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2021 REFLECTIONS FROM SHERIFF DERRICK CUNNINGHAM



As we close 2021, reflecting on this past year, we continue to deal with the many challenges facing our county and nation. COVID is not showing any signs of diminishing, even though our daily lives, school

and work appear to be returning to normal. Sports gatherings, church services, schools reopening, people returning to the shopping malls, movie theaters and dining have all seen a return, albeit a cautious one due to the discovery of new COVID variants. One of the greatest issues we face as a community and nation is the resurgence of violent crime.

2021 is on pace to be the worst year for gun violence in decades, increasing from last year which had previously set a record. The Gun Violence Archive reported that From January 1 to September 15, 2021, 14,516 people died from gun violence in the US, 1,300 more than 2020, a 9% increase. The City of Montgomery has not been immune to this problem. As of this writing, Montgomery is on track to set another record of homicides in the city, currently at 75. Coinciding with this is aggravated assault with a firearms has increased dramatically. Gun violence has permeated most all large cities and counties with populations over 100,000.

With the advent of this news, the growing concern among citizens is growing nationwide and in Montgomery County. Honest, law abiding citizens are purchasing guns and ammunition at a record pace. In 2020, Americans bought a record number of 23 million firearms, a 65% increase

"Reflections" continued on next page

"Reflections" continued from 1st page

from 2019, and many of them new gun owners. Black Friday guns sales in 2021 topped even the 2020 record, with 187,585 gun-related background (NICS) checks. The total for the week was 687,788 checks, a staggering amount. More guns were sold in the US through September 2021 than all of 2019. It is irrefutable that firearm possession is becoming more frequent in our country.

With the increase in lawfully purchased firearms comes the inevitable fact that some, a great deal in some communities, will be stolen and used in a violent crime. More (lawfully purchased) guns in cars means more guns stolen from cars. A Department of Justice survey found that 43% of criminals had bought their firearms on the black market. In 2019, six law enforcement officers were fatally shot in the line of duty. Five of those shootings were committed with guns that had been stolen from their owners. From 2012-2017, an estimated 1,843,824 firearms were stolen in the United States.

More (lawfully purchased) guns in cars means more guns stolen from cars, placing them in the hands of criminals who will use them in the commission of a violent crime. In Tennessee, gun thefts from cars increased from 2,023 in 2016 to 4,064 in 2017. One may ask what occurred during this time to precipitate this increase? The Tennessee legislature passed legislation that dropped the permit and training requirements for guns kept in vehicles. Tennessee State Representative G. A. Hardaway, who co-sponsored one of the bills, stated the unintended consequences were staggering —gun thefts from vehicles increased 100%. Missouri followed suite in 2017 and embraced full constitutional carry. Since then, Kansas City and St. Louis have seen sharp increases in the number of guns stolen from cars.

Tragically, the people that pay the price for these stolen guns are law abiding citizens, and in some cases, innocent children who are the victims of violent gun crime. Presently there are 21 states that do not require a



permit to carry a concealed firearm. The final tabulation of increased gun crime is yet to be determined in these states, but if Tennessee and Missouri are any indication, the forecast is grim for the increase in gun crime.

SB1 and HB44 are pre-filed bills for the 2022 Alabama Legislative Session, which begins 01/11/22, which would eliminate the need for a person to obtain a concealed permit in order to carry a pistol concealed on their person or automobile. You may read the bills in their entirety here: <http://alisondb.legislature.state.al.us/alison/SessPrefiledBills.aspx>

"Reflections" continued on next page



Scan QR code for link to bills



Sheriff's Reflections continued from page 2

I fear that if these bills are signed into law, Alabama will enter into the slippery slope that Tennessee, Missouri and other states have seen with the undesirable outcome with the increase in stolen firearms and aggravated assault with a stolen firearm [crimes]. The proposed HB44 bill allows for individuals to carry concealed firearms “in a facility hosting an athletic event, sponsored by a private or public elementary or secondary school, or any private or public institution of postsecondary education.” I believe most citizens would be wary of attending, particularly with their children, an athletic event with multiple people present and armed with a firearm.



The effectiveness of maintaining public safety and the safety of law enforcement officers as it relates to concealed carry pistol permit possession cannot be overstated. There have been numerous times in my career that a law enforcement officer was able to effect an arrest for someone in possession of a firearm who was intending on using that firearm in a violent felony crime. One notable example of how pistol permits assist law enforcement in apprehending violent criminals is the arrest of Timothy McVeigh in 1995. Shortly after the horrific bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal building on April 19, 1995, one of the deadliest acts of domestic terrorism in U.S. history, McVeigh was stopped 90 minutes after the bombing by an Oklahoma State Trooper for driving without a tag on his vehicle. The trooper noticed a bulge under his jacket and determined McVeigh was in possession of a concealed pistol without a permit. McVeigh was arrested for the weapons charge (his permit was not legal in Oklahoma) and placed in jail. Two days later, on April 21st, McVeigh was identified as the bomber and located in the Noble County Jail where he had been placed in jail for the weapons charge.

