

N N S O

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ON THE INSIDE

Newport News Sheriff's Office — Committed to Making a Difference

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SHERIFF'S OFFICE CHARGE MAN WITH BOMB THREATS

The Newport News Sheriff's Office is sending a strong message that it takes bomb threats seriously.

On March 5, 2013, an arrest warrant was served on 21-year old Devon Tyrell Slaughter after an investigation by the Sheriff's Office traced the phone call to a payphone outside a convenience store located in the 4700 block of Marshall Avenue.

The Sheriff's Office determined that Slaughter was trying to delay his sentencing hearing on a malicious wounding conviction, scheduled the morning of the February 20th bomb threat.

The Newport News resident was in the Newport News City Jail on that charge when the arrest was made. He is now charged with four (4) counts of threats to bomb, a Class 5 felony that carries up to ten years in prison and up to a \$2,500 fine.

Sheriff Gabe Morgan said, "My position is to send a strong message to anyone who attempts to impede the justice system, whether through witness intimidation or by disrupting court proceedings.

We will use all available resources to bring them to justice.

The public should have a high level of confidence in the justice system's ability to not only arrest, but also to ensure they have their day in court without disruption of those proceedings."

This is the second bomb threat arrest made by the Newport News Sheriff's Office (NNSO). In November of 2010, the NNSO arrested a man in connection with the October 20, 2010 bomb threat. That arrest led to a conviction. 🌟



Top: NNSO K-9 Unit responds
Middle: Deputies secure perimeter
Bottom: Traffic control around secured perimeter

BIRTHDAYS

APRIL

Dep. M. D. Bolden	Cpl. D. A. Perez
Cpl. C. Q. Woodhouse	Dep. S. N. Anby
Dep. W. P. Loth	Lt. S. M. Whitfield
Evaundra Timas	Cpl. J. C. Brenzel
Sgt. L. M. Chandler	Dep. K. A. Richardson
Dep. R. A. Andrews	Dep. D. J. White
Dep. R. F. Donato	Dep. R. L. Ellis
MDep. G. R. Robertson	Dep. S. W. Walls
Amy Condon	Dep. D. T. Washington



MAY

Maj. B. Thomas	Dep. C. S. Serrette
Dep. E. Feliciano	MDep. K. L. Taylor
Jasmine Hughes	Dep. G. M. Armstrong
Lt. L. R. Mebane	Dep. L. M. Winfree
Dep. E. J. Carlson	Maj. J. D. Vergakis
Dep. K. M. Waller	Dep. R. Mojica
Dep. T. W. Strother	Dep. M. A. Knight
Dep. K. A. McBride	Dep. N. Agosto-Gerena
MDep. C. R. Agee	

JUNE

Sgt. H. W. McCoy	Dep. A. Ortiz
MDep. C. D. Daniels	MDep. A. L. Pinkney
Dep. D. D. Page	Dep. R. P. Sawyer
Alexandria Morgan	Dep. J. P. Morales
Sgt. M. T. McGee	Dep. S. K. Wall
MDep. D. L. Jones	MDep. C. A. Peake



GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS


NNSO Anniversary:

5 year: Dep. N. Agosto-Gerena 2/2008; Dep. R. S. Forrest 2/2008; Dep. T. L. Jackson 2/2008; Dep. M. P. Johnson 2/2008; Dep. K. S. Penn 2/2008

25 year: Capt. J. L. Vergakis 2/1988

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

- Cpl. W. G. Churchill, **Court Security**, NNSO “Deputy of the Year,” 2012.
- Dep. A. R. Fuller, **Annex**, NNSO “Employee of the Quarter,” 4th quarter, 2012.



CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES

BLE CLASS 12-C



On March 1, 2013, a graduation ceremony was held for Basic Law Enforcement Class 12-C. Pictured immediate left with Sheriff Gabe Morgan are L-R: MDep. A. L. Pinkney, Dep. T. L. Gordon, Morgan, and Dep. D. M. O’Neal-Brooks. Below L-R: Pinkney offers a shy smile of approval; Gordon getting her certificate, and O’Neal-Brooks all smiles on graduation day.



Photos courtesy Dep. D. Jones




FLOWER FUND HELPS CONSOLE GRIEVING HEARTS

Thank you to those who gave to the “Flower Fund” during the month of February.

It is NOT too late to donate.

If you still wish to become a member, please give \$12 to Lt. S. Whitfield, Court Security Commander.

A gift of \$1 per month brings immeasurable comfort to those who lose a loved one.

ON THE INSIDE

The Newport News Sheriff’s Office quarterly newsletter is written and produced by:
 Lt. Kathleen Carey, PIO.
 E-mail comments, suggestions, and photos to:
kcarey@nngov.com

In the Wake of Newtown

Mass Shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School Spawns New Dialogue Over Gun Safety

On January 22, 2013, U.S. Representative Bobby Scott and other members of the House Democratic Violence Prevention Task Force convened the **"In the Wake of Newport: A Youth Violence Prevention Summit."**

The summit was held in Washington, D. C.

Newport News Sheriff Gabe Morgan was one of the six panelists.

