

# Harveys to bring diverse lineup to summer concerts

The start of the Harveys Outdoor Concert Series in Stateline is less than one month away.

This year will feature more events than it has in its history. A range of genres are represented, including a comedienne. There are veterans of the venue and newcomers.

The lineup includes:

- June 16 – Slightly Stoopid
  - June 23 – Robert Plant, Los Lobos opening
  - July 3 – Kenny Chesney
  - July 13 – Pitbull
  - July 17 – Phish
  - July 18 – Phish
  - July 21 – Keith Urban
  - July 22 – Keith Urban
  - July 25 – Luke Bryan
  - July 26 – Chris Stapleton
  - Aug. 9 – Florence & The Machine
  - Aug. 10 – Janet Jackson
  - Aug. 12 – Amy Schumer
  - Aug. 17 – Steve Miller & Peter Frampton
  - Aug. 18 – Charlie Puth
  - Aug. 24 – Donny & Marie Osmond
  - Aug. 31 – Scorpions
  - Sept. 7 – Dave Matthews Band.
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# Road Beat: 2018 Lexus LC500h, the epitome of motoring



The 2018 Lexus LC500h is worth the money. Photos/Larry Weitzman

**By Larry Weitzman**

Let's just start this Road Beat with a bang, a very big bang. The Lexus LC500h is perhaps the best car I have ever driven. The best. It is an absolute tour de force of automotive technology, performance, handling, ride, quiet, style and fuel economy. Yeah, it costs a hundred Gs, but anything close to it costs double. In other words, as super cars go, it's a bargain, too.

Styling is about as slick as it gets. The fuselage is a coke bottle with smooth flowing wheel flares of bulging muscles. Significant details such as a hood line disappearing into the

"A" pillar, the floating roof or the slightly ovoid windshield make this Lexus one of the best-looking cars ever. Forged 20-inch gorgeous alloys with 245/45 and 275/40 series tires fully fill up those wheel wells. Most of us don't like fat butts, but in the automotive world it looks fabulous when the rear dominates. Even the Lexus L'finesse grille looks good in black and it basically follows the overall shape of the grille.

It's not a small car riding on a long 113-inch wheelbase and an overall length of a smaller mid-size sedan at 187 inches. Hey, but it has a back seat. Maybe not for adult humans, but it's there. And it even has a well-shaped trunk of 5 cubic feet. It easily swallowed a 40-pound bag of dog food. It could have handled two. And while it looks as wide as an aircraft carrier, it's a bit svelte at just below 76 inches. It looks wider. Kudos to Lexus for creating such a great optical illusion. And it's not like a GT40 which was only 40 inches tall (hence its name), it actually is 53 inches and ingress and egress is easy. In another Lexus illusion, LC looks lower. Interestingly, the co-efficient of drag is 0.33. It looks much more of a wind cheater, but spoilers (downforce) must play a part in its incredible handling.



### **Specifications**

**Price** about \$100,000

### **Engine**

3.5L DOHC, 24 valve V-6 295  
hp @ 6,600 rpm  
257 lb.-ft. of torque @

4,900 rpm

### **Electric System**

L-i battery pack

59 hp electric motor to rear wheels

Total combined 354 hp

### **Transmission**

Four speed multistage hybrid transmission

### **Configuration**

Longitudinal                      Front  
engine/rear wheel drive

### **Dimensions**

Wheelbase 113.0 inches

Length 187.4 inches

Width 75.6 inches

Height 53.0 inches

Track (f/r) 64.2/64.4 inches

Ground clearance 5.5 inches

Weight 4,435 pounds

GVWR 5,430 pounds

Weight distribution (f/r)  
52/48

Fuel capacity 22.2 gallons

Trunk capacity 4.7 cubic  
feet

Steering lock to lock 2.6  
turns

Turning circle 35.4 feet

Wheels 20-inch alloys

Tires                                      (f//r)  
245/45X20//275/40X20

Co-efficient of drag 0.33

### **Performance**

0-60 mph 4.28 seconds

50-70 mph 2.08 seconds

50-70 mph uphill 2.62

seconds

Top speed Electronically  
limited at 155 mph

Fuel economy EPA rated at  
26/36/30 mpg

city/highway/combined.

