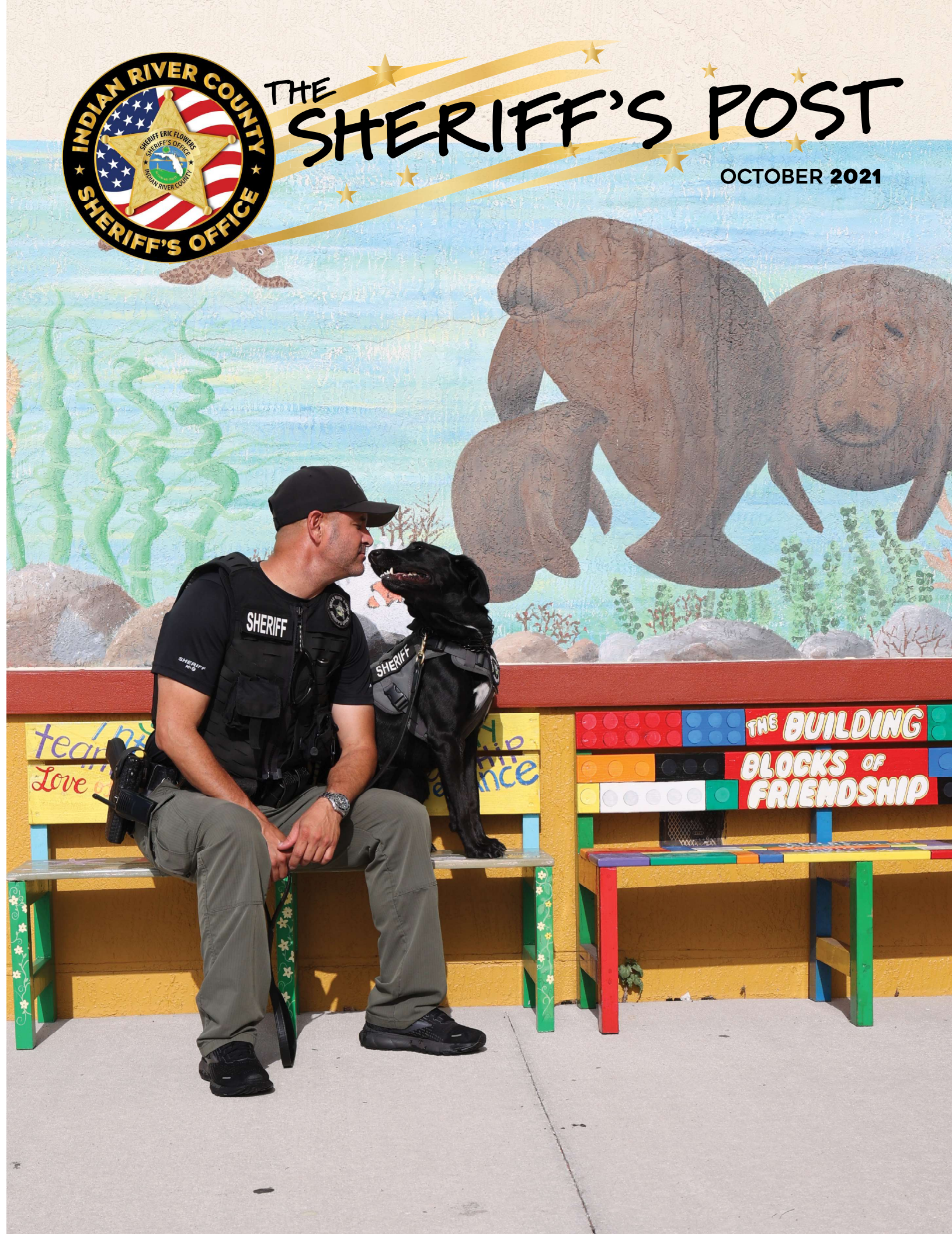




THE SHERIFF'S POST

OCTOBER 2021





HI EVERYONE,

It has been 9 months since taking office and I'm blown away by what we've accomplished.

Several divisions have been expanded to better serve our community. New security measures have been implemented around campus and in the jail. And programs have been put in place to help improve the health and wellness of our agency's employees. Still more efforts are underway to better serve our great community.

Among the services we have added is the reinstatement of the A Child is Missing program. Public Safety Dispatch encouraged the administration to bring back the initiative, which was previously cut due to an issue with funding.