The level of violence towards law enforcement officers in the United States has increased. As of November 2021, 314 officers were shot in the line of duty, 58 of whom were killed. This is the highest number of officers shot in one year since these numbers have been recorded. The final year end tabulation will be higher. The recent erosion and respect for law enforcement is more than likely a causal effect. During these turbulent times, the deputies and correctional officers of the MCSO have dutifully carried out the mission without fear or favor, malice or ill will. I am very proud of their dedication and commitment to the public safety of Montgomery County residents.

In closing, I wish to reiterate that I am fully supportive of the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution. I believe in gun rights, and the right for citizens to bear

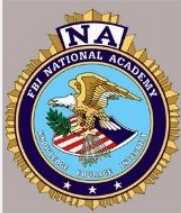


"Reflections" concludes

arms. People have the right to protect themselves, loved ones and their homes and property. As the Alabama Sheriff's Association President, I was recently at the Alabama State House with many Alabama Sheriffs, Chief of Police and state legislators. When I was asked to speak on the issue of the pending gun legislation, constitutional carry, and permit less concealed carry, I asked the elected officials in the room, that by passing the legislation, "What problem are we trying to solve?" No one replied.

References:

- <https://thereload.com/black-friday-gun-background-checks-top-even-2020/>
- <https://www.cnn.com/2021/09/19/politics/gun-violence-spike-2021-explainer/index.html>
- <https://www.foxnews.com/us/where-do-criminals-get-guns>
- <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/gun-theft-united-states-state-state-analysis/>
- <https://www.npr.org/2019/05/09/717178960/more-guns-in-cars-mean-more-guns-stolen-from-cars>
- <https://news.stlpublicradio.org/government-politics-issues/2017-01-02/new-missouri-law-allows-concealed-firearms-without-permit#stream/0>
- <https://fivethirtyeight.com/features/the-u-s-has-a-lot-of-guns-involved-in-crimes-but-very-little-data-on-where-they-came-from/>



SHERIFF'S OFFICE STAFFS FBI NATIONAL ACADEMY GRADUATES

The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office prides itself in employing the most highly qualified candidates to ensure public safety in Montgomery County. In addition to selecting highly qualified candidates, the MCSO regularly enrolls its staff in some of the finest training and leadership programs available. The MCSO participates in curriculums such as the Virtual Academy, the National Command and Staff College, and several other federal, state and local training programs. However, there is one program, the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy, that is highly regarded as the best law enforcement leadership and education program in the world. The MCSO senior staff consists of multiple graduates from the FBI National Academy. These individuals use their experience, education

and training to lead MCSO in a positive direction and improve services for the citizens of Montgomery County.

What is the FBI National Academy?

The FBI National Academy (FBINA) in Quantico, VA, is an executive leadership development program designed for law enforcement leaders across the United States as well as law enforcement and military leaders from allied countries throughout the world. The National Academy was initially created to raise law enforcement values, professionalism and to create standard policing practices in the United States. The NA was established in the early 1930s based on the congressional findings of the National Commission on Law

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Observance and Enforcement Commission. The commission, more commonly referred to as the “Wickersham Commission,” was established by President Hoover to address the increase in organized crime that the country was facing during that era, mainly related to prohibition. FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover oversaw the first FBI National Academy class that was held in 1935. Almost 30 years later, at the direction of President Kennedy, the FBI National Academy expanded and started offering positions to allied countries of the United States and opened the school so international officers could attend along with their U.S. counterparts.

Today, the FBINA holds four classes a year with approximately 250 U.S. and international students attending each session. The Academy is 11 weeks and covers a variety of leadership and academic topics. All academic courses are accredited, and each participant earns graduate and undergraduate college credits from the University of Virginia. In addition to academics, the FBINA puts a significant emphasis on physical fitness along with collaboration and networking between U.S. and international leaders.

Selection Process

The selection process for attendance to the FBINA is highly competitive and only the highest qualified individuals will receive an invitation from the FBI. Law enforcement officials must be nominated by a department head or elected official such as director, superintendent, chief of police, or county sheriff. The nominee must also meet several personal and professional

requirements. The individual must be in peak physical condition, have a proven record of integrity, and exhibit exceptional leadership and technical skills in justice administration. Once nominated, the FBI field office for the candidate’s jurisdiction reviews all nominations and approves those individuals who meet the highest standards. The FBI field office, in coordination with FBI headquarters in Washington, D.C., conducts a vetting process to ensure the nominee meets the standards before being offered an invitation to attend the NA.