Expected 41 mpg on the  
highway at legal speeds and  
32-35 mpg in rural, suburban  
driving.

LC500s come in two versions, the hybrid "h" version and the throbbing, 471 hp (at a sky high 7,100 rpm) 5.0L V-8. My tester was the hybrid with a less throbbing 3.5L, DOHC, 24 valve, Atkinson Cycle V-6 that at 6,600 rpm peaks at 295 hp and 257 pounds of twist at 4,900 rpm. But it gets an electric kicker also driving the rear wheels, a 59 hp electric motor that brings its combined total power to 354 hp. Doesn't sound like a lot for a \$100K supercar, but the horses must be the size of elephants as its performance is almost unbelievable.

How about 0-60 mph in 4.28 seconds? Lexus says 4.7, but they must have forgot to release the parking brake. It will run from 50-70 mph on a level highway in 2.06 seconds and going up a steep grade is barely noticeable as that time only falls off to 2.62 seconds. If it had fins, it could go to the moon. And the car weighs at the curb a portly 4,435 pounds. Interestingly, the larger V-8 is about 20 pounds lighter. Weight balance in the hybrid is better at a perfect 52/48. It's one of the quickest cars the Road Beat has ever tested and certainly the quickest car with less than 360 hp by a country mile. Credit Lexus with the creation of the Super Horse.

Shifting from the four-speed multistage transmission was quick and a muted crisp. It claims only four gears, but feels like about 10 speeds as the rpm drops in a shift acted as such.

Lexus also gives you five driving modes, all with different characteristics, normal which I used, but there is eco, comfort, sport and sport plus which changes the tach for easier reading. It's all good, very good.

Here's what is so amazing with this Lexus, it returns the fuel economy of a compact car. In a 200-mile round trip from Placerville to Carson City over Highway 50, this literal rocket ship averaged 38.7 mpg. The EPA test cycle says you should get 26/35/30 mpg in the city/highway/combined test cycle, but in an 80-mile round trip on a mostly level highway, the LC500h averaged 41.6 mpg. Overall it averaged between 33-35 mpg for the 500 miles of driving including 50 miles of some serious road work wringing out the LC handling characteristics. It was again amazing.

Never was a motor vehicle so easy to drive fast and quick in the twisties, and I mean fast. This is the best handling car the Road Beat has ever tested with more grip than 5 pounds of Gorilla Glue. Steering while lacking some feel was quick and super accurate almost never requiring mid-corner adjustments or corrections. It is easy to drive fast. Its creds are obvious, a state of the art multilink suspension in all four corners, the electric power steering rack is a variable speed sensing system, tires, either Bridgestone, Dunlop or Michelin are designed for performance, but still offer serene comfort and low tire noise and if you get over exuberant, huge four-wheel ventilated discs with six piston calipers up front and four piston calipers in the rear will arrest all unnecessary speed. Only once did the LC understeer in an off camber decreasing radius sharp lefty. But it always remained composed, planted and secure.

Ride quality is serene, especially in relaxed motoring, not slow but relaxed. Yes, the ride is firm, but it absorbs bumps like a world class fighter and the highway ride is about the best encountered. I know superlatives abound in this Road Beat, however, this is a superlative motor vehicle.

Comparisons to a 6 Series BMW abound, but the Lexus wins in almost all counts. And we haven't got to the spectacular interior and fit and finish. Engine speed at 70 mph appeared to be about 1,500 rpm, but sometimes it was zero, running EV and other it was idling at 1,000 rpm. Whatever it was, it was silent unless your foot got into it and then the V-6 would let out a muted roar.

I've mentioned the incredible brakes, but there are also all the safety acronyms of which the Traction Control or the Vehicle Stability System sometimes intercedes with the fun, retarding throttle or even braking. I didn't take time to try and turn it off. Probably not a good idea. Headlights were fabulous especially with the auto high beam system.

We are not done yet. Inside was one of the best, if not the best interiors ever encountered. With the flawless outside white finish was the semi-aniline soft tan leather seating and Alcantara head liner and door panels. Bolstering was the best and the overall design beautiful.