We encourage all residents and businesses to sign up for A Child is Missing in order to receive alerts when a child or endangered adult is missing – regardless of whether they qualify for an AMBER or Silver alert. More information can be found at www.AChildIsMissing.org.

Since our last edition, we have implemented new security protocols at the entry of the jail. We have installed a scanner and an x-ray machine to help protect our team members and inmates. The security measures prevent contraband from entering the facility.

We are continuing our work to secure the buildings and the perimeter of the campus. Soon, visitors will need to report to the main lobby to be

escorted to their destination. Please continue to be patient as construction is ongoing.

As of October, our campus has gone Tobacco-free. Programs and assistance were put in place ahead of the switch to support members of staff who were ready to kick the habit. Visitors, too, are no longer allowed to smoke or vape while at the Sheriff's Office.

This third quarter has seen a number of notable arrests and investigations made by our amazing group of deputies and detectives - made possible with the support of Dispatch and the Real Time Crime Center along with the Crime Scene unit and so many others.

The Ag/Marine division seized thousands of pounds of palmetto berries and arrested dozens for their illegal harvest of the plant. The Special Investigations Unit Drug team's work led to the area's first-ever grand jury indictment of an accused drug dealer on a murder charge.

Detectives continue to investigate and pursue leads in numerous open and active cases, including shootings and missing persons. We remind everyone that if you see something, please say something. Call Treasure Coast Crime Stoppers at (800) 273-TIPS to remain anonymous and eligible for a cash reward.

With the public's help, we can apprehend the criminals and find justice for the victims.

YOUR SHERIFF, ERIC FLOWERS



SCHOOL RESOURCE DEPUTIES ANTHONY MURACA AND KERRIE CRAWFORD REVIEW SURVEILLANCE FOOTAGE AT SRHS.

SCHOOL RESOURCE DEPUTIES PROTECT, SERVE, & GUIDE STUDENTS

What once was perhaps seen as glorified babysitting or a cushy retirement job has become anything but for the School Resource Deputies stationed at the county's various schools.

After the tragic events at Marjorie Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland in 2018 that left 17 students and faculty dead and another 17 injured, a call went out statewide for law enforcement to have a presence at all public schools.

The Indian River County Sheriff's Office heeded that call and requested deputies from throughout the agency to step up. And they did.

Protecting the students and faculty and the campus itself is the primary responsibility of the School Resource Deputies.

"That is your job," Sgt. David Bailey said. "It is your job to stop that

threat or die trying."

SRDs are the first responders at their assigned school, and while our community has been spared the tragedy other communities have had, they continuously train and hone their skills.

"You've got to be at your best," Sgt. Bailey said. "This is not a sleepy, retirement job. I would put up any School Resource Deputy against anyone working a zone."

SRDs working the high schools have different challenges to tackle than those assigned to the middle or elementary schools. Social media is a major challenge.

Recently, a destructive trend circulating on one particular platform encouraged students to vandalize bathrooms and steal school items. While the School District is handling those cases internally, SRDs are often tasked with identifying culprits and having a chat with them about the possibility of long-term consequences.

"They try to live two lives – social media and real life," said SRD Mark Howder, who has been a deputy in the schools or nearly three decades.

Along with handling on-campus investigations and skirmishes, school deputies run down potential threats and tips that some storm is brewing.



SCHOOL RESOURCE DEP. DAVID MAY AT INDIAN RIVER ACADEMY

cont'd on next page

(CONT.) SCHOOL RESOURCE

They're known to go to students' homes to talk with parents and guardians, checking to see if the threat is imminent or an emotional outburst.

It's not about just locking doors and keeping the "bad guy" out – it's about situational awareness, emotional awareness, knowing if something doesn't feel quite right in the hallways.

"There's a lot that goes into it," Sgt. Bailey said.

A new addition to the School Resource division at the end of last school year was SRD Dave Partin and his K9 partner Gracie, who are assigned to Imagine Schools of South Vero.

Gracie is different from the other K9s at the agency (read more about them on page 6); she's a therapy dog.

"She's very, very gentle," Partin said. The Labrador-mix is a calming presence in the hallways, helping to build connections between the students and Dep. Partin.

"The kids love her," he said.

She's helped with separation anxiety students have had since coming back to campus after the Covid-19 shutdown last year. Dep. Partin had previously served in the Ag/Marine unit with the Sheriff's Office before transferring to School Resource.

"It was a career move I didn't know I'd fall in love with," he said. "I'm very blessed."