FBI Academy in Quantico, Virginia

Life at the Academy

Life at the FBINA is a unique experience within itself. Upon arrival, all attendees are assigned to a dorm and introduced to their roommates whom they will spend the entire 11 weeks with. A typical day for a student at the academy consists of several graduate and undergraduate courses in topics ranging from leadership, terrorism, forensics science, public speaking and media relations, to name a few. In addition to academics, there are daily physical

fitness courses that each participant attends. After hours, most of the 250 students spend time together discussing common criminal justice issues and building relationships that they will carry with them well after graduation.

The Academy is quite large with several convenience stores, social gathering places, and a cafeteria where three meals are served daily. The FBI Academy resides on the Marine Corps Base Quantico (Virginia) and where there is a myriad of activity. The FBI's Hostage Rescue Team is based at Quantico. New FBI recruits attend their initial agent training at the facility. Therefore, the Academy is always active with helicopter flights, firearms training, and different personnel frequenting the facilities. During their time there, FBINA students may take class sponsored trips to New York, Washington, D.C., and Philadelphia. On these trips, they visit sites like the National Law Enforcement Memorial, Arlington Cemetery, the Pentagon, and the site of the World Trade Center and Freedom Tower.

One of the final accomplishments before graduating from the FBINA is conquering one of the toughest physical fitness challenges, the famous Yellow Brick Road. The Yellow Brick Road is a six-mile obstacle course lined with yellow bricks. The course was originally built by the Marine Corps and to complete it, participants must run through creeks, climb over walls, scale rock faces, and maneuver around other obstacles such as elevated cargo nets, and barbed wire barriers. While everyone does not successfully complete the course, those

that do, feel a major sense of accomplishment, and are awarded with a yellow brick with their FBINA session number listed on it. This yellow brick has become the true symbol for the FBINA. Anytime one is noticed in the law enforcement community, there is an immediate recognition that the individual in its possession, is in a unique fraternity comprised of less than 1% of all law enforcement officers in the world.

The FBI National Academy is the pillar of law enforcement leadership development and education. Each session is designed to push attendees professionally, academically, and physically. Upon completion, the graduates return to their respective jurisdictions equipped with increased knowledge and a comprehensive network of leaders to collaborate with over current policing strategies. The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office is proud to staff multiple graduates of the FBINA. These individuals represent the future of the profession and are essential in administering the daily operations of the MCSO and providing the community with best possible law enforcement services available.

Material and information used in this article can be viewed in more detail at the following websites:

www.fbi.gov
www.fbinaa.org
www.ojp.gov
www.britannica.com
www.theiacp.org
www.History.com

VIRTUAL REALITY SIMULATOR HELPS IMPROVE PERFORMANCE



VIRTRA Firearms Simulator

Law enforcement officers in Alabama are required to receive annual continual training and education. Keeping abreast of legal decisions, new law, trends, the needs of the community, and proficiency with the tools that are used in the performance of our duties is of great importance at the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office. To that end, educational material is presented through various means, whether it's a court decision regarding a Constitutional issue presented in shift roll call, classroom instruction, or maintaining proficiency in law enforcement equipment.

One of the most prominent issues at the forefront in our profession is the use of force in the performance of duty. Understanding the law, dynamics that can change in the second, and the abilities of any individual to render a

decision in seconds so that the proper level of force is used is a part of the training regimen conducted by the MCSO. With that in mind, we have been able to purchase, through the benefit of grant funding, virtual reality training equipment that diminishes operating costs and increases effectiveness of training by immersing the deputy into various law enforcement scenarios and situations. These scenarios are designed to test the deputy in the deployment of force and, more importantly, the ability to identify and de-escalate situations that may avoid any use of further force.

The advantage of using a virtual reality simulator is that the deputy is able to reach a high level of realism in a training environment. That realism allows an officer to react as if he or she were in a real-world situation and allows both the trainer and student to identify issues relative to performance. Learning from these scenarios in the virtual world can help improve performance and assist deputies in determining peaceful alternatives when they are available. Likewise, the virtual training environment allows for a deputy to practice de-escalation skills. Scenarios are built into the system that offer the ability for a deputy to talk with a virtual person and utilize the skills that have been taught in various classes (such as crisis intervention) in order to practice those skills for use in real world situations.

The MCSO has both the VIRTRA 300 and 100 systems that are utilized for training. The VIRTRA 300 is a stand-alone system that has 300° of video screens surrounding the law enforcement officer. Training in this environment permits a deputy to remain vigilant to his or her surroundings and to identify possible threats and detect when aid to a citizens is needed. The scenarios vary in length and content and the progress of each scenario can be adjusted by the instructor using computer "branching" options to challenge the deputy in various techniques used to change situations. There are an average of 85 branching options per scenario that include physiological responses that are a part of the system, offering a

Continued from page 7

wide array of potential outcomes and training opportunities. The VIRTRA 100 is a portable system that is used in other jurisdictions to help train agencies who don't have access to this important training. It is housed in an enclosed trailer and is fully operational offering all of the same capabilities as the 300 with the exception of the 300° screen visualization.

