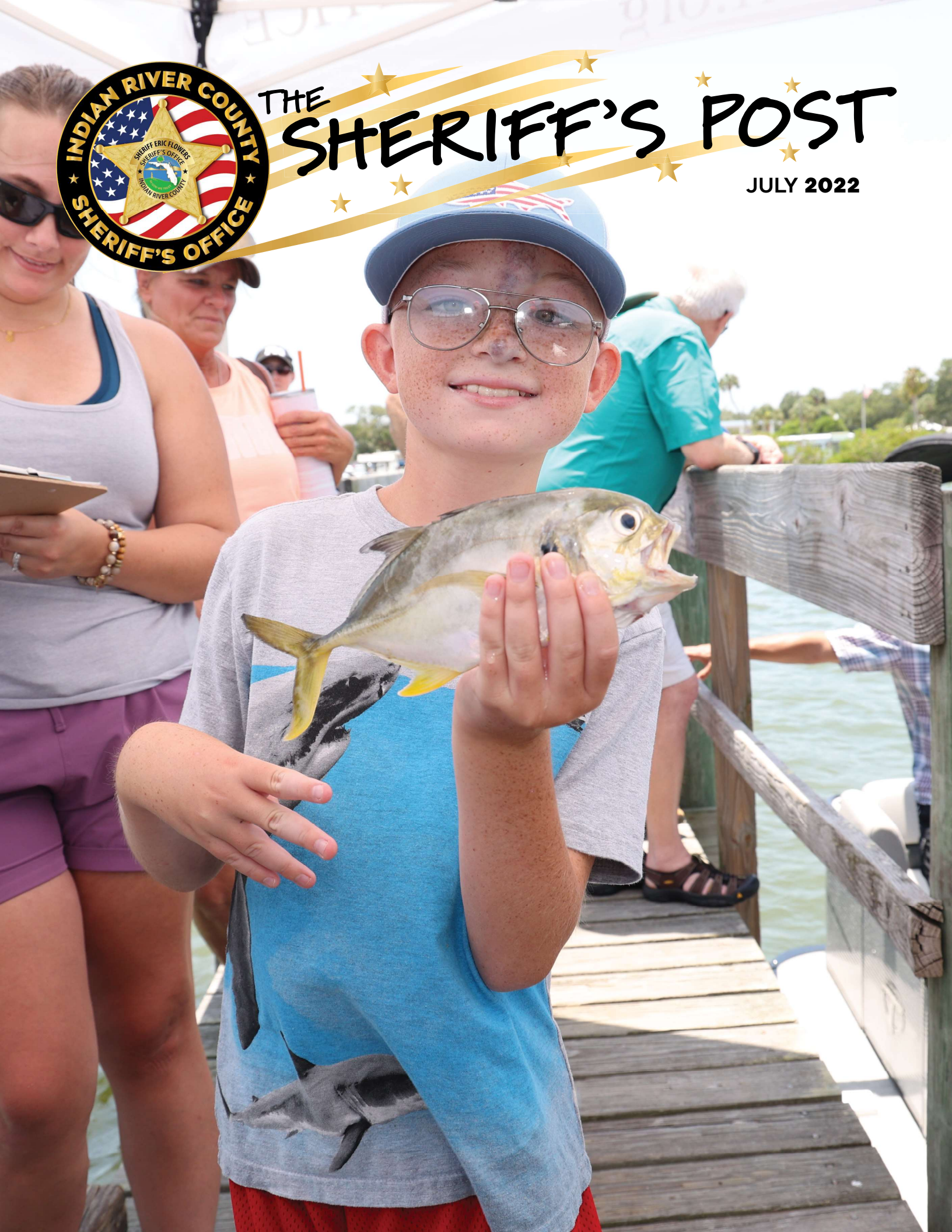




THE

SHERIFF'S POST

JULY 2022





HI EVERYONE,

July is a busy time at the Sheriff's Office for a number of our departments. Our finance team is busy negotiating and finalizing our budget (see page 6). They've prepared a budget that is \$7.25 million more than last year's, primarily due to the increasing costs of fuel and equipment due to inflation and supply chain uncertainties, as well as additional deputies due to growth in our county.

