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Sheriff Bobby McCallum bestows honors on many



Levy County Sheriff Bobby McCallum speaks to the people as Undersheriff Brett Beauchamp looks at notes.

Story, Photos and Video By Jeff M. Hardison © Jan. 26, 2017 at 11:07 p.m.

BRONSON -- It took a few hours Wednesday (Jan. 25) for Levy County Sheriff Robert B. "Bobby" McCallum Jr. to make all of the presentations; administer the oath of office; and perform other administrative duties, but the day of recognition heralded the end of regular employment for a couple of retirees and it proclaimed the start of employment for 25 others in the world of law enforcement and detention.

It seemed like a couple of hundred people might have tried to fit in the room as the transitions of professional lives were shared during a quarterly meeting of the Levy County Sheriff's Office.

Undersheriff W.O. "Brett" Beauchamp III opened the event with a prayer. Before he led the prayer, Undersheriff Beauchamp mentioned that one member of the organization is celebrating the birth of their first child now and another member of the LCSO "family" is mourning the loss of a very close loved one.

He reminded everyone in the room to celebrate with their brothers and sisters when it is time, and to mourn with them too when it is time.

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LCSO Lt. Scott Tummond sets up a tripod before the start of the meeting. Photos by the lieutenant are at the bottom of this story



Sheriff Bobby McCallum (left) holds a plaque and shakes the hand of retiring Deputy Steve Ellis.

RETIREMENT

Sheriff McCallum welcomed everyone, especially family members who were present to help celebrate different milestones in the lives of the law enforcement professionals who were being recognized that day.

Charles W. "Bubba" Castell and Steve Ellis officially joined the ranks of civilians as they retired their LCSO badges.

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Liz Sakelson, Castell's daughter, and Margot Ellis, the wife of Steve Ellis, were among the family members present for this event.



Sheriff Bobby McCallum and retired Deputy Steve Ellis



(from left) Sheriff Bobby McCallum, retired School Resource Officer Steve Ellis, Margot Ellis, retired Lt. Sean Mullins and Sgt. Max Long

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(from left) Sgt. Lauree Allen (K-9 handler), retired SRO Steve Ellis, School Resource Office Grant Sandlin and Sgt. Max Long

STEVE ELLIS

Ellis joined the LCSO about 13 years ago, Sheriff McCallum said, as he went from a 25-year career at the North Miami Police Department.

Ellis became an LCSO School Resource Officer as well as a K-9 instructor. This SRO served primarily the Chiefland area schools, the sheriff said.

The sheriff said Ellis served the students with “a servants’ heart,” and many students were sad to learn this School Resource Officer was retiring.

Both Ellis and Castell deserve more than can be given to show the degree of gratitude to them, and to their families, for what they gave over the decades to the residents and visitors of Levy County, Sheriff McCallum said.

VIDEOS CAN BE SEEN THROUGH LINK ON MAIN JANUARY PAGE

BUBBA CASTELL

This is the three-minute video of the sheriff talking about the retirement of Bubba Castell. Standing on the left is Col. Mike Sheffield.

Castell has been in law enforcement for 29 years, after first starting in 1970 and with some breaks.

Sheriff McCallum was a dispatcher at the LCSO starting in 1969 and he remembers when Castell began.

Castell has been the chief of police in Cedar Key, as well as serving in every capacity in the LCSO – including as chief deputy, and finally as one of the bailiffs at the Levy County Courthouse.

The sheriff mentioned they have gone fishing together and eaten a lot of mullet dip. They conducted surveillance together to watch drug runners coming into Cedar Key off of the Gulf of Mexico.

Castell started at the LCSO under Sheriff Pat Hartley in 1970.

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Sheriff Bobby McCallum and retired Deputy Bubba Castell



(from left) Col. Mike Sheffield, Sheriff Bobby McCallum, Bubba Castell, Sgt. Max Long, Lt. Todd Polo and Sean Mullins

LCSO Sgt. Max Long said he first started working with Castell in 1977 “and he kept me out of a lot of trouble.” Sgt. Long said after the retirement event that “Bubba Castell was like a second Dad to me.”

Patty Galyean, now of the LCSO detention division, shared some of her thoughts about Castell.