If there is a knock, it's the radio system. The mouse touch pad has got to go. It is difficult and distracting. Maybe it's designed to entertain a 10-year-old Apple phone wizard, but not normal adults. In fact, I never could get my phone on their Bluetooth system. But for this, the LC would be a perfect car.

Pricing for the LC500h started at \$96,510, plus \$995 for the luxo boat suite from Aichi, Japan. My ride had a few upgrades, \$1,100 for the Convenience package which includes blind spot, park assist and rear cross traffic alert, \$500 for the heads-up display, \$1,750 for the Semi-aniline leather and Mark Levinson sound system, \$65 for aa trunk/cargo net, \$20 for the key glove and \$105 for carpeted floor mats bringing the price of admission to \$101,385. When compared to the competition (if any), it's a bargain.

*Larry Weitzman has been into cars since he was 5 years old. At 8 he could recite from memory the hp of every car made in the U.S. He has put in thousands of laps on racetracks all over the Western United States.*

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# Studying chimpanzee calls for clues about human language origins

**By Michael Wilson, The Conversation**

Freud, Wilkie and the other chimpanzees peacefully fed and rested in the sun-dappled Tanzanian forest. Mzee Hilali stood next to me, writing notes on the chimpanzees' behavior, as he had been doing for over 30 years as a field assistant for Jane Goodall's long-term study at Gombe National Park.

Suddenly, a strange, high-pitched call sounded from where some other chimpanzees were feeding, about a hundred meters from us. Hilali turned to me, and with a little laugh, said, "Nyoka." This was the Swahili word for "snake."

Freud climbed down from his tree and walked quickly toward where the call had sounded, with Hilali following close behind. As I slowly made my way through the undergrowth to catch up with them, Hilali called to me: "Chatu!" "Python!"

When I caught up with Hilali, he was pointing to a tangled mass of leaves and vines on the forest floor. I looked closely – most of the snake lay hidden from view, but the one visible stretch of black and tan scaly hide was too big to be anything but a python.

From years of experience, Mzee Hilali knew instantly that this particular chimp call meant they'd found a snake. Does this mean that chimpanzees have a "word" for snake? Do chimpanzees have a language of their own? I've been working with a team of students and Tanzanian field assistants to record and analyze chimpanzee vocalizations in an effort to answer questions like this. Ultimately we hope to learn more about how human language first evolved.

## **Clues to the origins of language**

Chimpanzees are among human beings' closest living relatives, and they share with us many unusual traits. Like humans, chimps make and use tools; join together in groups to hunt animals like monkeys; defend group territories; and sometimes gang up on and kill their enemies.

One trait that seems to set humans apart from every other species, however, is a fully developed language. Other animals communicate, but only humans appear able to talk about an unlimited variety of topics. Language enables us to make plans, negotiate with and teach one another.

How and why language evolved remains a mystery. Much of the evidence of human evolution comes from fossils, but fossil bones don't tell us much about soft tissues or the sounds early human ancestors made. Studying the communication patterns of our living relatives can help solve the mystery.

If some features of chimpanzee communication resemble language, we can study chimpanzees further to find clues for why those features evolved. If chimpanzee communication doesn't share much in common with human language, then the key steps in language evolution must have occurred after our lineages separated (around 7.9 million years ago) for reasons unique to our human lineage.

## **Recording in the forest**

To investigate chimp communication, my colleagues and I follow chimpanzees through the forest as they go about their lives. We carry a hand-held "shotgun" microphone and a digital recorder, waiting for them to call.

Usually we pick a particular chimp to follow each day, trying to get equal numbers of calls per individual. In addition to recording new calls, we've been working to build an archive of recordings from other researchers, going back to the 1970s. The archive currently contains over 71 hours of recordings.

Snake alarm calls are intriguing, but because chimps don't encounter large snakes very often, it is hard to do a systematic study of them. (Cathy Crockford and colleagues have done some interesting experiments, though, playing back recordings of these calls to see how chimpanzees respond and presenting them with model snakes). One thing chimpanzees do every single day, though, is eat. Chimpanzees spend most of their time looking for food and eating it. And when they find food, they often give a particular kind of call: the rough-grunt.

Biologist Lisa O'Bryan studied rough-grunt calls for her dissertation research with me. They vary from low, noisy grunts to higher-pitched calls. Some researchers have proposed an intriguing possibility: Maybe chimpanzees make distinct kinds of rough-grunt calls in response to particular foods, rather like words that name certain food items.

