



The communicator

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 12

DECEMBER 2018

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Sheriff Manuel Gonzales III 1
- News from the East Area Command 2
- News from the South Area Command 3
- News from the Admin Support Bureau 4
- News from Criminal Investigations 5
- Crime Reduction & Safety Tips 6-7
- Department News 8

DECEMBER 2018 Newsletter



Sheriff Manuel Gonzales III

The year 2018 is quickly coming to an end and the Bernalillo County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) is eager to begin a new year. While we have undergone numerous administrative and procedural changes within the Sheriff's Department, we look forward to working with you, our community and visitors of our county to continue to provide you with the superior service you have come to expect.

This newsletter is intended for residents and visitors of the County of Bernalillo, the Sheriff's East Area Command, North Valley Area Command,

and South Valley Area Command. The purpose of our newsletter is to keep an open line of communications between you, the citizens, and us, the deputies, who are sworn to protect you and your property.

Please feel free to forward this newsletter to any and all your neighbors who are interested news, crime fighting tips, and communication from the Bernalillo County Sheriff's Office. If any person wishes to be placed on the internet e-mail distribution list please forward that request via e-mail to tgartenmayer@bernco.gov



News from the East Area Command

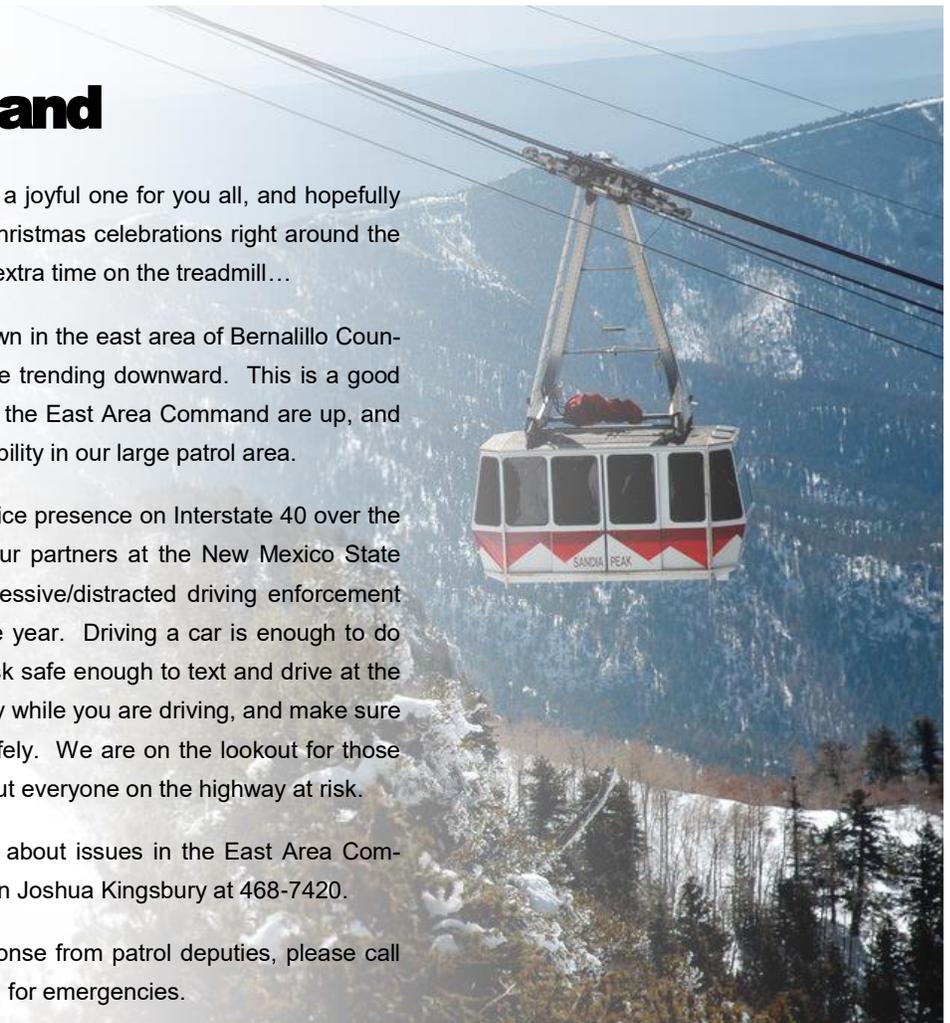
We hope the Thanksgiving holiday was a joyful one for you all, and hopefully no one gained too much weight, with Christmas celebrations right around the corner, it might be time to spend a little extra time on the treadmill...

