team! Note: Sadly, Wood passed



Wood

away one month after this incident. Our thoughts are with his friends and family.



## **CORRECTIONS DEPUTY OF THE QUARTER**



**Lt. Lafayette**

A lunch break at a local supermarket turned into anything but routine for Corrections Lieutenant Victoria Lafayette after she assisted in the arrest of an armed subject in the checkout line.

On January 4<sup>th</sup>, Lafayette was paying for her groceries when she observed what appeared to be a struggle taking place between two men. One of the men identified himself as an officer with the Fort

Myers Police Department and requested assistance in subduing the subject. As the officer took the subject to the ground, Lt. Lafayette helped restrain him and while doing so, a black handgun came out from underneath the suspect's body. Moments later, a second handgun fell out from the young man's waistband while additional FMPD officers who had now arrived on scene were placing him in handcuffs. The dangerous suspect was identified as an inmate who had escaped from the Southwest Florida Juvenile Detention Center earlier in the day.

For her quick actions in aiding a fellow officer and in helping to secure a violent offender, the Lee County Sheriff's Office is proud to recognize Lt. Victoria Lafayette as the 2018 Corrections Deputy of the First Quarter.

homicide that occurred outside an apartment complex.

During her processing of the scene, she found blood located in various locations that would eventually confirm the blood matched not only the victim, but also identified a possible suspect. Months later on February 10, 2018, Kyla once again responded to the scene of a homicide in order to collect evidence. After careful examination of the scene, she advised Major Crime's detectives that the casings found at this scene were similar to those found in the homicide that had occurred the previous year. This critical piece of information was extremely useful to the investigation of both homicides and assisted investigators in obtaining a search warrant of the suspect's residence.

The search resulted in the recovery of numerous guns, narcotics, an assault pistol, and large amounts of ammunition that visually matched the casings found at both crime scenes.

Thanks to Kyla's experience and keen observation abilities, critical pieces of evidence were collected and used to arrest a suspect for Second Degree Murder. He currently remains in the Lee County Jail.

## **CIVILIAN OF THE QUARTER**



**Wheeler**

Crime Scene Technician Kyla Wheeler carefully combs through a crime scene looking for physical evidence that will help investigators determine the "who, what, when, and how" of a crime.

The long and tedious process requires her to make detailed documentation of the conditions at the scene, while carefully collecting evidence that may be as fine as a piece of human hair.

Her skills, knowledge and attention to details in two homicide investigations that took place eight months apart in two separate locations is why Kyla is being recognized as the Sheriff's Office 2018 Civilian of the First Quarter.

On Saturday, June 17, 2017, Kyla responded to the scene of a



# LEE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

14750 Six Mile Cypress Pkwy.  
Fort Myers, FL

Phone: 239-477-1000

**We are on the web @**  
[www.sheriffleefl.org](http://www.sheriffleefl.org)

## **Who to call**

**North District**  
121 Pondella Rd.  
N. Fort Myers  
(239) 477-1810

**East District**  
1301 Homestead Rd.  
Lehigh Acres  
(239) 477-1820

**West District**  
15650 Pine Ridge Rd.  
Fort Myers  
(239) 477-1830

**Central District**  
14750 Six Mile Cypress Pkwy.  
Fort Myers  
(239) 477-1850

**South District**  
10520 Reynolds St.  
Bonita Springs  
(239) 477-1840

**Gulf District**  
13921-4 Waterfront Dr.  
Pineland  
(239) 282-5766

**Gulf District (Boca)**  
360 E. Railroad Ave.  
Boca Grande  
(941) 964-2400



## **LCSO DRIVES UP CARFIT SUCCESS**

The Lee County Sheriff's Office ranked 12th in the nation for the most CarFit events in 2017. The Community Relations section worked with more than 150 people last year in an effort to keep safety a priority on the roads in Southwest Florida. Florida ranked #1 overall with the most events.

CarFit is an educational program that offers older adults the opportunity to check how well their vehicle "fits" them. The program also provides materials on community-specific resources that could enhance safety and increase mobility in the community.

A group of trained professionals work with each participant to ensure maximum comfort and safety.

To schedule a CarFit appointment call Community Relations at 258-3280.



**Crime Prevention Specialist Peggy Lince works with a driver to make sure their vehicle "fits" them.**