Now that Covid has subsided a bit, we are bringing back programs that benefit the inmates at the county jail. Such programs include GED courses and classes for anger management and parenting. We hope to expand on the programming at the jail soon and restore the substance abuse classes (see page 10).

School is out for summer, but that doesn't mean our School Resource Deputies are on vacation. Our SRDs spend their summer either providing security at any number of summer camps located at area schools, or they take courses and continue their training. We appreciate the work and dedication of our School Resource Deputies who we rely on to keep our students, faculty and school

campuses safe.

I want to thank everyone who participated in and supported our inaugural Fishing with Flowers fishing tournament that benefitted the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches. It and the annual barbecue raised more than \$63,000 for the organization and we could not have done it without you (see page 3).

Since our last Sheriff's Post, we launched a new program called Pet of the Week. Each week deputies highlight dogs and cats available for adoption at the Humane Society of Vero Beach and Indian River County and at HALO. To date, six dogs have been adopted!

I would like to remind you of a tremendous resource you have available at your fingertips – our agency app. You can download it from the Apple and Google app stores and receive notifications about what's happening in the county. The app also allows you to search for inmates at the jail, learn more about various programs the Sheriff's Office offers the public and provide us with feedback.

If you haven't done so, please download our app and stay informed.

YOUR SHERIFF, ERIC FLOWERS



SHERIFF FLOWERS TAKES A PONTOON RIDE WITH MEMBERS OF THE FLORIDA SHERIFFS YOUTH RANCHES AND THE AGENCY DURING THE FISHING WITH FLOWERS TOURNAMENT.

FISHING WITH FLOWERS FUN FUNDRAISING FOR YOUTH

More than a dozen boats entered the inaugural "Fishing with Flowers" in-shore fishing tournament Saturday to support the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches.

"This is a great event," said FSYR Executive Director Bill Frye, who lamented not having brought his kayak to fish in the tournament. "Thank you from the bottom of my heart."

The event contributed to the \$63,000 the Sheriff's Office has raised throughout the year for the organization.

The Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches helps approximately 5,000 minors each year, building up children's self-worth and confidence.

The fishing tournament came about as members of the agency threw around ideas for fundraisers to help the Youth Ranches. Sheriff Eric Flowers has made no secret that he plans to have the Sheriff's Office with the largest donation to the organization.

"I love Sheriff Flowers' competitive spirit," said Youth Ranches' Maria Knapp, the executive vice president. "We couldn't help the kids if not for the support. It means a lot to us."

The Sheriff's Office has already held its annual barbecue and is planning its second annual clay shoot later this year. Other fundraisers are on the horizon.

Kurt Larson and Jason Gillespie decided to try their luck with the fishing tournament, given the good weather and calm waters.

"It was a good day," Gillespie said. "It wasn't too rough."

Larson said they went out with a plan and stuck to it – fish areas where trout, redfish, and snook tend to



VOLUNTEERS WEIGH-IN ANGLERS' CATCHES.

cont'd on next page

(CONT. FISHING)

congregate.

The plan worked. Larson won first place for his trout and third place for his snook. While Larson took home the cash, he said he'd split it 50-50 with Gillespie, considering it was his boat and gas.

"We had fun," Larson said, adding he's looking forward to next year's tournament.

The largest cash prize went to Junior Angler Bronx Bragman, an 8-year-old who took home \$600.

Not only did Bragman have the largest fish in the Junior division, but also the overall largest redfish.

"I expected to win," Bragman said with a toothy grin. He caught his redfish near the Wabasso causeway.

When asked what he planned to do with his winnings, Bragman turned to his dad, Dustin Bragman, and asked, "How much is a laptop?"

His dad chuckled. The boy said maybe he'd get a few games.

"I couldn't ask for anything better," the elder Bragman said of spending the day outside with his kid, fishing, and helping a good cause.

Members of the Sheriff's Office got in on the angling action, including Dep. Quang "Tony" Le.