The others were Professor Dewey Cornell, University of Virginia; Professor Peter Scharf, Tulane University; Judge Chandlee Johnson Kuhn, Chief Judge of the Family Court for the State of Delaware; Associate Professor Aaron Kupchick, University of Delaware; Brian Bumbarger, Director Evidence-based Prevention and Intervention Support Center, Penn State; and Rashad Burns, 19-year old student at Potomac State College of West Virginia University.

"Not surprisingly, the national conversation has been dominated by debates on gun control and school security, said Sheriff Morgan. "While both are important," he continued, "I think we would be remiss if we did not also take this opportunity to talk more broadly about our failure to adequately invest in approaches that reach at-risk and troubled youth *before* they commit crimes." Morgan said that would lead to better outcomes for the kids themselves and their families, but also

greater safety for the community as a whole.

Morgan centered his remarks on evidence-based prevention and intervention programs that have proven to reduce later crime and violence. He drew attention to juvenile mentoring programs for school-aged children. Most of us are familiar with Big

spoke boldly about preventative measures. His response to critics who say that prevention is not possible because we cannot predict who will be violent is to say, "this argument is based on a fundamental misunderstanding of prevention. We should not assume that prevention requires prediction." For example, Cornell said, we can't predict who will have a traffic accident, but we have safety regulations as a way to prevent accidents and reduce the death toll from accidents. "Prevention does not require us to identify the specific individual who is going to commit a shooting." Preventing violence, not just in schools, but throughout our society, "will take a comprehensive, multi-layered strategy that works on the causes of violence at multiple stages."

Nineteen year old Burns explained why the youth voice is important in creating safer communities. He recognizes that young people are the main victims of violent crime and that they are also the ones responsible for most of the violence in communities today. "When youth can speak out on these issues," Burns said, "they are given a sense of power and responsibility which makes them realize that safer communities can only come through young people *being* the change." He is a product of the Youth Empowerment Program, which he joined in his senior year of high school. It is where he learned to appreciate his neighborhood and the people in it. About the Youth Empowerment Program, "We discussed the importance of seeking change, but even more important, we discussed how we ourselves can act upon the change and become the change." 🌟



Brothers Big Sisters. "For older youth who have already veered off the path and begun to offend, there are a number of intensive family therapy programs," said Morgan. He cited Multisystemic Therapy and Functional Family Therapy as programs shown through research to cut new arrests in half.

Professor Cornell from UVA

A LESSON IN PRACTICAL LAW

On Tuesday, Feb 12, 2013, Sheriff Gabe Morgan talked to about 70 students at Heritage High School. They were sophomores, juniors, and seniors taking Practical Law. This is the time in their lives they are looking to decide what's next.

Much to the delight of the students, he challenged one of them to a push up contest... with the boy quitting first. That broke the ice with the class and caught their attention. Sheriff Morgan talked about his upbringing in Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn, NY. Were it not for the interest of his teacher Miss Range, he could have gone a different route in life. Morgan wanted the students to know he came-up like many of them... surrounded by drugs and crime. Because a caring adult believed in him, he pursued his education. "Education," said Morgan, "is the leveler in this country." He ended his Army career in counterterrorism with multiple decorations. He went on to tell the class about what it takes to be Sheriff before turning his attention to the entry level deputy.

He gets more qualified female candidates than male.



PROJECT LIFESAVER on the FASHION RUNWAY

On January 26, 2013, The Newport News Sheriff's Office Color Guard Team presented a **benefit Fashion Show for Project Lifesaver**, a non-profit search and rescue program.

More than \$3,800 was raised that evening. Ivy Baptist Church Family Life Center on Maple Avenue, opened its doors for the event.

Sgt. L. Chandler said they had four categories: Casual wear, Sports wear, Sunday's best, and After Five-Formal wear. Models included women, men and children. Most were employees for the Newport News Sheriff's Office, or their children. Lt. K. Patrick-Gross, Civil Enforcement Commander and Project Lifesaver Coordinator said of the event, "Let me be the first to thank Sgt. Chandler and her team members for a great success. The event was heartfelt and exciting. They did an extraordinary job with this fundraiser." Tickets included dinner, show, and vendor hall where fashion accessories were sold. 🌟



"You know where the young men are"? he asked the students. Several quietly replied in unison, "In jail." "That's right," said the Sheriff. He first talked about the disqualifiers for the job: drug use and bad

credit. Credit speaks to character. "You made someone a promise, and you broke that promise. Plus, it makes you susceptible to taking bribes." Morgan went on to give qualifications for this career. Entrance pay for a NN deputy sheriff is about \$34K with a high school

diploma.

Youth development is one of the Sheriff Morgan's top priorities. He wanted the students to look at their futures with optimism. "It's about making good choices and decisions." 🌟

FLASH BACK



To EVENTS



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS DONATES TO PROJECT LIFESAVER

The Knights of Columbus Council 5480 held their annual Public Safety Appreciation Dinner on January 26. Charity is the first principle of the Knights of Columbus. True to that principle, the local council made a generous donation to the Newport News Sheriff's Office search and rescue program called Project Lifesaver. Chief Deputy, Col. Eileen Sprinkle was honored to accept a check for \$250.