We are happy to report that crime is down in the east area of Bernalillo County. Both property and violent crimes are trending downward. This is a good sign. In addition, staffing levels here at the East Area Command are up, and we are working hard to increase our visibility in our large patrol area.

You may have noticed an increased police presence on Interstate 40 over the past few weeks. In conjunction with our partners at the New Mexico State Police, we are in the midst of an aggressive/distracted driving enforcement plan, which will continue throughout the year. Driving a car is enough to do for one person, and no one can multitask safe enough to text and drive at the same time. Please put the phones away while you are driving, and make sure that you get to where you are going safely. We are on the lookout for those who choose to ignore this advice, and put everyone on the highway at risk.

If you have any questions or concerns about issues in the East Area Command, please feel free to contact Captain Joshua Kingsbury at 468-7420.

As always, if you need immediate response from patrol deputies, please call 798-7000 for non-emergencies, and 911 for emergencies.



WINTER IS COMING!!

It's not just a tagline from Game of Thrones. It is a reality for those of us that live and work here in the East Mountains. For those that have spent a good amount of time up here, you probably already have plans in place to deal with the coming snows, but for those that may be new, or are looking for some pointers on just how to deal with the possibility of inclement weather, here are some things to consider:

The Bernalillo County Sheriff's Department works closely with other county departments, as well as the State of New Mexico's Department of Transportation to ensure that timely salting and cindering of the major highways in the East Mountain Area

is occurring. Our deputies are tasked with consistent assessments of the Interstates, highways and major thoroughfares of our area, to provide guidance as to which roadways are in need of attention.

While the DOT constantly works on keeping the roadways clear of snow, we all know that it is not possible for them to be everywhere at once, and the weather can often overwhelm their capability to keep up with the sheer amount of snow that we can experience. Rest assured that we are all working to get the roads cleared, and will see to problem areas as soon as possible. If you identify a particularly dangerous section of the highway, please contact us at 798-7000 and let us know.



If you have concerns of a house in your neighborhood that seems to be up to criminal activity (drugs, theft) please report it to Captain Andi Taylor at ataylor@bernco.gov. Captain Taylor will take proactive action and get deputies and detectives on the case!

Drivers should allow themselves extra time to get from place to place during periods of inclement weather. Please remember, 4-wheel drive vehicles provide great traction when driving through snow, but do very little on wet or icy roads. Please do not drive in excess of your vehicle's capabilities. It is far better to arrive at your destination a bit late, as opposed to being involved in a crash. And as always, wear your seat belt.

Consider preparing an emergency bag for your vehicle in the case you get stuck for an extended period of time. Blankets, high carb snacks, water, flashlights and portable radios are some of the things you can put in there.

Please understand that during times of inclement weather, our response times may increase. We too must account for driving on dangerous roads, and as such, our speed going from call to call will decrease. In addition, during times of snow, we are constantly responding to calls for service involving vehicle crashes of all sorts. The department prioritizes calls for service

based on severity, so please understand that if you are involved in a minor crash, you may be waiting for an extended period of time for a response. If no injuries have occurred, and the damage is minimal as a result of the crash, it may be prudent to exchange information with the other driver and call for a police report at a later time. If you choose to do this, the information you should obtain would include the other driver's name, date of birth and driver license number, as well as the license plate information from the car, and the insurance carrier information and policy number from the other driver. This information would allow a deputy to complete a crash report later with little difficulty.

We hope that these tips will help you all effectively deal with the winter weather we all know is coming.

News from the South Area Command

Happy Holidays from all of the Deputies at the South Valley Area Command. It is always our honor to serve and protect in this outstanding community!

As the Holidays are upon us, thieves are out in full force looking to deprive you of your possessions and holiday gifts. Here are a few tips to make you less of a target and keep safe during the holiday season:

- Please be alert when shopping for the holidays. Unfortunately, it is a time when thieves come around.
- Park under well-lit areas; do not keep gifts in your car.
- Shop and then take gifts home as you accumulate them.
- Be aware of your surrounding and the people approaching you in parking lots
- If you encounter a possible thief or are threatened, do not fight; property is not worth your life or safety. Call 911 immediately and be as helpful as possible with information so that deputies can apprehend the criminal.
- Please do not warm up your vehicles in the driveway or street on the cold mornings. Car thieves look for the cars that are left unattended with the keys in them and will steal them quickly. Deputies are patrolling looking for these vehicles and will come knock on your door to advise you of how unsafe this is.
- Remember to drive considerately and kindly during the holiday season with so many people on the road. Many people are from out of town and unfamiliar with the directions in the South Valley, have patience and get home safely.
- Make sure that fires and space heaters are not left unattended. Many house fires start because of space heaters and fires being left on or burning when people are not around.