But O'Bryan has found that when eating any one kind of food, chimpanzees can produce a range of different rough-grunts. Rough-grunts thus tell other chimps that the caller is eating, but they don't say what's for dinner.

Just as a particular alarm call informs others that a snake has been found, the thin, wavering tones of a copulation scream announce that a mating has just taken place.

Why female chimpanzees sometimes give such a scream just as

they finish mating remains unknown. Because the data collected by Mzee Hilali and other field assistants since the 1970s have been entered into a computer database, we can readily examine thousands of different mating events.

My student Tony Massaro has been analyzing these data to try to tease out what factors make females more likely to produce these calls. Such calls aren't particularly word-like, but they do play an important role in communication. Like many wordless sounds that people make – think laughter, screams and crying – listeners hearing the sounds can infer quite a bit about the caller's situation.

When Jane Goodall gives public talks, she often begins by giving a pant-hoot: a loud call that begins with an introduction, followed by a build-up, a climax and a let-down. Pant-hoots are loud and enable chimpanzees to communicate over long distances through the forest.

Previous studies have found differences in the pant-hoots calls from different regions. For example, the pant-hoots from Gombe sound a bit different from those made by chimpanzees in Mahale, 160 km away. When I played recordings of a single Mahale pant-hoot call to chimpanzees in Kibale Forest, Uganda, the Kibale chimpanzees acted as if they had just heard an intruder. If they were in a group with three or more males, they gave a loud vocal response and rapidly moved towards the speaker.

If they were in a group with only one or two males present, though, they stayed quiet, and if they approached, did so slowly and cautiously.

For chimpanzees, correctly telling friend from foe is a matter of life or death, so it would make sense for chimpanzees in neighboring groups to have distinctive pant-hoot calls.

Cathy Crockford and colleagues found that pant-hoots from different communities within Taï Forest, Côte d'Ivoire, also

sound distinct. If such group-level differences result from vocal learning, they would be rather like dialects in human languages.

My student Nisarg Desai has been testing whether this is also the case at Gombe. We've been working with a team of Tanzanian field assistants, Hashimu Issa Salala and Nasibu Zuberi Madumbi, to record calls from the Mitumba and Kasekela chimpanzees, and are starting to test for differences between groups.

We are in the early stages of this analysis.

Chimpanzees might be capable of some degree of vocal learning, but I'm struck by how subtle the differences in pant-hoot calls are from place to place. Chimpanzees make lots of different calls – pant-hoots, pant-barks, waa-barks, pant-grunts, rough-grunts, and so on – but across Africa, all chimpanzees produce a pretty similar set of calls in similar circumstances. In this respect, chimpanzee calls resemble human sounds like laughter and crying more than they resemble human words, which can vary drastically from place to place.

Chimpanzees communicate effectively with their various sounds, but in ways quite similar to those of other nonhuman primates. This suggests that our common ancestor with chimpanzees also had a fairly typical repertoire of vocal communication for a nonhuman primate. The really big changes in human language – such as a lifelong ability to learn to make entirely new sounds and a rich symbolic meaning of such sounds – likely evolved later, for reasons that we still don't understand.

*Michael Wilson is an associate professor of ecology, evolution and behavior at University of Minnesota.*

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# Pianist to be featured at Summer MusicFest

Michael Angelucci will be the guest pianist for the TOCCATA-Tahoe Symphony during the the 13th annual Summer MusicFest.

Performances will feature Beethoven and Mozart.

Performances will be:

- June 2 4pm at Cornerstone Church, Incline Village
- June 3 4:30pm at Methodist Church, Gardnerville
- June 8 7pm at St. Theresa Church, South Lake Tahoe
- June 10 4pm at St. John Church, Reno.

Tickets are available at the door or **online**. General admission are \$30, seniors \$25. Preferred seating is \$40, \$25 for youth/student. Youth and students with ID under 23 years of age are free, in non-reserved seating at most regular season concerts in 2018.