Le placed third for his trout and won \$100. His daughter, however, had other plans when Le went up to claim his prize.

"I'll take this!" she cried as she snatched the envelope, drawing laughter and cheers from the audience.

Lewis Arnold and his 5-year-old son, Cannon, both



CHEYANNE AND NATALIE CHRISTMAN WITH THEIR CATCHES.

placed in the fishing tournament.

"I almost fell over!" Cannon said, recounting his reeling in of his 2.2-lb trout. His father took home the prize for the largest jack crevalle. Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches President Bill Frye said he plans to return for the Fishing with Flowers tournament and cast a line.

"I know I'll probably not win," he said, but it's still worthwhile.

Anglers competed for bragging rights and cash prizes, furnished by Dale Sorensen Real Estate, OTG Liquidation, and MNWorldwide.

Dozens of other prizes were raffled off, provided by generous sponsors, including Walmart, Wabasso Bait & Tackle Shack, Vero Tackle & Watersports, Curran Blades, DoughBoyz Pizza, Mulligan's Beach House Sebastian,



SEVERAL BUSINESSES DONATED FISHING RODS, REELS AND OTHER GEAR TO BE RAFFLED DURING THE FISHING WITH FLOWERS TOURNAMENT.

WINNERS:

Trout

Kurt Larson
Cannon Arnold
Tony Lee

Redfish

Bronx Bragman

Snook

Brandon McKay
Charles Hughes

Ladyfish

Kurt Larson
Sam Lewis

Jack

Lewis Arnold
Jr. Angler
Bronx Bragman



For those wanting to help when a child or endangered adult goes missing, please register your mobile phone number with A Child is Missing.

The organization is able to do a reverse 911 of sorts,

notifying members within a certain area when a child, elder, or endangered adult has gone missing.

You can learn more and register here:

<https://AChildIsMissing.org>

EMERGENCY HEALTH PROFILE ASSOCIATION

www.EmergencyProfile.org








Create a FREE profile Call 911 in an emergency RapidSOS sends profile to 911

Help Us Help YOU with Rapid SOS! Our 911 Dispatch is using a new tool to help get the right help to you in your time of need. But it's only as good as the information YOU provide.

Sign up for FREE with Rapid SOS and when help is on the way, you know emergency crews have all the right information. Watch a video explaining the system, herewww - <https://bit.ly/3CnXniu>

Indian River County Sheriff's Office

ANDROID APP ON  **Google play**

Available on the  **App Store**

Download our **FREE** mobile app today!



SCAN to download!



Download our mobile app and keep up with everything the Sheriff's Office is up to. You'll get notifications when there's a traffic crash affecting your commute, along with notices about upcoming events

we'll be at. From our app, you can submit tips, see where crimes have been reported, and access citizen resources such as Safe Sale Zones, Fingerprinting, Public Records and Victim Services.



THE FINANCE DEPARTMENT OVERSEES THE PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT, INCLUDING PATROL VEHICLES AND HELICOPTERS.

FINANCE

MANAGING MONEY, CRUNCHING NUMBERS

Money doesn't grow on trees. It's as much true for children asking for a toy at the store as it is for government entities trying to expand and improve services for the communities they serve.

Those within the Sheriff's Office finance department know well the need to strike a balance between divisions' wants, needs, and the available funds.

Those funds are provided by the Board of County Commissioners through taxes. The Sheriff's Office can request funding from the Commission, but the ultimate decision comes from the Commission.

"A budget is literally your best estimate based on the ever-evolving needs of the agency, as well as historical and future trends," said Chief Financial Officer Aimee

Cooper. She and her team have prepared a budget for the Commission with hopes that it will be approved in September and effective October 2022.

While families have noticed a sharp increase in prices at the grocery store and even higher spikes in gas prices, the Sheriff's Office has experienced the same.

At the start of the budget process in January 2022, the cost of inflation was 7 percent. By May, inflation rose to 8.5 percent and it has increased even more since then.

