



# THE TRIAD

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SUMNER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE-  
SRO DIVISION

**ERIC CRADDOCK - SHERIFF**

**TOMMY GREER - CHIEF DEPUTY**

© Jessica Elizabeth Photograph

## WELCOME TO THE TRIAD!

The Triad is the official digital newsletter of the Sumner County Sheriff's Office- School Resource Officer Division. In our quarterly-released publications, we will highlight the new and noteworthy happenings with our SROs across Sumner County (TN).



Pictured above: Howard Elementary School Criminal Justice club outside the new Sumner County Courthouse in Gallatin, TN



## THIS ISSUE:

WELCOME TO THE TRIAD

PAGE 01

FALL ACTIVITIES

PAGE 02

DEPUTY OF THE YEAR

PAGE 03

CRIMINAL JUSTICE CLUB

PAGE 04-05

SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS UNIT

PAGE 06

SCHOOL ASSIGNMENTS

PAGE 07

SCAN TO SUBSCRIBE →



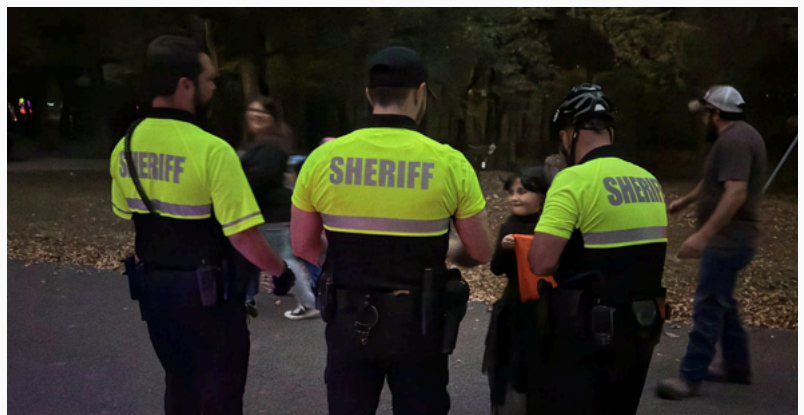


## Fall Fun and Activities:

The fall season has come and gone, and the SROs of Sumner County have spent every week making our schools and communities safer through their presence and partnership inside and outside the classroom. Autumn in the south means Friday night lights on the football field and harvest celebrations. The SROs got out into the communities they serve and spent time building relationships and keeping their students safe.

SROs dedicated hundreds of combined hours this season on the football sidelines and in the stands keeping a watchful eye on spectators and players alike. Basketball season began in early November and our SROs continued their vigil inside the gym (they were very thankful for the heat)!

The SRO Bicycle Patrol spent time with our partners at Bledsoe Creek State Park for their annual Trunk or Treat, handing out candy and patrolling the park. They also attempted to defend their title for “Best Costumes” at the Drakes Creek Trunk or Treat in Hendersonville. All this while patrolling the football stadiums on fields on Friday nights.



Pictured above: Deputy Daniel Green, Deputy Joey Rogers, and Sgt. John Stith hand out candy at Bledsoe Creek State Park

SRO Deputy Terry Wright thought he needed a couple baths to clean up, so he hopped into the dunking booth at North Sumner Elementary’s Fall festival.

SROs helped to protect our communities by hosting a DEA National Drug Take Back event where citizens could come to any drop-off location to get rid of any unused or unwanted medication in a safe manner. Over 500 lbs. of prescription drugs in Sumner County alone were safely disposed of.



# SCSO Deputy of the Year

Joshua Barnes

Congratulations to Deputy Joshua Barnes for being named the 2024 Sumner County Sheriff's Office Deputy of the Year!

Deputy Barnes came to the Sumner County Sheriff's Office in 2021 not knowing the legacy he would build. He began his law enforcement career in 2015 as a patrolman with the Millersville Police Dept., eventually promoting to the rank of Sergeant. Upon his transfer to the Sheriff's Office, he was assigned to the School Resource Officer Division as the SRO at White House High School, where for 3 years, he has undoubtedly left his mark on the faculty and students. Deputy Barnes' greatest passion is all about service and building relationships, which he did frequently by serving the students lunch daily, greeting everyone with a smile, and entertaining as a regular in the school's theater productions.



Pictured above: Deputy Joshua Barnes, Sheriff Eric Craddock, and Santa!

His passion for service goes beyond the school. He has a drive for traffic and passenger safety that led him to pursue a specialty in traffic enforcement. In 2018, he became certified by the National Highway Traffic Safety Council to teach the 4-hour driver safety course. He is a 2018 graduate of the rigorous THP Basic Crash School. In 2019, he became a Radar/Lidar instructor as well as being awarded the Tennessee Highway Safety Office (THSO) Traffic Safety Enforcement Award. Most recently in 2023, he became a DUI instructor.