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## North Tahoe firefighting in the 1950s

By Pat Dillon, Moonshine Ink

A gleaming red fire engine roars by, a paramedic ambulance close behind. Arriving at the scene, the firefighters attack the fire, assess the wrecked car, or stabilize the sick or injured person. On the North Shore, we're fortunate to have the expertise and equipment to handle almost any emergency,

but has it always been this way?

The North Tahoe community has only had a year-round population since the 1920s. At that time, there were just a few hardy families that stuck it out through the often brutal winters. After World War II, however, people built more homes, established businesses, and the towns of Kings Beach and Tahoe City expanded.

During summer, the U.S. Forest Service provided fire protection, with engines equipped with small water tanks for fighting brush fires. While adequate for the infrequent forest fire problem, these units and the rangers that staffed them were not equipped to deal with structure fires. In winter, the residents were left to handle blazes themselves. Even into the 1950s, bucket brigades were still used by neighbors to fight fires.

**Read the whole story**

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## **Free tuition for select LTCC students**

Starting this fall, all first-time, full-time California residents or AB540 eligible students attending Lake Tahoe Community College will pay zero tuition their first year.

The Lake Tahoe College Promise is available to any student who is attending college for the first time.

“Finances can be a huge barrier for those considering a post-high school education,” Jeff DeFranco, LTCC’s president, said in a press release. “We are proud to be a leader in this

movement of opportunity by providing a first-rate, affordable education that equips students with the skills to attain a good-paying job, transition to a four-year institution either on our campus or elsewhere, or advance in their current careers.”

In addition to free tuition for a year for qualifying students, LTCC also offers a range of campus resources and programs that can help students achieve success. Among these is the Open Educational Resources Initiative, which works to supply free or reasonably priced textbooks and other course materials. Other resources include laptop rentals, unlimited free bus transportation within the South Shore, free tutoring and mentoring services, writing help, and academic counseling.

For more information about the Lake Tahoe College Promise or Lake Tahoe Community College, go **online**.

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## Music institute to be part of Classical Tahoe

Classical Tahoe is launching a music institute this summer for all ages and abilities. It’s an opportunity to actively engage with music and musicians.

The music institute is lead by Truckee native Lindsay McIntosh (néé Hollingshead). McIntosh has a personal connection to the community as one of the only graduates of Truckee High to attend the Juilliard School on full scholarship. McIntosh is a historical oboist by trade and the deputy director of Classical Tahoe.

Venues and times for music institute events vary. Go **online**

for more info.

The festival is July 8-Aug. 12.

Among the list of new opportunities is the inaugural Jazz Master Class, where renowned jazz musician Chris Brubeck will work with participants from Tahoe area high school jazz bands, teaching the art of jazz performance. The Classical Tahoe season concludes with a concert on Aug. 12 featuring the four jazz masters of the Brubeck Brothers Quartet.

Concerts begin at 7pm at the Classical Tahoe Pavilion at Sierra Nevada College in Incline Village. Concert ticket prices are \$25, \$55, \$85 and \$120. Chamber music concerts are \$30. Student tickets half off.

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# **The art of water-wise gardening**

**By Melinda Myers**

Making a few changes in your garden care can yield great benefits. Less time and water wasted means more time for you to relax or entertain friends and family in your beautiful landscape. Water is critical throughout the life of a plant, but deciding when and how much water to provide each plant can be a bit overwhelming. Make this task easier and conserve moisture with these simple strategies.

Start by matching plants to your growing conditions. Selecting plants suited to your climate, soil moisture and average rainfall means healthier, better-looking plants and productive gardens with less supplemental water.



Drip irrigation systems allow you to slowly apply water right above the plant roots, encouraging the development of deep, drought-tolerant roots.

Photo/Gardener's Supply Company

Incorporate organic matter such as compost into the soil prior to planting. This helps the soil more efficiently absorb rainfall and irrigation water. Less runoff means less water wasted. Adding organic matter also increases the ability of fast-draining soil to hold moisture, extending the time between watering.

Mulch the soil with organic materials such as shredded leaves, evergreen needles or woodchips. Mulching helps conserve moisture while suppressing weeds and improving the soil as it decomposes. Plus, you'll be recycling landscape trimmings back into the landscape and the environment. It's green gardening.

There will still be times you need to lend nature a hand. Sprouting seeds, young seedlings and new transplants need consistent moisture to grow and establish a root system. Most annual flowers and vegetables also need consistent moisture throughout the season.