"This year is an anomaly," Cooper said. "The fluctuations are so drastic and the continual rise in costs puts additional pressure not only on next year's budget but on the remaining budget for this year. We are monitoring expenses and avoiding unnecessary costs."

Additionally, supply chain issues have made it a challenge for the Sheriff's Office to obtain vehicles, ammunition, uniforms and other items.

The Sheriff's Office has presented its budget to the County. Initially, the Sheriff's Office had hoped for an \$11 million increase to the budget, but after negotiations and reprioritizations, both sides landed on a \$7.25 million increase.

Part of that increase includes raises for staff agency-wide and funding for an additional 29 positions, of which 28 are sworn law enforcement and correction deputies.



MOTORCYCLES FOR THE TRAFFIC UNIT AND TRAINING ARE PART OF THE AGENCY'S BUDGET.

The finance team includes Natalie Thomas-Darrisaw, the fixed assets specialist. She's responsible for tracking 17,000 assets around the agency. Such assets range from laptops and weapons to body armor and vehicles.

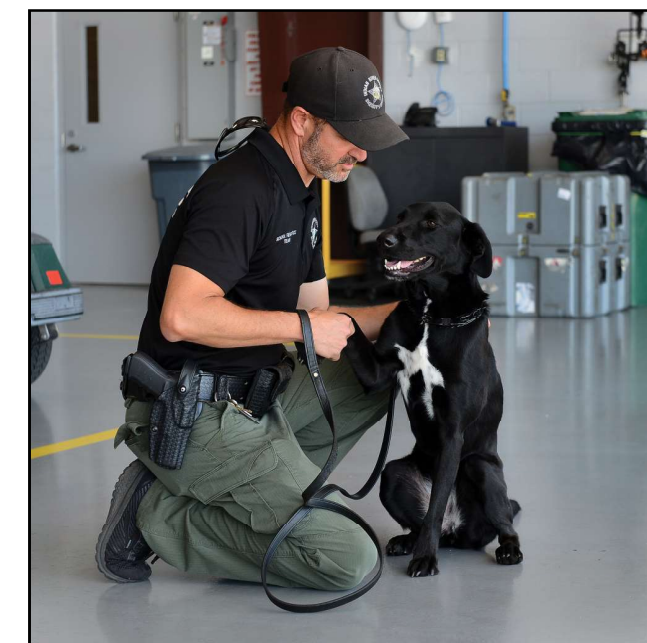
"We make sure everything is accounted for," Thomas-Darrisaw said. It's how the agency remains a responsible steward of the tax dollars that support the Sheriff's Office.

"I'm very protective of that," she said.

The agency doesn't track every last paper clip or ink pen, but anything of significant value is cataloged and annual audits of the assets are conducted.

She also oversees the disposal of assets that no longer serve their purpose for the agency. Every so often, items are listed for public sale on www.GovDeals.com. The agency can set a minimum price for the items and GovDeals.com handles the rest, cutting a check to the Sheriff's Office when items are sold.

Wendy Gardiner, the grants specialist, is another member of the finance team. Gardiner's position requires her to research, draft, and submit proposals that assist the organization to receive grant funding. To be eligible for funding, the organization must have an objective or need that aligns with the specifications of the grant solicitation.



K-9s, INCLUDING GRACIE THE THERAPY K-9 FALL UNDER "FIXED ASSETS."



SWAT GEAR, INCLUDING TACTICAL VESTS, UNIFORMS, AND RADIOS ARE ALL FUNDED THROUGH THE BUDGET.

Gardiner's goal is to find available funding by scouring different grant funding websites and reading through solicitations and other opportunities that could possibly cover some of the expenses of needed programs or the expenses of some material needs.

The research and application process require Gardiner to work with different unit leaders to understand their goals and needs. Grant opportunities generally request data, supporting documentation and a specific goal or initiative. Grant solicitations provide the necessary information to determine the agency's eligibility status as well.

The Sheriff's Office has received grant funding through federal and state grants. The agency recently used grant funding to purchase a trailer for Hidden In Plain Sight. The trailer is outfitted as a makeshift bedroom to bring awareness to parents and family members on how to notice signs of troubles their child may be into or experiencing.