While training and professional development are a priority for members of the law enforcement community that serve you, the MCSO finds it important to bring some of that experience to our community. You may have seen the VIRTRA 100 trailer at the Alabama National Fair or the 2021 National Night Out. The MCSO provides the opportunity for citizens to experience the work of a law enforcement officer in a virtual environment, allowing them to understand the myriad of information, scenarios and chaotic situations a law enforcement officer encounters in the performance of his or her duty, and the split-second decisions they have to often times make. Virtual training is an important component for law enforcement training and allows citizen interaction and familiarization with critical issues facing our profession.

MCSO PROMOTIONS AND RETIREMENT



**Sheriff Cunningham,
Corporal Center and wife Christi**



**Sheriff Cunningham and
Corporal Samara Ballard**



**Congratulations on your retirement
MCSO Sergeant Tomas Griffith
February 22, 1999-December 1, 2021,**



**Sheriff Cunningham,
Sergeant Earl Frazier and wife,
Sergeant Delores Frazier**



**Sheriff Cunningham and
Sergeant Anthony Boykin**



**Sheriff Cunningham and
Corporal Jordan Smith**

MCDF 2021 CORRECTIONAL OFFICER OF THE 4TH QUARTER



Corporal Miya Williams

Corporal Miya Williams has proven herself to be a trustworthy and dedicated person who believes in structure. She joined the extraction team in 2020 and has maintained the motto, “A Step Above the Rest.” Corporal Williams responds to every situation within the facility with the mindset of deescalating, resolving and restoring command. Being a voice of reason, Corporal Williams’ firm attitude when assigned an area has earned her the reputation of having a “no-nonsense” demeanor. Corporal Williams often volunteers to work when called upon. She exhibits the characteristics of a great leader within this MCDF. With her dedication, integrity and willingness to learn, Corporal Williams has proven to be an outstanding member of the MCSO and is the Correctional Officer of the 4th Quarter 2021 of the Montgomery County Mac Sim Butler Detention Facility.

MCSO 2021 DEPUTY OF THE 4TH QUARTER

Corporal Kyle Sage plays an integral part in many high-profile cases conducted by the Criminal Investigations Division, whether it is through offering advice, taking initiative during time sensitive investigations, or being a team player. Kyle has become the “go to” person for anything related to digital media, cellular records, or cellular devices. He willingly assists the other investigators in drafting and proofreading sensitive documents related to digital media. Kyle has attended several training classes related to electronic evidence and continues to seek applicable training, which has proven to be very beneficial. Kyle is always willing and able to assist others without hesitation, offering advice obtained from experience and training. Corporal Sage is the 2021 Deputy of the 4th Quarter.



Sheriff Cunningham and Corporal Kyle Sage

2021 MCSO CIVILIAN OF THE YEAR

Ms. Lisa Crenshaw has worked with the MCSO since 2015 and is an indispensable member of our organization. During her time, Ms. Crenshaw has performed her duties in an exemplary fashion. Ms. Crenshaw takes great pride in her work and always goes far beyond the call of duty. She has been a volunteer for most community events. She is always there to assist in a variety of ways to ensure that the event is successful. Her enthusiasm is infectious, and she always displays a positive attitude when engaging with the public. Her portrayal of “Billy Beaver” during the anti-bullying events for our local schools helps educate students on ways to handle the pressures of bullies. Ms. Crenshaw’s dedication to the MCSO and the community is outstanding. We are proud to have her as the 2021 MCSO Civilian of the Year.



Sheriff Cunningham and Lisa Crenshaw

2021 MCSO CIVILIAN OF THE 4TH QUARTER

Ms. Dorothy Andrews is the seamstress for the MCSO. She started working as a part-time employee in 2017. Due to the demands of the position, and managing the needs of over 300 employees, she became full-time in 2019.

Dorothy takes great pride in her work. She asks many questions when fitting MCSO members with a uniform, and often goes far beyond the call of duty when ensuring a uniform comfortably fits, looks professional and reflects positively upon the reputation and standards of the MCSO. Dorothy keeps records of each members’ measurements and can fill a uniform requisition quickly. Her attention to detail is outstanding.



Sheriff Cunningham and Dorothy Andrews

When a deputy is issued a uniform, she ensures there is not a single thread out of place and the seams, patches and tailoring are excellent. Dorothy communicates with her supervisors of the uniform inventory and keeps track of vital supplies that allows requisitions to be filled efficiently. She avoids materials from being overstocked.