Deputy Barnes is currently the THSO coordinator for the Sheriff's Office where he helps to organize and report traffic enforcement initiatives. In December 2024, Deputy Barnes made the difficult decision to leave WHHS and the SRO Division to transfer to the Patrol Division where he can continue to educate and lead in traffic enforcement to keep Sumner County roads safe! We congratulate Deputy Barnes and wish him the best in this next chapter.



## Howard Elementary School Criminal Justice Club:

Building Trust and Shaping Future Leaders  
by Deputy Brandon Troutt

As a School Resource Officer (SRO), my role goes beyond enforcing rules and ensuring safety—it's about building trust, fostering relationships, and guiding students toward positive futures. With this mission in mind, I began brainstorming ways to connect with the diverse group of students at Howard Elementary. One idea that stood out was starting a Criminal Justice Club.

This concept arose from a desire to help students better understand the justice system and to demystify the role of law enforcement in their community. Many children's perceptions of police officers are shaped by television or secondhand stories, often leading to misunderstandings or fear. Through an interactive educational club, I aimed to bridge this gap, helping students see officers not as figures of authority, but as allies, mentors, and community leaders. The club also offered students a chance to explore potential careers in law enforcement, legal professions, and public service.

One of the most memorable experiences for our students was a field trip to the local courthouse, which was a first for many. They had the opportunity to observe the inner workings of a courtroom, where they were introduced to the roles of judges, attorneys, bailiffs, and court clerks. Students even had the chance to sit in the judge's chair, learn about courtroom procedures, and ask questions to the judges.

Another exciting activity was a mock crime scene investigation. Students applied what they had learned throughout the club by investigating a simulated crime scene, identifying a suspect, and determining the appropriate charges.

Once the suspect was charged, students participated in a mock trial, taking on roles as prosecution, defense, and jury members. This hands-on experience allowed them to engage with key concepts like evidence, argumentation, and deliberation. It also helped them appreciate the importance of fairness and critical thinking in the justice process.





## Criminal Justice Club continued:

Perhaps the most rewarding aspect of the Criminal Justice Club has been watching students' attitudes toward law enforcement evolve. At first, some students were hesitant and unsure how to relate to an officer in uniform. But through activities like Q&A sessions, role-playing scenarios, and meeting various law enforcement professionals, their confidence and trust grew. The club also invited a wide variety of guest speakers from law enforcement and the judicial system, including detectives, district attorneys, K9 handlers, and Emergency Response Team members, who shared insights into their roles and answered students' questions.

I've even had students approach me in the hallway to ask follow-up questions about the club's lessons, with some expressing interest in becoming police officers or lawyers. This shows that the club is not just an extracurricular activity, but a space where students can develop empathy, leadership skills, and a passion for justice.

This year marks the third year of the Criminal Justice Club at Howard Elementary. In past years, I received around 20 applications from 4th and 5th graders. This year, however, I received more than 60 applications and had to limit participation to 5th graders only. It's been incredible to see the club's growth year after year, and I can't wait to see where it will go in the future.

The ultimate goal of the club is simple yet powerful: to empower students with knowledge, understanding, and the belief that they have a role to play in their community's well-being. By fostering these connections early on, we are helping to shape the next generation of responsible citizens and community leaders.





Current SROs assigned to the Special Investigations Unit:

**Sgt. Darren Rager-**  
Supervisor

**Deputy Cody Brogan-**  
R.T. Fisher Alternative School

**Deputy Jamie Helson-**  
Benny Bills Elementary School

**Deputy Chris Jennings-**  
Ellis Middle School

**Deputy Donny Johns-**  
Hendersonville High School

**Deputy Jacob Sprouls-**  
Howard Elementary School

**Deputy Brandon Troutt-**  
Beech High School-Support Staff

## SRO Special Investigations Unit (SIU):

By Deputy Chris Jennings

In 2021 the School Resource Officer Division began expanding exponentially. This expansion led to the implementation of a special unit tasked with investigating some of the more complex criminal cases arising out of the schools. This newly formed team, comprised of 6 specially trained deputies is called, the “Special Investigations Unit”, or SIU, led by Sergeant Darren Rager.