Operation Stonegarden is a grant that focuses on operations and intelligence activities to reduce the transportation of narcotics, undocumented non-citizen migrants, human trafficking, and illegal weapons smuggling.

The Sheriff's Office also obtains grants that assist our crime scene unit, criminal investigation unit and our corrections unit.

Gardiner states that working as a team and teaching the various units the specifics of the grant processes allow them to apply for more grants in the future.

"Every little bit helps the agency and the community as a whole," Gardiner said.

★ STAR SCENE



MEMBERS OF THE AGENCY'S SWAT AND CERT TEAMS PARTICIPATE IN A TERRADYNE PULL TO BENEFIT THE ST. BALDRICK'S FOUNDATION.



EMPLOYEES AND FRIENDS RAISE FUNDS FOR SAFESPACE WITH A BOWLING TOURNAMENT.



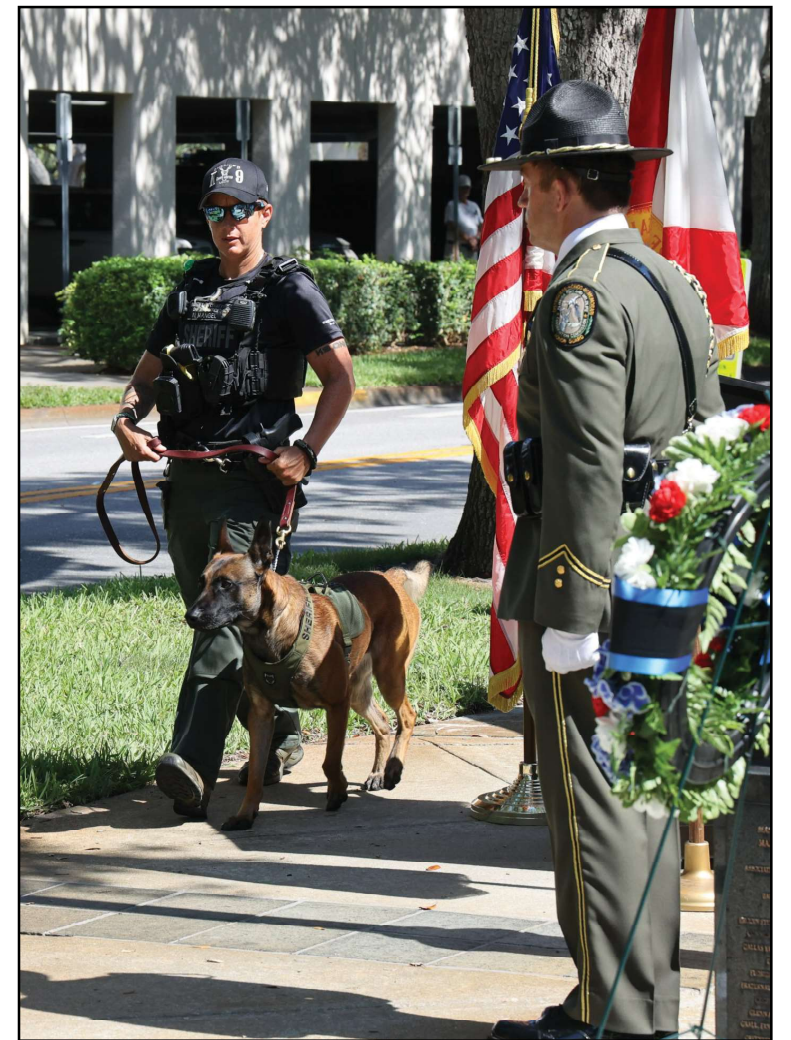
COUNTY OFFICIALS, INCLUDING PROPERTY APPRAISER WESLEY DAVIS TAKE PART IN A RANGE DAY TO CHECK OUT THE AGENCY'S TOOLS. (BELOW) THE COMMUNITY AFFAIRS UNIT UNVEILS THE HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT TRAILER IN PARTNERSHIP WITH SAFIR.