Dorothy volunteers in many MCSO activities, often preparing, cooking and assisting in a variety of ways that make our events an enjoyable experience for all. Dorothy has an infectious “can-do” demeanor and is a pleasure to work with. Dorothy Andrews is the Civilian of the Quarter (4th Quarter (2021)).

2021 MCDF CORRECTIONAL OFFICER OF THE YEAR

In every aspect, Corporal Ivey is a natural leader who is very cheerful and inclusive. She's the one officer you call when you need a dependable officer to report for duty. Supervisors acknowledge that Sharone contributes to the squad's improvement daily by showing herself to be honest, hard-working and selfless. Corporal Ivey works with detainees to improve and change their negative behavior towards staff and each another. Corporal Ivey has proven, over the years, to be a vibrant, well-educated and trustworthy employee who always has fairness, custody and control at the top of her priority list. We celebrate her dedication and integrity at this facility. Corporal Sharone Ivey is the 2021 Mac Sim Butler Montgomery County Detention Facility Correctional Officer of the Year.



Colonel Pritchett, Corporal Sharone Ivey and Sheriff Cunningham

2021 MCSO DEPUTY OF THE YEAR



Corporal Jake Shepherd

On May 10, 2021, the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office responded to the reported abduction of a one-month-old, Caleb Whisnand Jr., also known as "CJ." Deputies began an immediate search in the area of Highway 231 North. Multiple law enforcement agencies and resources assisted in an exhaustive search. The Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Marshal's Service, Alabama State Bureau of Investigation, Montgomery Police Department, Elmore, Autauga, and Lowndes County Sheriff's Offices assisted in the case. Within 48 hours, Corporal Jake Shepherd, with the assistance of the local law

enforcement community, was able to determine the missing child was the victim of a homicide. The whereabouts of "CJ" were discovered in Lowndes County. Cpl. Shepherd and the multi-jurisdictional team completed an extremely difficult task in less than 72 hours. An arrest warrant was subsequently issued, and the suspect was arrested.

Cpl. Shepherd is commended for his efforts in this capital murder case, but also for his consistently outstanding work on all assigned investigations.

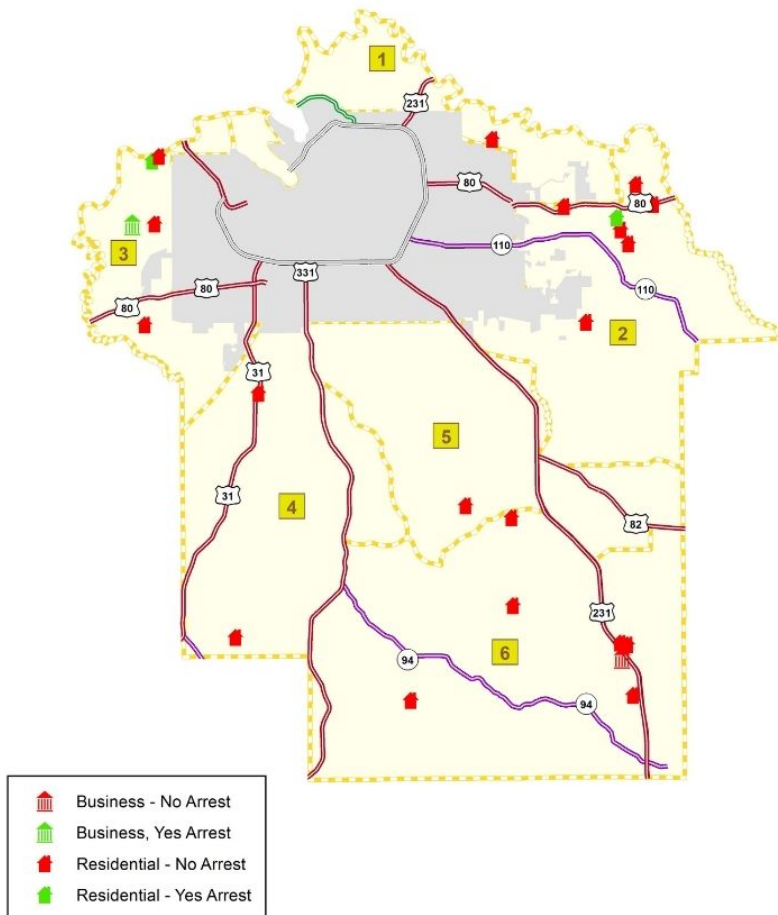
2021 MCDF CIVILIAN OF THE YEAR



Mrs. Yvonne Robinson

Mrs. Yvonne Robinson has dedicated 21 years of service and innovative ideas to serve the Montgomery County Detention Facility. Her responsibilities include requisitions and deposits, but she serves in many other facets, and finds ways to boost morale for the staff to. We all have depended on her for many tasks. She has been eager to assist in spite of a demanding workload. Yvonne is very committed to continuing her duties to the best of her ability and strives to be positive in every situation. Her level of maturity and self-control when dealing with a frustrating situation is remarkable. She finds a way to smile through it all. Mrs. Yvonne Robinson is the Montgomery County Mac Sim Butler Detention Facility Civilian of the Year.