Newly planted perennials, trees and shrubs also need more attention and water than established plants with deeper roots

able to absorb more moisture. During extended dry periods, even established plants will need supplemental water.

Providing the right amount of water at the right time can be a challenge. Doing it efficiently to avoid wasting time or water can help ensure your gardening success.

Take the guess work out of watering with a drip irrigation system. Drip irrigation systems allow you to apply water to the soil right above the plant roots, exactly where it's needed.

Run a line next to each row of plants – or every 18 inch in planting beds. The water slowly seeps through the holes and into the soil below. The slow, steady flow moistens the root zone, encouraging the development of deep, drought-tolerant roots.

Just turn on the faucet, set the timer and let the irrigation system do the work. This reduces the risk of frequent, ineffective watering which leads to shallow roots growing just below the soil surface where they dry out quickly. High temperatures or missed irrigation can stress shallow rooted plants, reducing their beauty and productivity.

The use of appropriate irrigation, mulching and organic matter can make a huge difference in the quality of your landscape – and your enjoyment of your garden.

*Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including "Small Space Gardening." She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" DVD series and the nationally syndicated "Melinda's Garden Moment" TV and radio segments.*

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# Athletes are ditching ibuprofen for CBD

By Graham Averill, Outside

Andrew Talansky is almost always sore. The 29-year-old spent seven years as a professional cyclist racing for Slipstream Sports. He recently switched to triathlon and now spends hours training both on and off the bike. "I'm using muscles I haven't used in years," Talansky says. "My body is constantly inflamed." Many athletes in his situation rely on common pain relief like ibuprofen, but when Talansky strained a hip flexor last fall, he reached for a bottle of cannabidiol (CBD), an extract from the cannabis plant, instead.

"I took it for a couple of weeks, and there was a noticeable difference immediately," Talansky says. "And it wasn't just that my hip was feeling better. I was less anxious, and I was sleeping better."

Marijuana has long been considered an alternative pain medication, with THC, the principle psychoactive compound in the plant, getting most of the attention. CBD is another active component and could offer some of the same medical benefits (anti-inflammatory, anti-anxiety, analgesic), but without the side effect of getting high.

[Read the whole story](#)

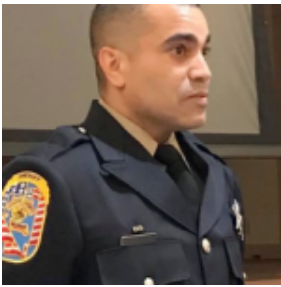
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## DCS0 deputies, civilians

# honored for bravery

Tahoe Elks Lodge No. 2670 this month hosted the annual Law and Order night for Douglas County law enforcement agencies.

Several employees from Douglas County Sheriff's Office, juvenile probation, China Springs Youth Camp, DCSO youth explorers, citizen patrol, search and rescue, reserves, 911 communications, as well as state of Nevada Department of Corrections, and Nevada Highway Patrol received awards for their outstanding contribution to the community through their employment.



Richard  
Rodriguez

There were four lifesaving medals awarded to Deputies John Lenz, Kevin Karosich, Scott Battcher and Robert Holbrook. A DCSO records employee was choking on food in the office during lunch when Holbrook successfully performed the Heimlich maneuver and dislodged the food. Holbrook's quick thinking and immediate action saved her life.

Five citizens were honored for their participation in an event in March where a DCSO deputy was involved in a physical altercation with a theft suspect trying to escape. The five citizens, Marco Huerta, Keith Smith, Bernard Brady, Scott Morasci and Grant Bell stopped on Highway 395 near Cradlebaugh Bridge to assist the deputy fighting with the suspect. This is the first time the sheriff's office has honored civilians.

The volunteers and employees were recognized for their exemplary service and dedication to the Sheriff's Office. Citizen patrol officers Tom Black and Steve Bolger, explorer Fallon Montanucci, search and rescue member John Murray, reserve Deputy Joe Benigno, record division employee Crystal Allen, Chaplain Rich Lammay, jail Deputy Steven Kimbrell, and evidence technician Debra Schambra were honored.

Deputy Richard Rodriguez was named officer of the year.