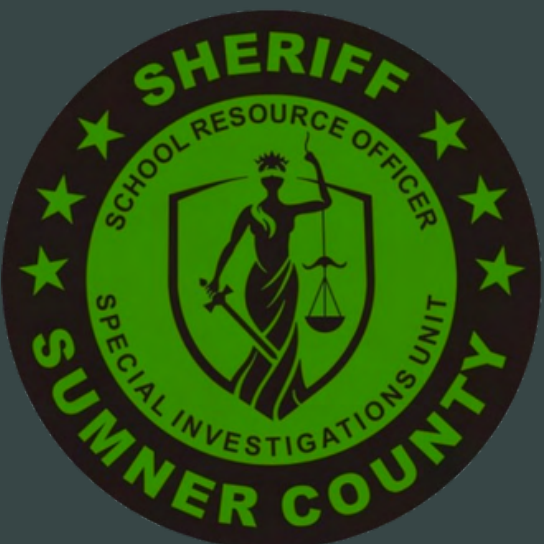
For years, detectives from the Sheriff’s Office Criminal Investigations Division (CID) were called upon to work cases in the schools involving weapons or drug possession, sexual assault, or inappropriate teacher/student relationships, to name a few. As the number of these complaints began to climb, it was apparent we needed to tap into the resources available in the SRO Division to help with these cases.



Thus, the concept of SIU was developed and a screening process to join the team was implemented. Those chosen for the team were found to possess tremendous investigative skills, a willingness to take on extra challenges and an unwavering dedication to the Sheriff’s Office SRO Division. SIU Team Members are routinely called upon to respond to any school in the county, assess the situation and begin an investigation.

Many investigations require search warrants to be written, data analyzed, suspects and witnesses interviewed, and criminals held accountable. SIU Team Members are afforded additional training opportunities to enhance skills necessary for success. They have already been utilized on multiple complex cases this school year which have resulted in successful prosecutions and safer schools.

\*Congratulations to SRO-SIU Deputy Chris Jennings on meeting the rigorous training standards and becoming the Sheriff’s Office’s newest NASRO National Practitioner\*





# SCHOOL AND OFFICER ASSIGNMENTS



## HIGH SCHOOLS

Beech - Jason Ghee  
 Gallatin - Jerry Soares  
 Hendersonville - Donny Johns  
 Liberty Creek - Michael Denning  
 Merrol Hyde Magnet - Chris Hardin  
 Portland - Logan Gann  
 Station Camp - Thomas Briggs  
 Westmoreland - Mike Oliver  
 White House - Chris Rapp

## ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLS

R.T. Fisher - Cody Brogan

## SRO SUPPORT STAFF

Portland HS - Eric Funk  
 Beech HS - Brandon Troutt

## SRO DIVISION SUPERVISORS

Captain Carl McCoy  
 Lieutenant Chris Vines  
 Sergeant Darren Rager  
 Sergeant John Stith

(\*) Denotes NASRO National SRO Practitioner

### Requirements:

- 1.) SRO for a minimum of three (3) years.
- 2.) Complete a NASRO 40-hour Basic SRO course.
- 3.) Complete a NASRO-approved 24-hour Advanced SRO or Supervisors and Management training course.
- 4.) Additional 160 hours of specialized police in-service training related to school safety.
- 5.) Attend at least one NASRO School Safety Conference.
- 6.) Complete and submit the formal application with supporting documentation of all training attended.

## MIDDLE SCHOOLS

Hawkins - Kerry Golob  
 Knox Doss - Wayne Hatcher  
 Joe Shafer - Keith Maddox  
 Liberty Creek - Amy Harris  
 Merrol Hyde Magnet - Chris Hardin  
 Portland East - Don Parker  
 Portland West - Tim Sebring  
 Robert E. Ellis - Chris Jennings\*  
 Rucker-Stewart - Renee Workings\*  
 Station Camp - Nick Given  
 T.W. Hunter - Victoria Eye  
 Westmoreland - Michael Willner  
 White House - Brad Shivers



## ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Beech - Darren Roseberry  
 Benny Bills - Jamie Helson  
 Bethpage - Joseph Brew  
 Clyde Riggs - Brian Hutcherson  
 Dr. William Burrus - Tristan Holmes  
 Gene Brown - Michael Shore  
 George Whitten - James Clark  
 Guild - James Pugh\*  
 H.B. Williams - Larry Burke  
 Howard - Jacob Sprouls  
 Indian Lake - Joey Rogers  
 J.W. Wiseman - Justin Downs  
 Jack Anderson - Michelle Scott  
 Lakeside Park - Mondricus McKinley  
 Liberty Creek - Cliff Nelson  
 Madison Creek - Jeffrey Earps  
 Merrol Hyde Magnet - Chris Hardin  
 Millersville - Stephanie Reaber  
 Nannie Berry - Russell Thompson  
 North Sumner - Terry Wright  
 Oakmont - Chad Warner  
 Portland Gateview - Kia Towers  
 Station Camp - Emily Huston  
 Union STEM- Ron Parker  
 Vena Stuart - Daniel Green  
 Walton Ferry - Stewart Harris  
 Watt Hardison - Adrienne Durham  
 Westmoreland - Guy Barnby  
 White House Intermediate - Ryan Martin\*

All assignments are current at the time of publication and are subject to change.