M.C.S.O. 4th Quarter Burglary Statistics



2021 M.C.S.O. INVESTIGATIONS 4TH QUARTER FELONY ARRESTS



Brown, Emil Erice
Destruction State
Property/Inmate
S. McDonough St



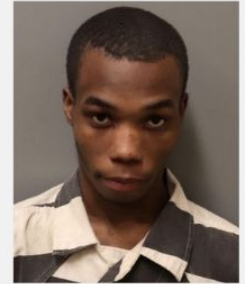
Cain, Keon Deashon
Destruction of State
Property/Inmate
S. McDonough St.



Carter, Brian Keith
Destruction State
Property/Inmate
S. McDonough St.



Chandler, Carl Jr.
Destruction State
Property/Inmate
S. McDonough St.



Davis, Joseph
Assault 2nd
S. McDonough St.



Dejarnette, Corey Jamon
Domestic Violence -
Strangulation
Stone Park Blvd.



Delbridge, Patrick Jr.
Promoting Prison
Contraband
S. McDonough St.



Edwards, Saquan
Destruction State
Property/Inmate
S. McDonough St.



Ford, Brantely Djon
Rape 1st
Stone Park Blvd.



Fountain, Kardarius
Deitra
Destruction State
Property/Inmate
S. McDonough St.



Frazier, Gabriel Marquintin
Receiving Stolen Property
4th Warrants Signed
Norman Bridge Rd.



Gipson, Isiah Jamal
Domestic Violence - Strangulation
Warrants Signed U.S. Hwy. 80E



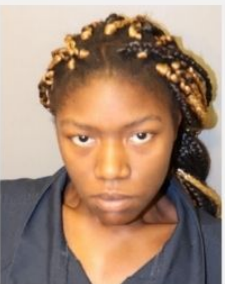
Grant, Shykeem Kartarell
Promoting Prison
Contraband
S. McDonough St.



Gresham, John Spiers
Destruction State
Property/Inmate
S. McDonough St.



Gunn, Darius Browney
Promoting Prison
Contraband
S. McDonough St.



Hicks, Lillian Ann
Burglary 3 / TOP 2
Old Selma Rd.



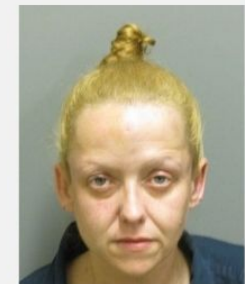
Jackson, Donarian Devante
Destruction State
Property/Inmate
S. McDonough St.



James, Amir Garon
Assault 2nd
S. McDonough St.



Lang, Veric Lavar
Destruction State
Property/Inmate
S. McDonough St.

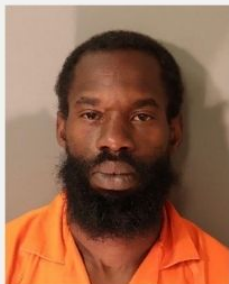


Miller, Brandy Leigh
Fraud Use of Credit Card
Flintwood Dr.

2021 M.C.S.O. INVESTIGATIONS 4TH QUARTER FELONY ARRESTS



Murry, Torquez Jaquis
Promoting Prison
Contraband / Assault 2
S. McDonough St.



Oliver, Melvin Lee
Promoting Prison
Contraband
S. McDonough St.



Phillips, Terrell Dewayne
Robbery 3rd
S. McDonough St.



Pierce, Devion Deon
Destruction State
Property/Inmate
S. McDonough St.



Sankey, Traymon Dekori
Promoting Prison
Contraband
S. McDonough St.



Singleton, Cornelius
Levaun
Promoting Prison
Contraband
S. McDonough St.



Smith, Melvin Lamar
Destruction State
Property/Inmate
S. McDonough St.



Taylor, Omarion
Destruction State
Property/Inmate
S. McDonough St.



Thornton, Anterrica
Burglary 3 / TOP 2
Old Selma Rd.



Toles, Roberico L'Ronde
Promoting Prison
Contraband
S. McDonough St.



Williams, Jartavis Marquez
Destruction State
Property/Inmate
S. McDonough St.



Williams, Quandell Lamar
Destruction State Property/Inmate
S. McDonough St.



Green, Leslie
Domestic Violence 2nd
Warrants Signed
Sanchez Dr.



Sparrow, Matthew
Domestic Violence -
Strangulation
Warrants Signed
Muirfield Loop



Watson, Tristan
Burglary 3 / TOP 1
Washington Ferry Rd.