“Bubba has been an inspiration to a lot of people,” Galyean said, “not just law enforcement and correctional officers, but a lot of people in the public safety field. He also worked with the juvenile division too.”

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“He has raised a bunch of us,” she continued, “and we all wish him well in his retirement.”

Galyean added that Ellis was an asset to the LCSO too, after he moved to Levy County from South Florida.

“He (Ellis) has been great with the canine units,” Galyean said, “which is near and dear to my heart.”

He said he considers the Ellis’s as her friend, and she wishes them well in their travels.

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LIFE SAVING AWARD

In this video (and the photo below taken from the video), Sheriff Bobby McCallum presents the Lifesaving Award to Deputy Shelby Kilian as her shift supervisor Lt. Jimmy Anderson stands next to her.



On April 4, 2016, while assisting a disabled motorist, Deputy Kilian heard a person in the distance yelling for help regarding an infant in an enclosed car at the laundromat parking lot in Bronson, next to Hathaway Avenue (U.S. Alt. 27).

The sheriff said the deputy saw the vehicle was turned off and the doors were locked.

The infant was in the back seat, in direct sunlight. The infant was drenched in sweat and crying, Sheriff McCallum said.

After assessing the situation and radioing for EMS, the deputy went into the laundromat and found the vehicle’s owner – Nelson Perez, McCallum said. Deputy Kilian ordered Perez to remove the infant from the car, McCallum said.

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While awaiting the arrival of EMS, the deputy attempted to cool the child's body temperature.

"Your attention to protocol," McCallum said, "and your professionalism in providing essential medical treatment prior to arrival of EMS personnel is deserving of the Levy County Sheriff's Office Life Saving Award."

The sheriff said he appreciated her alertness and expertise during this tense situation.

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NEW DETENTION OFFICERS

In this video, Sheriff McCallum administers the oath of office to eight of the nine new detention officers – Aaron Berry, Matthew Davis, Joshua Earhart, Matthew Eckenrode, Greg Freeman, William Hunter, Austin Polk, Neil Polimeni and Daniel Ritter (not pictured).

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NEW DEPUTIES

In this video, Sheriff McCallum administers the oath of office to 11 new deputies – Matthew Adams, John Finkell, Tucker Gaffey, Julie Girona, Matt King, Nelson Macias, Ryan Park, J.J. Roe, David Rix, Kenneth Prieto and Kellie Kimpel.

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TELECOMMUNICATION OFFICERS

Four members of the 9-1-1 dispatch center accepted their oath of office on Wednesday.

Those four officers are Ashley Gonzalez, Leslie Gunn, Shelby Sheppard and Kenna Sullivan are the first people to hear from residents and visitors who are calling for emergency help from police agencies, fire departments and ambulances.

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MAINTENANCE



Kelly Weeks is seen with Sheriff Bobby McCallum here. Weeks accepted the oath of office as a civilian employee. He is certified and works in a position as a sworn officer.

PROMOTIONS

In this quarterly meeting, the following people were given promotions: Sgt. Mayra Bowen, Dispatch Supervisor Jessica Collins, Cpl. Jeremy Dean, Cpt. Samantha Foster, Cpl. Zack Hinkofer, Sgt. Kevin Kinik, Cpl. Tiffany Leshar and Cpl. Brandin Sullivan.

YEARS OF SERVICE

Lisa Davis was recognized for 20 years of service. Carl Rogers and Bubba Wells were recognized for 15 years of service. Erika Parise and Zeb Richburg were recognized for 10 years of service.

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EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR

The following pictures were provided by LCSO Lt. Scott Tummond.



In the Law Enforcement Bureau, two people were named. CSI Danette Griffeth and Zebulon Richburg were named as the 2016 LCSO Employee of the Year.



In the Detention Bureau, Brett Boyce (right) was named as the 2016 LCSO Employee of the Year. Detention Officer Boyce is also a longtime volunteer firefighter at Fanning Springs Fire Rescue.

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In the Communications Division Carolyn Watkins was named as the 2016 LCSO Employee of the Year. She was not available for a photo



In the Administration Division Fiscal Assistant Nicole Gore was named as the 2016 LCSO Employee of the Year; Pictured with her husband Sgt. Joey Gore, from the Detention Bureau.