MARINE CORPS SERGEANT AND INDIAN RIVER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE DET. ROB RYAN, SALUTES THE WREATH HE PLACED DURING THE MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY IN VERO BEACH.



SGT. MIKE DILKS LAUNCHES THE PET OF THE WEEK, AN INITIATIVE TO HELP MATCH HOMELESS PETS WITH FOREVER FAMILIES.



K9 DEP. MINDY MANGEL AND TUKO WALK PAST THE MEMORIAL WREATH REMEMBERING FALLEN K9 JOKER DURING THE ANNUAL WREATH PLACEMENT CEREMONY.



CHAPLAIN LOUIE TROPF LEADS AN ANGER MANAGEMENT CLASS.

INMATE PROGRAMS PREPARING FOR RE-ENTRY

Those who are sitting in the Indian River County Jail can spend their time improving themselves through various classes and work, gaining skills that could help them secure work once they are released. But it's up to the inmate whether or not to participate.

For 37-year-old Tommy O'Neil, there was little doubt that he could benefit from some of the classes offered

at the jail. The parenting class, however, surprised him. He has a young child, almost 2 years old, whose mother moved her back to Pennsylvania to be close with family.

They watched a film about the impact being in jail has on family members who often step in to take care of the children left behind. He said the class left him stunned by what he was putting his own mother through.

"I'm that guy," O'Neil said. "I don't want to be that guy."

Jennifer Griffith also took the parenting class, as well as anger management. She serving the last few days of her 1-year sentence for drug possession. Upon completing the parenting class, Griffith has a plan from the Department of Children and Families so she can reunite with her children when she's released.

"My plan is to hug and kiss my kids" as soon as she's released, Griffith said. The 43-year-old said the classes in the jail have been very beneficial, helping her to find positive in a land of negative. "There's always so much to learn," she said.

The anger management course, too, has been eye-opening.

"I have a lot of emotions," Griffith said. "Anger is the



A COOK PREPARES POTATOES FOR FRENCH FRIES IN THE JAIL KITCHEN.

easiest." She's learning coping strategies and what her triggers are.

"The programs are amazing," she said. "People who want to, can help themselves."

The inmate programs took a 2-year break during the Covid pandemic. Only recently are the programs beginning anew.

Chaplain Louie Tropf oversees several of the programs, including church services within the jail for those who wish to attend. Along with parenting and anger management, the jail also provides a GED program so inmates – juveniles and adults alike – can earn their high school equivalency.

"When they get that high school diploma, no one's going to take that from them," Chaplain Tropf said, explaining the reactions he's seen from those who graduate the program. "They are so happy when they get it. They're beaming."

Soon, the jail expects to re-start its substance awareness program, which has remained on hold while the other programs reboot.

Select inmates are allowed to work in the kitchen and go through the In2Work program through Aramark, a food service company contracted with the Sheriff's Office.

"It's a partnership," said Sgt. Joe Mathis of the work between Aramark and the jail. The inmates learn food



SGT. JOE MATHIS REVIEWS THE KITCHEN'S STOCK IN PREPARATION FOR THE NEXT MEAL.

safety and handling and earn their ServSafe Managers certification. "We're giving them a second chance at a life, to be productive citizens."

The jail's print shop also provides a few chosen inmates the opportunity to gain more skills that could help them with related work upon release.

"I'll never look at a piece of paper the same again," said Wanda Smith, 21, who is serving time on a petit theft charge.

The inmates fold letters, stuff envelopes, bind printed products (including this publication), among other tasks. They learn how to operate massive printers and produce business cards, flyers and programs, and other materials for the agency and long-standing community organizations.

Velena Thompson runs the agency's print shop and oversees the inmates who work there.

"It's hard to get a job after jail," she said, adding that with the skills they acquire, it can help them with their transition.

