

On January 25th at about 0830 a.m. the Henderson County Sheriffs Office responded to a report of a female threatening to jump from an overpass bridge at Upward road over Interstate I-26. The NC State Highway Patrol responded to shut down traffic on the interstate. Deputies who responded saw a female standing across the guardrail and directly over the west bound traffic side of the highway. The individual appeared to be Hispanic and unable or unwilling to communicate with the officers initially. The on scene supervisor requested Deputy Sonya Mathews to the scene to establish dialogue with the female and to interpret. Blue Ridge Fire and Rescue and Henderson County EMS also responded to standby in the area. . Deputies believed at the time, that it was best to rely on communications with the individual, because a grab attempt seemed too risky at the time.

Deputy Mathews and Detective Anderson established communication with the female, who appeared to be a juvenile, while other officers moved into position to attempt an emergency grab if it became necessary. After sometime, it appeared to Sgt L Griffin that the girl was loosing her grip on the rail as she was attempting to step away from the officers and he feared a fall was immanent. He signaled the others to affect a grab. They did so immediately. The girl was grabbed by Deputies Matthews, Corthell, Patterson and Gaddy and pulled back to safety on the bridge. It was established that the girl was in fact a juvenile and she was taken to a medical facility for evaluation and possible psychiatric commitment. There are no further comments regarding her at this time.

Sheriff Davis did say that he was proud of his deputies and the other emergency services personnel that responded to the scene. "Training certainly prepares public safety personnel for their various missions, but it is the heart of these people that makes them truly effective. I am always inspired by the selfless dedication displayed by our officers and the other law enforcement and emergency services people who serve this area. Henderson County is truly blessed. Our thoughts and prayers are with the young lady and her family as well."