Also serving as School Resource Deputies are the Negrans. Dep. Carlos Negrón is assigned to Liberty Magnet Elementary School while his son, Dep. Shawn Negrón, is posted at Glendale Elementary.

"Not a lot of people can say that" they work with their dad, the younger Negrón said, adding that it's great to have someone in the family who understands what they



SRD SHAWN NEGRON (LEFT) WITH HIS DAD AND FELLOW SRD CARLOS NEGRON, WHO SERVE GLENDALE AND LIBERTY MAGNET, RESPECTIVELY.

do and who is doing the same thing.

Shawn said working with the kids at Glendale is such a different experience from working patrol. At the school, he has an opportunity to mentor the students.

His dad agreed. With 36 years in law enforcement, going back to his days with the Hollywood, Fla., Police Department, he'd done just about all there is to do – except School Resource.

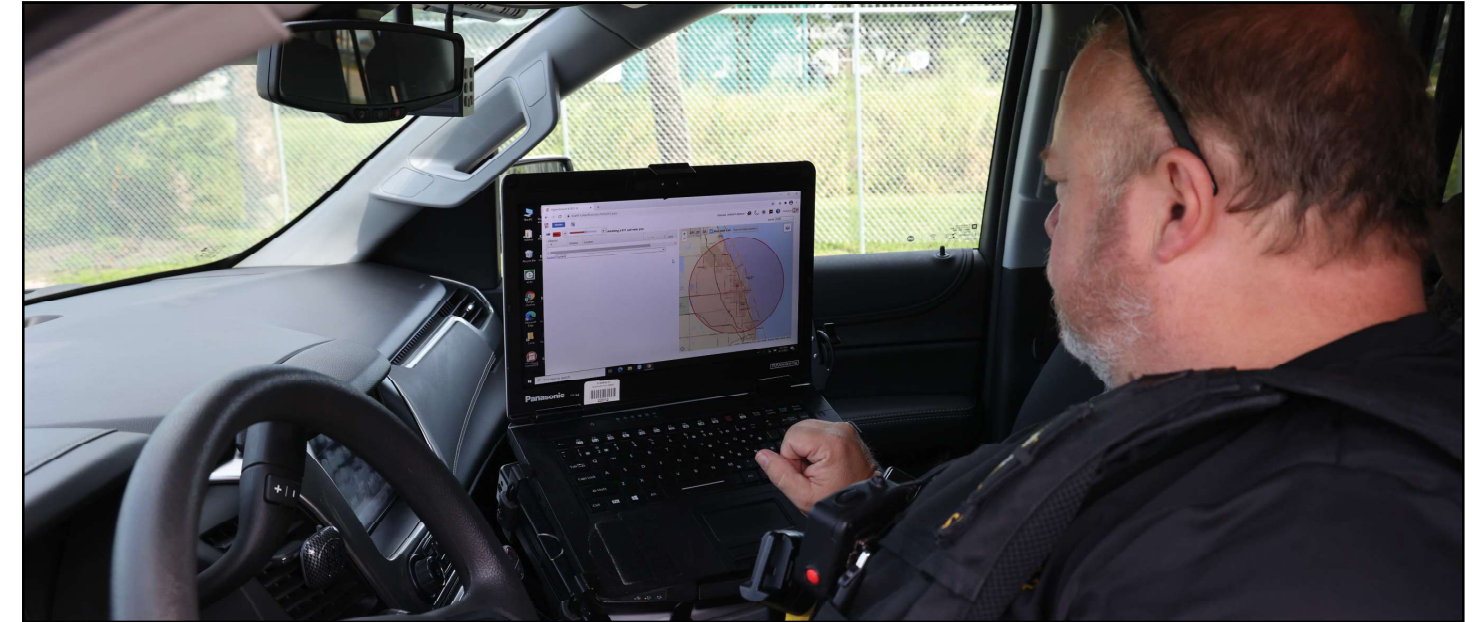
"My kryptonite is kids," Carlos said. "My heart just melts."

And while the SRDs at elementary schools are often pressed into lunchroom service, opening packets of hup and fruit cups, they take every opportunity they get to show a positive side to law enforcement, to build relationships that last.

"We want peace," Sgt. Bailey said. "And we want harmony. It's a big job."



SRD IAN MCKAY INTERACTS WITH STUDENTS DURING LUNCH AT FELLSMERE ELEMENTARY.



LIVE 911 PROVIDES A REAL-TIME LINK BETWEEN DEPUTIES AND THE CALLS COMING INTO PUBLIC SAFETY DISPATCH.

