

Sheriff

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WILLIAM O. "BILL" FARMER, JR. – SUMTER COUNTY

MEMBER, FLORIDA SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION
1010 NORTH MAIN STREET
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Media Release

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Operation "Dry Spring"

Statewide initiative focuses on underage alcohol, tobacco, and synthetic drug usage

Sumter County, FL (April 8, 2013) Operation "Dry Spring", conducted between March 4 and April 7, 2013, was a statewide initiative by the Sumter County Sheriff's Office and member agencies of the Florida Sheriff's Association. The operation focused on issues of vital importance to the wellbeing of our youth, to include the use of alcohol, tobacco, and synthetic drugs by our underage youth.

Alcohol is the most commonly abused drug among our youth. In 2010, more than 189,000 under the age of 21 visited emergency rooms across the United States with alcohol related issues. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, everyday more than 4,000 youth under the age of 18 smoke their first cigarette, and youth who use tobacco, are more likely to use alcohol and other drugs. And, as for synthetic drugs, the 2012 Monitoring the Future Survey shows that 11.3% of 12th graders have used synthetic marijuana in the past year. In 2011, the American Association of Poison Control Centers reported 6,956 calls regarding exposure to synthetic marijuana and 6,138 calls regarding exposure to bath salts.

During the month long operation, Sumter Sheriff's Detectives conducted 67 compliance checks of countywide establishments resulting in the arrests of nineteen (19) individuals who illegally sold alcoholic beverages to an underage person. Each individual arrested was charged with one (1) count of **Selling Alcoholic Beverages to a Person Under Age 21**, a second degree misdemeanor, and bond was set at \$500 dollars. Sheriff Farmer states "protecting the youth of Sumter County has always been a priority and enforcement efforts will continue in this endeavor." Those arrested were:

- SHARON FAYE PARKINSON, 52, of Lake Panasoffkee
- MARY MARVLYN ANDERSON, 49, of Wildwood
- DHRUV DIPAK PATEL, 29, of Wildwood
- BABUBHAI PATEL, 69, of Lake Panasoffkee
- CHERYL LYNETTE TODTENHAGEN, 51, of Webster



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- BRIAN SWENEY, 51, of Lake Panasoffkee
- JANAKKUMAR CHATURBHAI PATEL, 52, of Lake Panasoffkee
- PATRICIA MARIE BENNETT, 46, of Lake Panasoffkee
- RENNA KAMDAR, 43, of Bushnell
- MONICA M. FOY, 35, of Bushnell
- ANDREW X. ALICEA, 21, of Wildwood
- TINA M. BARBER, 29, of Summerfield
- DIPAKKUMAR SHANKARLAL PATHAK, 47, of Ocala
- MARIA FARESE, 69, of Lady Lake
- RILENE A. CRISP, 57, of Leesburg
- JERRY W. REEP, 60, of The Villages
- PRAFULBHAI R. PATEL, 64, of Fruitland Park
- ERENA FLETCHER-INNABI, 47, of Clermont
- RELENA PETTERS, 49, of Crystal River

The Sumter County Sheriff's Office is seeking JAYENDRA H. RAVAL, 56, of Bushnell who is wanted on one count (1) of Selling an Alcoholic Beverage to an Underage Person. The charge is a result of Operation Dry Spring; however, he has not been arrested at the time of this release.

Sheriff's Detectives also purchased synthetic drugs from three (3) different establishments in the county and are awaiting lab analysis to determine the compounds legality. Additional charges may be added depending on the lab results which are expected in the coming weeks.

For further information on Operation "Dry Spring", the Florida Sheriff's Association will be holding a press conference on the statewide initiative on April 11, 2013 at 11:00 a.m. EST at the Polk County Sheriff's Office, Sheriff's Operations Center. 1891 Jim Keene Blvd. Winter Haven, Florida.

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