Bowl for Kids' Sake

Big Brothers Big Sisters Benefit

Lanes at Sparetimes Bowling Alley were full on February 9, 2013 with folks wanting to support Big Brothers Big Sisters. The Annual Bowl for Kids' Sake is a highly anticipated event across the Peninsula. More



than 70 teams brought-in nearly **\$9,000 !!!**

Pictured left, the Newport News Sheriff's Office put together a couple of teams. **Good Job !!!**

Sheriff Morgan is Guest Temple Sinai Breakfast



Sheriff Morgan was invited to talk about gun safety, freedom, and regulations on February 13, 2013.

AMERICAN LEGION HOLDS 'TOP PUBLIC SERVANT' BANQUET

March 2, 2013 the American Legion Braxton-Perkins Post #25 recognized the City's top deputy, cop, and firefighter/EMT at an annual banquet. Cpl. William Churchill

accepted his plaque from the Post's 1st Vice Commander with Sheriff Gabe Morgan (not pictured) in attendance.



LOOK

Forward

to these events:

1 Are You Man Enough?



The men's march benefits the Center for Sexual Assault Survivors. Join Team NNSO or start your own!

What: Walk a Mile in Her Shoes

When: April 13, 2013
Registration @ 10am
Walk @ 11am

Where: Peninsula Town Center
Hampton, VA

More Info: call 599-9844 or visit
www.visitthecenter.org

2 Summer Kicks Off with a Parade



The Denbigh Youth Baseball League Parade is scheduled for Saturday April 13.

Come join us for the "unofficial" kick off to summer.

3 Protect Yourself from Identity Theft

What: FREE Shred Day

When: Saturday, April 20th— 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Where: Farmers Market
Jefferson Ave. & 29th St.

The next NNSO Shred Day will be in August in the north end of the City.

4 Relay for Life —



One Step Closer to Finding a Cure

The American Cancer Society's "Relay for Life" is on May 10, 2013.

Cpl. W. Churchill and Dep. K. Odom, Court Security, are putting together a team for the NNSO.

Those who are interested, please contact them via email:

wchurchill@nngov.com

kroberts@nngov.com

5 Cancer Prevention Study-3 , or (CPS-3)

Research Today for a Cancer-Free Tomorrow

In association with Relay for Life, the American Cancer Society is signing-up people interested in taking part in a long term study called CPS-3, or Cancer Prevention Study-3.

Enrollment will take place during the Relay for Life event, May 10, 2013 at Todd Stadium.

You must be willing to participate in a long term study which involves completing follow-up surveys periodically over the next 20-30 years.

For more information, e-mail:

cps3newportnews@gmail.com

SHERIFF'S Last Word

Dear Team NNSO:

On March 16, 2013, more than 200 people turned-out for the first of two days for the "Second Chance to Make a First Impression: Share Job Fair." This is a job fair for ex-offenders. It is sponsored by the Peninsula Pastors' Council, Inc. and co-sponsored by the Newport News Sheriff's Office.

This day was set aside for preparatory work. Those in need of valid Virginia Identification got help. There was also assistance with soft skills: resume writing, interviewing skills, coaching on what to wear to an interview, etc.

April 13th will be the actual job fair itself when applicants will meet with employers between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. at New Beech Grove Baptist Church.

The large turnout for the preparation day illustrates the need to assist men and women by providing a pathway for their successful re-integration back into society. I am often asked why we should care about finding an ex-felon a job in this tough economy. And my answer is *public safety* and *saving tax payer dollars*.

Think of the alternative.

An ex-con without a job will likely re-offend, be re-arrested and re-incarcerated. Think of the human toll and the financial cost. Within this scenario, you have another victim, and you are putting a person behind bars. In my jail, that's about \$26K per year per inmate. If that inmate has children, there's a good chance you are paying for social services to help care for that child while the parent is incarcerated.

All I ask is that we not discriminate against the qualified ex-felon... the ex-felon who, when all things are equal, is the better candidate. If the person with the record is through paying their debt to society, and has the skills and knowledge for the job (s)he is applying for, please hire them. Especially hire them over the candidate without a record who does not have the skills or knowledge for the position for which they're applying.

Re-entry, prison reform, and restoration of rights are topics of concern across the country. It is a perfect storm. The time is now to make some changes to improve how we do business.

Our tough on crime policies have failed. We have more people behind bars for non-violent offenses like simple

possession. States cannot afford to operate the prisons they do have and don't have the money to build more.

In Virginia, we have a Republican Governor who favors changing the constitution to provide for automatic restoration of rights for nonviolent offenders. Democrats for years have sought reforms to the Commonwealth's rights restoration process.

Re-entry and rehabilitation are not soft on crime approaches. They are practical, effective, and fiscally sound approaches toward reducing crime.

My sincere gratitude to the faith-based community for envisioning the "Second Chance to Make a First Impression" job fair and for making it happen. I implore business owners to participate.

For more information, contact the Peninsula Pastors' Council, Inc. at (757) 727-2586 or e-mail sharejobfair@gmail.com. ☘

Sincerely,



Gabriel A. Morgan
Sheriff, City of Newport News