LIVE 911 FASTER, BETTER RESPONSES

In an emergency, seconds matter and minutes can be the difference between life and death. When a call comes into 911, road deputies had to wait to be dispatched. They had to take their eyes off the road to check their computer screens for call information.

Not anymore.

They now have a new tool that gives them real time information as 911 calls come into the Public Safety Dispatch call center.

"I don't want to wait," said Sgt. Mike Pierce, explaining that there can be a minute or more delay between the call and the dispatch notes before he knows where he's needed.

With Live 911, deputies can sign in and listen to the 911 calls as they happen. They can hear the caller and the call taker. They can hear the ambient noise, the stress in the voices, other clues that help inform how they're going to respond to a scene.

Deputies, however, are not able directly talk to the callers or Dispatch – it's listen-only.

"It gives you a better appreciation for our call takers," Sgt. Pierce said.

When a call comes in on Live 911, the phone plots on a map, a tremendous help in the event the caller is hurt, lost, or not familiar with where he or she is.

Without taking their eyes off the road, deputies know what is happening and can start heading to the location

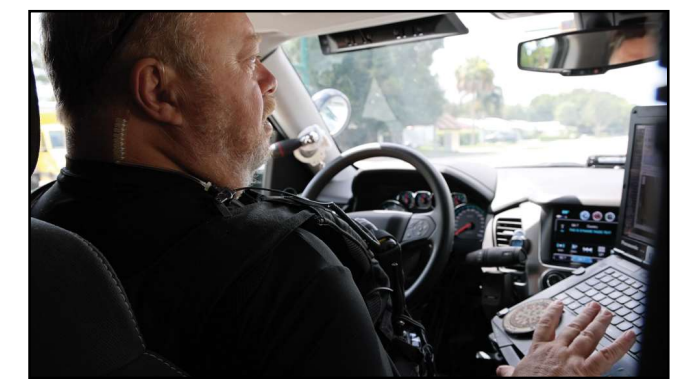
before Dispatch has finished updating the call system.

Sgt. Pierce noted that in one instance, because of Live 911, they were able to stop a vehicle that had been shooting bottle rockets from the window.

"Without it, we probably wouldn't have found him," he said.

And, because the deputies can hear what's happening on the line as it's happening, they're able to more quickly clear accidental 911 calls, which make up a large number of calls daily. Half of them are butt dials or children playing on the phone. The other half require law enforcement or medical attention.

Hearing what's happening on the line gives the deputies peace of mind. "We've got to be perfect every time," Sgt. Pierce said of clearing the accidental 911 calls. "This system will save a life."



SGT. MIKE PIERCE DRIVES HIS ZONE LISTENING TO LIVE 911 CALLS.



K-9 UNIT SNIFFING OUT TROUBLE

When someone is on the run or lost, they get the call. When a suspect tosses evidence, they get the call. The K-9 unit responds when someone or something needs sniffed out.

“He loves to track,” said K9 Dep. Ryan Holly of his four-legged partner, Ruckus. “He finds the bad guys.”

Ruckus is the agency’s “bomb dog” – he is trained to alert on odors commonly associated with explosive devices.

“It’s a little different,” Holly said, explaining it’s more stressful. “He’s meticulous in the way he searches.”

Unlike the K9s trained to alert to narcotics, Ruckus has to be calmer and not touch whatever it is that has his attention. So far, the team has yet to have a live find when called out for a bomb threat. But they have discovered firearms due to the black powder odor.

Nearly all the dogs in the K9 unit are dual-purpose. They both detect and track.

“They’re worth their weight in gold,” said K9 Sgt. Brian Reimsnyder.

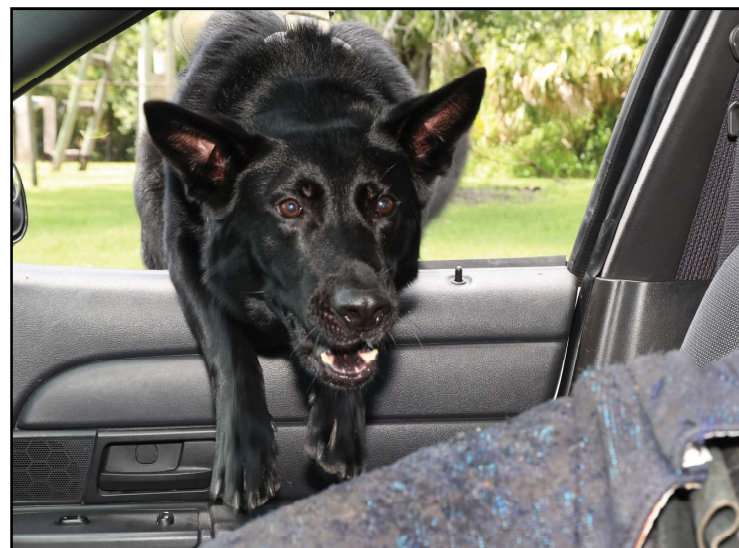
The K9 division has expanded over the years and now has enough teams to provide 24-hour coverage.