News from the ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT BUREAU



The Administrative Support Bureau is please to share with you our Bernalillo County Sheriff's Office Mission Statement along with a little history on its function as a Constitutionally Elected Office.

BERNALILLO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT MISSION STATEMENT

The Primary Mission of the Bernalillo County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) includes the protection of life and property; resolution of conflict; creating and maintaining a feeling of security in the community; pro-actively reducing the opportunities for the commission of crime; identification, apprehension and prosecution of offenders of the laws; and the preservation of peace. We accept as part of our mission the responsibility to provide for a quality of life in our community. Our Collective mission is to serve the public and our members with fairness, dignity, and respect.

Sheriff Office Organizational Structure: Including, but not limited to

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

Judicial Operations Division

- Juvenile Court Security
- District Court Security
- Warrants Section
- Records Management
- Payroll
- Fleet
- Regional Training Academy
- Civil Process
- Metro Air Support

OPERATIONS

Field Services Division

- North Area Command
- South Area Command
- East Area Command
- SWAT
- K-9
- Emergency Response Team
- Crisis Intervention Team
- G.R.E.A.T.
- School Resource Officer
- Crossing Guards
- Traffic Unit
- DWI Unit

Criminal Investigations Division

- Homicide Unit
- Violent Crime Unit
- Special Victim Unit
- GHOST Unit
- Crime Scene Investigations Unit
- White Collar Unit
- Auto Theft Unit
- Narcotics Unit
- Sex Offender Registration Unit
- Task Force Unit

Constitutional Authority of the Office of Sheriff:

The Sheriff's Office has been established by the State Constitution. According to New Mexico State Statutes; the sheriff shall be conservator of the peace within his county; shall suppress assaults and batteries, and apprehend and commit to jail, all felons and traitors, and cause all offenders to keep the peace and to appear at the next term of the court and answer such charges as may be preferred against them.

The office of Bernalillo County was established in 1879 and led by Sheriff Perfecto Armijo. Today, Sheriff Manuel Gonzales III currently holds this important position to protect and serve the community of Bernalillo County.

The Constitution of the State of New Mexico Article XX Section 1.(Oath of Officer.), reads, "Every person elected or appointed to any office shall, before entering upon his duties take and subscribe to an oath or affirmation that he will support the constitution of the United States and the constitution and laws of this state, and that he will faithfully and impartially discharge the duties of his office to the best of his ability."



News from the CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

Unit Highlight: Crime Scene Investigations Unit (CSI)

The Crime Scene Investigations Unit is comprised of five detectives and one sergeant. Crime scene investigation is the meeting point of science, logic and law. "Processing a crime scene" is a long, tedious process that involves purposeful documentation of the conditions at the scene and the collection of any physical evidence that could possibly illuminate what happened and point to who did it.

There is no typical crime scene, there is no typical body of evidence and there is no typical investigative approach. At any given time, CSI will be using a variety of techniques to gather evidence from the scene with the ultimate goal of doing so in a manner that will lead to the conviction of the offender of the crime. So what generally happens when CSI is called to a scene?

The CSI Detectives arrive on the scene and makes sure it is secure. They perform an initial walk-through to get an overall feel for the crime scene, find out if anyone moved anything before they arrived, and generates initial theories based on visual examination. They then make note of potential evidence. At this point, nothing is touched.

Next, the CSI Detectives thoroughly document the scene by taking photographs and using special scanners to measure and create scene sketches. Sometimes, the documentation stage includes a video walk-through, as well. Detectives document the scene as a whole and documents anything identified as evidence. Still nothing has been touched.

Now it is time to touch stuff — very, very carefully. The CSI Detective systematically makes their way through the scene collecting all potential evidence, tagging it, logging it and packaging it so it remains intact either for further analysis at a lab, or presentation in an adjudication process.

If you would like to learn more about the Crime Scene Investigations Unit, you are encouraged to sign up and attend the next Bernalillo County Sheriff's Department Citizen's Academy.



General SAFETY/ CRIME REDUCTIONS TIPS

During the Holiday season calls for service involving reports of theft, burglaries, domestic violence, and DWI usually increase. We would like to remind each of you to celebrate this season safely. If you are going to attend holiday parties, please designate a sober driver prior to drinking and or utilize the "safe ride" program to avoid the embarrassment of arrest and **MOST** importantly save a life.