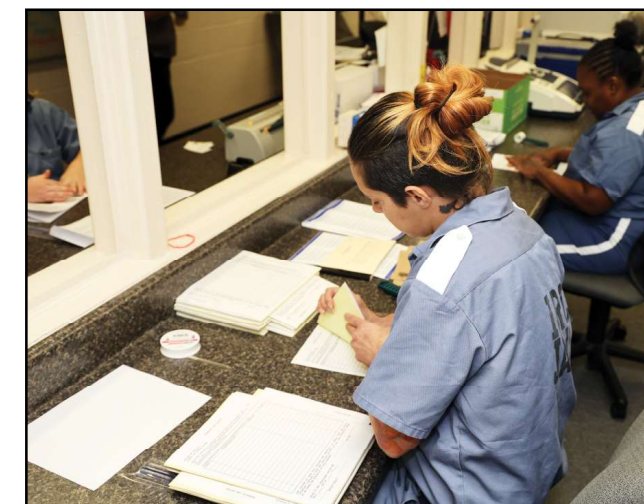
Chantal Stiffen, who is in for drug possession, said the print shop job helps her to pass time and gives her something to do. And, by the end, she'll have earned a certificate of hours worked to count toward job experience outside of jail.

"It's a privilege to be in the printshop," Thompson said. "It's theirs to lose."

Corrections Dep. Melinda Rolle has spent the better part of a dozen years at the jail and only recently joined the inmate programs. The programs are a way for inmates to do better for themselves and their families.

She'd like to see the programming to expand to include classes on finances, career preparation, and even CPR.

"Let's give them a chance," she said.



TRUSTEES HANDLE TASKS WITHIN THE AGENCY'S PRINT SHOP.



STARWORTHY RETIREMENTS



Lt. Frank Lomonaco
Jan. 11, 1994 – June 30, 2022
Length of Service: 28 1/2 years

He transferred from Road Patrol to become a Corrections Deputy, and rose through the ranks to Lieutenant.

He received letters of appreciation, awards and commendations, including Exceptional Duty, Lifesaving, Tactical, Going the Extra Mile, Honorable Service, and Perfect Attendance.



Dep. Brian Aguiar
Jan. 24, 2000 – June 30, 2022
Length of service: 22 years

After serving in the mid-1990s, he rejoined the Agency in Corrections and later served in Law Enforcement and the Ag/Marine Unit.

He received a number of awards and achievements, including those for Educational, Tactical, and Technical achievements, Lifesaving Award, Grand Cordon/Honor Guard, Perfect Attendance, and Going the Extra Mile.



Jera Torres
Sept. 13, 1999 – June 30, 2022
Length of Service: 22 years

During her career, she served as HR Specialist, Senior Staff Assistant in both Support Services and Law Enforcement Operations, Volunteer Coordinator in Community Services, and Bureau Administrator.

She earned Employee of the Quarter, Exceptional Duty, and several Going the Extra Mile awards.



Sgt. Gregg Berg
July 1, 2002 – June 30, 2022
Length of Service: 20 years

He began his career as a Corrections Deputy before being promoted to Corrections Sergeant. Later, he served as the Legal Process Sergeant.

During his tenure, he earned many commendations, including Going the Extra Mile, Field Training Deputy, and multiple Perfect Attendance awards.



(CONT. RETIREMENTS)



Dep. Sharon Gist
July 26, 2004 – April 30, 2022
Length of Service: 17 years

She served the Agency for more than six years in the late 1990s and early 2000s before rejoining the Sheriff's Office. She worked in Corrections as a Booking Deputy.

During her time with the Sheriff's Office, she received the Technical Achievement Award, the Lifesaving Award, and Honorable Service.



Pam McPheters
Oct. 14, 2014 – May 6, 2022
Length of Service: 7 1/5 years

During her time with the Agency, she served as Records Specialist, Human Resources Specialist, and Senior Staff Assistant.

McPheters earned several awards including Perfect Attendance, and Going the Extra Mile.



NOW HIRING GOT WHAT IT TAKES?

Come join our team of amazing professionals. We are hiring numerous civilian positions within both the 9-1-1 dispatch center and the county jail, among other divisions and departments.

Dispatch hires can expect a starting salary of \$31,000, which increases to \$40,000 upon the completion of training. Civilian Corrections Assistants can expect to start at \$27,450.