ICSOLUTIONS OFFERS OFF-SITE VIDEO VISITATION AND TABLETS TO INMATES

ICSolutions is the inmate communications provider for the Montgomery County Detention Facility. They are now offering off-site video visitation to our inmate population. This way a visitor can be at home and still visit their family. The visitor can set up a visit from 8-5 Monday -Friday. This new technology has helped tremendously during the COVID-19 pandemic. All MCSO inmate rules and regulations, as it pertains to proper conduct and etiquette, must be strictly followed by both detainees and the communicating parties. The new phone system allows for friends or family to leave voice mail for a particular inmate. When that inmate makes their next call, the system will notify them that they have a voice mail. The phone system and the commissary system are linked, and an inmate can check their balance from the phone. If an inmate needs funds on their phone account, they are able to transfer money from their commissary account to their phone account to make calls.



School Resource Officers and D.A.R.E. Officers are a valuable tool for our community. We are proud of the efforts our deputies make to help our children become successful. Providing these resources to our school system is a matter of pride for the MCSO. Our involvement in the community has to start with our children and continue through adulthood. Many of the children who had built friendships with SROs during their primary and secondary school years went on to law enforcement careers of their own, or now have children of their own and understand the importance of these programs.

Community service is very important to the MCSO. We understand the importance of law enforcement's presence in the community, not just the deputy on the beat, in a car, or placing someone under arrest. It is about being good neighbors, mentors, and partners.

These tablets will further help the county to go paperless. The tablets are outfitted with a durable plastic outer cover, that is very resistant to damage. They will also have the Montgomery County Inmate Handbook in Spanish and English, request Forms, sick calls, and grievance forms. A Spanish speaking inmate will be able to fill out a request form in Spanish and the tablet will translate it to English for the staff to answer. The inmate will also be able to log into their commissary account and check their balance. This system will be in real time, so as soon as money is placed in an inmate account, they will be able to see it reflected on their account balance. An inmate will be able to order commissary from the tablets and will be made aware of any shortages that the commissary company is experiencing. The inmate will then be able to adjust their order accordingly.

Continued on next page

The tablets will also have games and educational courses. They are equipped with over 30 games ranging from Candy Crush to Solitaire. Inmates will be able to watch movies (PG-13) and listen to music. ESPN and local news will be also be available. There will be a large selection of e-books and audio books. Each inmate will receive a complimentary set of ear buds and given 50 cents on their tablet accounts.

There will be several types of educational courses offered. The tablets will have access to Carreronestop ReEntry. This is a website where the inmates can explore entry-level job postings in the area and locate employment training. This is specifically targeted for ex-offenders reentering the community. This includes state specific resources for help with the basic needs of getting a job. This will also help inmates apply for unemployment and other benefits. The tablets will be equipped with the Khan Academy which teaches classroom learning and can prepare inmates to receive their GED.

The tablets have the Sundar Gutka (Sikh), Quran, BibleGateway, and Religious Library. Tablets have been used by correctional and detention facilities throughout the United States. The advent of communication technology in corrections has allowed the MCSO to provide additional methods for inmates and families to correspond with one another, receive funds, further their educational goals, provide entertainment options, and provide religious opportunities for those incarcerated in the MCDF.

HOLIDAY EVENTS BRING SMILES DESPITE PANDEMIC

The United States is seeing yet another surge in COVID cases. Alabama and Montgomery County are not being spared this struggle. The pandemic numbers are the largest we've since the virus' inception. As of this writing the MCSO currently has 33 members out of work due to testing positive for COVID. We expect this number to increase. For an agency our size, there are challenges due to worker shortage, which is compounded by an [already existing] lack of employees due to the depleted labor pool currently effecting our country. The MCSO has implemented a strategic plan by modifying shifts and shifting personnel to cover areas in need. The 15th Judicial Circuit has suspended jury trials and is only holding virtual hearings and court when necessary. The detention facility has suspended inmate visitation.

We have continued health and safety protocols, personal protective equipment and augmented employee procedures when contact is made with a member of the public. I wish this was not the case, but with the continued emergence of different COVID virus mutations (Omicron), no one is sure when the virus will run its course. We will continue to take precautions until then.

This past fall the MCSO was able to participate in numerous community events they we enjoy doing for our citizens. The Alabama National Fair was held in early October 2021. Our booth had many of the popular static displays that fair visitors have come to enjoy. One addition we are most proud of is a rock-climbing wall for children and families to enjoy. It proved

to be one of the most sought-after attractions inside the Garrett Coliseum. My staff was specially trained and on hand to ensure safety was followed. They were also available to answer questions concerning the sheriff's office, programs and services that benefit our citizens. Despite the pandemic, the Alabama National Fair was a resounding success and will be able to make contributions to numerous worthwhile charities in Montgomery County this year. I will be the President of the Alabama National Fair in 2023 and have been a fair board member and Kiwanian for many years, dedicated to raising money for areas of our community that so desperately need assistance.