TIPS TO AVOID BEING A VICTIM OF BURGLARIES

The best way to protect yourself, your family, your home and your valuables against a burglary is to take preventative measures. Here are a few tips that may help keep your property safe and secure.

- Make sure you have deadbolt locks on all external doors. Sliding doors can be secured with a dowel in the inside track to jam the door.
 - Make sure all windows are secured with locks or pins.
 - DO NOT hide keys around the outside of your home. Keep an extra key with a trusted neighbor or friend in case you are ever locked out.
 - Outside lights make excellent deterrents for burglars.
 - Make sure shrubs and trees do not block windows or doors. These can be excellent hiding places for burglars.
 - Clean the cartilage of your home. Evidence such as footprint can more easily be found if you are a victim of a burglary
 - Make sure valuables, such as TVs, stereos, computers, jewelry, etc., are not visible from the street. Do not entice the crooks.
 - Teach your children to refrain from speaking of the contents of your home with strangers.
 - Change your routine. Leave for work earlier, or come home for a lunch break if possible.
 - Get to know your neighbors. They can keep a vigilant eye for any suspicious activity in the neighborhood.
 - Make sure that packages being delivered arrive while you are home and can receive them or are delivered to a secure area on your property. You can also request that the Post Office hold packages so you can pick them up at the nearest station.
 - Be aware of scams during the holiday season. Many criminals will try to defraud you out of money with fake campaigns for help and donations.
- If traveling:**
- Do not post your travel plans on social networks. Criminals use these sites to look for potential victims.

HAVE A SAFE
AND LOVING
HOLIDAY
SEASON; WE
WILL BE
FOREVER ON
DUTY TO
ENSURE YOU
ARE SAFE AND
CARED FOR.



- ☑ Leave shade, blinds, and curtains in normal positions to maintain the appearance that someone is home.
 - ☑ Invest in light timers, especially for outdoor lights.
 - ☑ Have someone pick up your mail
 - ☑ Notify the Sheriff's Department at 505-798-7000 to request your residence be placed on a welfare check. This is a list dispersed to all deputies each morning listing the houses that need extra patrols.
 - ☑ Remember to stop your mail, newspaper delivery and let your neighbors you trust know that you will be gone and exactly what cars should be at your house.
- After you open your gifts:**
- ☑ DO NOT place empty boxes, which contained high priced and easily "fenced" gifts in plain sight outside your home.
 - ☑ Remember to write down the serial numbers of any new electronics, computers, TV's, etc. that you receive. In the case that these items are stolen, deputies and detectives have a better chance of getting your items back to you if we have the serial number.
 - ☑ If possible take these boxes to the nearest recycling facility or the city refuse department yourself
 - ☑ Break down boxes to make it more difficult for potential thieves to know what new items are in your home. The boxes are like free window-shopping for thieves.

We are proud of our deputies and once you know more about them we are sure you will be proud of them too!

As the temperatures drop, please bring all pets inside or provide them a warm place to get out of the elements. Doghouses should be heated and have straw in them. Blankets are not enough to keep a dog or cat warm outside when the temperature drops.



The holidays can bring upon severe depression or anxiety for many people. If anyone you know states that they are planning on hurting themselves, talk of suicide or make a statement that worries you please do not hesitate to call 911. All deputies are trained in Crisis Intervention techniques and can quickly get people the help they desperately need.

THANK A DEPUTY TODAY



Want to show a deputy how much you care during the holidays? Simply walk up to them and shake their hand or tell them you appreciate them. This means more to us than we can ever fully express. Knowing the citizens, we serve appreciate us brings joy to our days.



GIVE BACK!

The BCSO is currently involved with several non-profit organizations to provide food baskets and gifts to families and children in need during this upcoming holiday season. If you would like to donate money, clothes, children's gifts, or non-perishable food please contact our Administrative Assistant at 505-468-7100

Any donation can be made at any of our three (3) sub-station. If you choose to make a monetary donation, checks can be made out to the Bernalillo County Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association, which is a 501 (3c) non-profit and donations are tax deductible. All donations are welcome and appreciated.



Local area Costco Wholesale donated) turkeys for our annual BCSO Holiday food basket program. We would like to thank Costco Wholesale and their staff for the generosity showed to families in need during the Holiday Season.

If you would like the "Communicator" to highlight a particular area or division of our Department please forward those requests to Administrative Assistant Terri Gartenmayer at tgartenmayer@bernc.gov