Both posts are great entry points into a lifelong law enforcement related career. Want to be a first responder without having to go out in the field? Consider 9-1-1 dispatch. Interested in working in the jail but not up close with the inmates? Then apply for the Civilian Corrections Assistant position.

Interested applicants may apply online at www.ircsheriff.org. For additional information, applicants may call (772) 978-6355.

Telecommunicator

This position is responsible for screening, entering and relaying/routing calls for service for both emergency and non-emergency events in a 911 dispatch center, including dispatching of Fire-EMS and Law Enforcement.

Applicants for this position must have excellent computer skills, capable of working under stress, and be able to react quickly and calmly and make sound decisions in emergency situations.

Starting salary of \$31,000; Salary increased to \$40,000 upon completion of training.

Civilian Corrections Assistant

The position of Civilian Corrections Assistant performs a variety of duties, including the following assignments: Security and maintenance of Control Rooms, Booking area and Visitation Center.

A competitive starting salary of \$27,540 per year.

Other Positions Available

- Law Enforcement Deputy - starting \$46,800
- Corrections Deputy - starting \$46,800
- Victim Advocate - starting \$30,600
- Maintenance Technician - starting \$37,740



STARWORTHY MILESTONES

The Indian River County Sheriff's Office congratulates its employees who have served this agency with honor and dignity for at least 10 years.

An organization benefits from the longevity,

stability and wealth of knowledge and skill accumulated by its employees.

These are the Indian River County Sheriff's Office longest serving employees since our last issue. Thank you for your continued service.



Jacqueline Craig,
33



Melissa A.
Stewart, 32



Jason J. Bourdette
David E. May II



Christopher Rodriguez



Thomas J. Ammirato
Jess H. Bair
Anthony Falls Sr.
Maegan Rodriguez



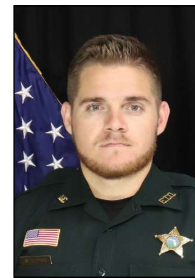
Kelly N. Hare
Jennifer Gelesky
Sydnie S. McKay
Eric J. Sesack



STARWORTHY FEATS



Dep. Hatton is 'resolute and upright'



As a retired correctional officer from Osceola County Corrections, I would like to express my gratitude. My daughter was pulled over by Deputy Nickolas Hatton. I stayed on the phone until their interaction was complete.

Deputy Hatton could have given my daughter a ticket and went on about his day but, he didn't. He listened and took down some information while she explained to him that we were having a family emergency.

I appreciate his professional excellence and courteous manner. I thank him for being resolute and upright. He treated her with the utmost respect. It made me feel so good knowing that he cares about his community and the people in it.

Thank you, Lisa Wright-Ruiz



Dep. Davis 'is truly an asset' to agency, community



I am writing regarding one of your deputies, [Deputy] Matthew Davis. I held an antique gas and oil show/event at my home where I hired [Dep.] Davis to assist.

His presence was welcomed by all whom attended, and all our vendors felt he aided in the event running smoothly. [Dep.] Davis kept the patrons flowing peacefully and many whom spoke with him, found him to be polite, respectful and a joy to converse with.

Personally, I would like to thank you for employing [Dep.] Davis and allowing him to work at the event. He is truly an asset to your department, as well as an asset to our community. My gratitude is extended to you and the whole sheriff's department.

Sincerely, John Viesta



Dep. Harrington goes 'above, beyond' for community event



I hope the person responsible for staffing Dep. Harrington for the Marine and Seafood Festival at the county Fairgrounds receives this message. Not only did he perform his assignment perfectly, he went above and beyond his duties....

I personally observed him directing people to the admissions table for payment and where to get stamped for reentry.... He worked for hours trying to locate a lost driver license owner, which he ultimately accomplished, along with a lost set of keys for another patron.

On top of that, he volunteered to help remove some trash bins that none of us should have had to do on Sunday at closing... Please keep him safe so he can play golf and fish for his future.

With great respect, I remain Tom



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