Our annual Halloween Spooktacular was held this past Saturday, October 30th. Thousands of children and parents participated in this fun and family-friendly event. We focused on safety while sponsoring this gathering. Children are able to trick-or-treat while in the safety of their parent's vehicle. Reducing foot traffic, especially for the numerous happy children who shared in the evening, is a definite priority to my administration. With that said, we will more than likely keep the drive-thru concept of the Spooktacular in effect in the future. MCSO members volunteer to work the Spooktacular, and directed traffic, staging tables, handing out candy, cleaning and breaking down afterwards. I am most appreciative to the many partners, civic organizations, fraternities, sororities, elected officials, and businesses who join us for this annual event. The children left with overflowing bags of candy and smiles.

During the holiday season the MCSO and the Montgomery County Deputy Sheriff's Association sponsor toy drives and gift donations and giving to those children, families and individuals in need during the holidays. Our annual 2021 Christmas Angel Tree brought in thousands of dollars in toys, gifts, clothing, shoes, and hygiene products. Many county employees give generously to the annual MCSO Christmas Angel Tree. Several members of thousands of dollars in toys, gifts, clothing, shoes, and hygiene products. Many county employees give generously to the annual MCSO Christmas Angel Tree. Several members of



The MCSO saw a great turnout at the 2021 Halloween Spooktacular.



Sheriff Cunningham getting ready for the children at the 2021 MCSO Spooktacular

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Mary Ellen's Hearth



Fountain of Renewal



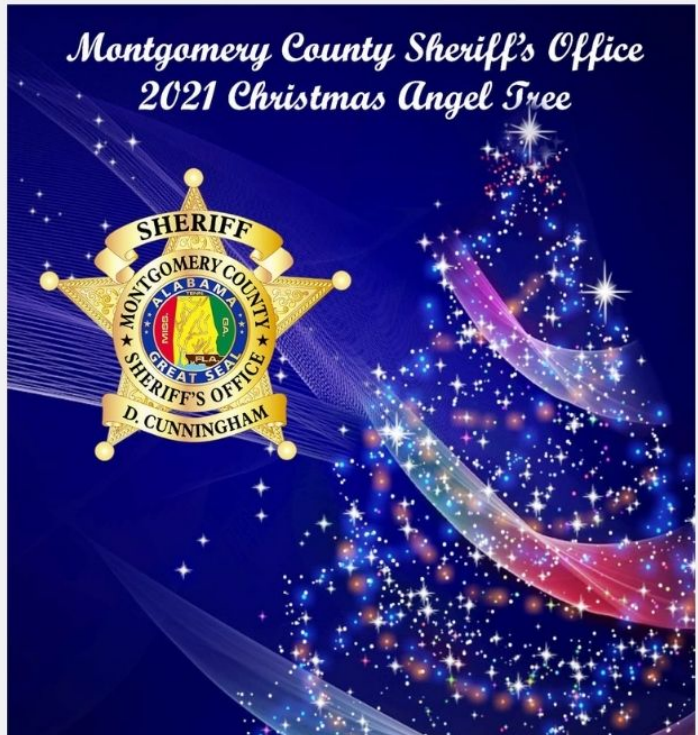
2021 Montgomery County Deputy Sheriff's Association Toy Drive



Aid to Inmate Mothers



New rock climbing wall at the MCSO booth at the 2021 Alabama National Fair





thousands of dollars in toys, gifts, clothing, shoes, and hygiene products. Many county employees give generously to the annual MCSO Christmas Angel Tree. Several members of the MCSO joined the senior staff in visiting the locations where the donations and gifts were distributed. Aid to Inmate Mothers, Mary Ellen’s Hearth, Fountain of Renewal, The Friendship Mission, and individual families all received gifts, clothing and toys to make their holiday bright.

Hopefully we will be able to resume many of our community programs this year, depending on the status of the pandemic. It is our goal to hold the annual Easter Egg Hunt at the campus of Auburn Montgomery in April. Deputy Dave Day in the Ramer area or south portion of Montgomery County is an annual event we hold in May. We also anticipate opening reservations in early April for Camp Show and Tell, a weeklong summer camp for children. It is our desire to begin again holding these events and activities, post-pandemic. Our first priority is and will always be the health, safety and welfare of our children.

I wish all of you and happy and successful new year. We will continue to face the many challenges we face as a nation, state, county and community. My office is always available, and if I or any member of my staff may be of service to you, please don’t hesitate to contact us.

Deirdre Cummins
Sheriff



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Montgomery, AL 36104