“This isn’t a job you take off when you get home,” Reimsnyder said. “It’s a lifestyle.”

The dogs go home with their handlers and are a part of the family. Vacations and trips have to be carefully coordinated to ensure the K9 is cared for – they, typically, can’t just be left with a neighbor or family member.

But as much as the dogs become family members, they are an integral law enforcement tool.

K9 Dep. Jacob Curby has three years in the unit and can attest to the important role the canines play.



K9 WILLOW, A BLOODHOUND, MAKES THE ROUNDS DURING CITIZENS ACADEMY WITH SGT. BRIAN REIMSNYDER.

K-9 ROSTER

- Ricardo Ferrer & Mako
- Shane Joerger & Doc
- Wolf Shaw & Sunny
- Jacob Curby & Bane
- Mindy Mangel & Tuko
- Ryan Holly & Ruckus
- Brian Reimsnyder & Remy, Willow
- R.T. Williams & Zeke
- Davey Partin & Gracie

He recalled an incident involving a pursuit of a scooter and its subsequent crash. The driver of the scooter then began wrestling with Dep. Curby in a back alley. While the driver tried to grab Curby’s gun, the deputy hit his bail out button, releasing Bane from the K9 cruiser.

Bane came running to Curby’s aid and grabbed the driver.

“It took some of the fight out of him,” Curby said. Bane “definitely saved my butt.”

Each of the K9 cruisers are equipped with multiple features to keep the canines happy and safe while they sit in their mobile office. The vehicles are tied to the deputies via an app that allows them to monitor the temperature inside. If the temperature exceeds a set threshold, an alert is sounded.

The cruisers also have a feature that alerts if the vehicle is shut off without the rear door being accessed. Text messages get sent to the deputy and to any others registered to receive those notices.

One of the newer members of the team is K9 Dep. Mindy Mangel, who previously served in the K9 unit at a sheriff’s office in Colorado.

“It’s the best job ever,” she said. “The minute I could, I begged to come out to train.”

She has been paired with Tuko, a Belgian Malinois, a breed similar to that of a German Shepherd but with a reputation for being – a bit much.

“I don’t think he’s as crazy as

others,” Mangel said.

Mangel knew Tuko was right for her when she saw his never quit attitude. He had just arrived to the kennel and hadn’t had time to get acclimated. He was sent to track and find an item.

“He didn’t give up,” Mangel said. “He went out and found it. That’s my personality, too.”

K9 Dep. R.T. Williams is another newer recruit to the unit and himself serves a dual purpose – K9 and School Resource. His furry partner is Zeke, a German Shorthaired Pointer.

“He’s a sniffer,” K9 Williams said of Zeke. They go into the schools and sniff out trouble. “The main goal is to keep our campuses safe.”

“It’s probably the hardest job I’ve ever had to do,” Williams added. “If I misread him, I might miss something.”

Even still, “I wouldn’t trade if for anything,” he said.



SCHOOL RESOURCE K9 R.T. WILLIAMS REWARDS K9 ZEKE, A GERMAN SHORTHAIRED POINTER AFTER SUCCESSFULLY ALERTING TO A TARGET.

★ STAR SCENE



DEPUTIES ANDREW BARTUCCELLI AND SCOTT BURKE SORT SUPPLIES DONATED DURING THE "FILL A BUS" BACK TO SCHOOL EVENT AT THE VERO BEACH WALMART.



CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATOR BROOKE ROLLANDO SHOWS OFF THE AGENCY'S RAPID DNA SYSTEM.



COMMUNITY AFFAIRS DEP. CLIFF LABBE (LEFT) AND LT. JOE ABOLLO ROLL UP TO A FAMILY SURF EVENT AND BECOME INSTANT CELEBRITIES WITH THE ATV.

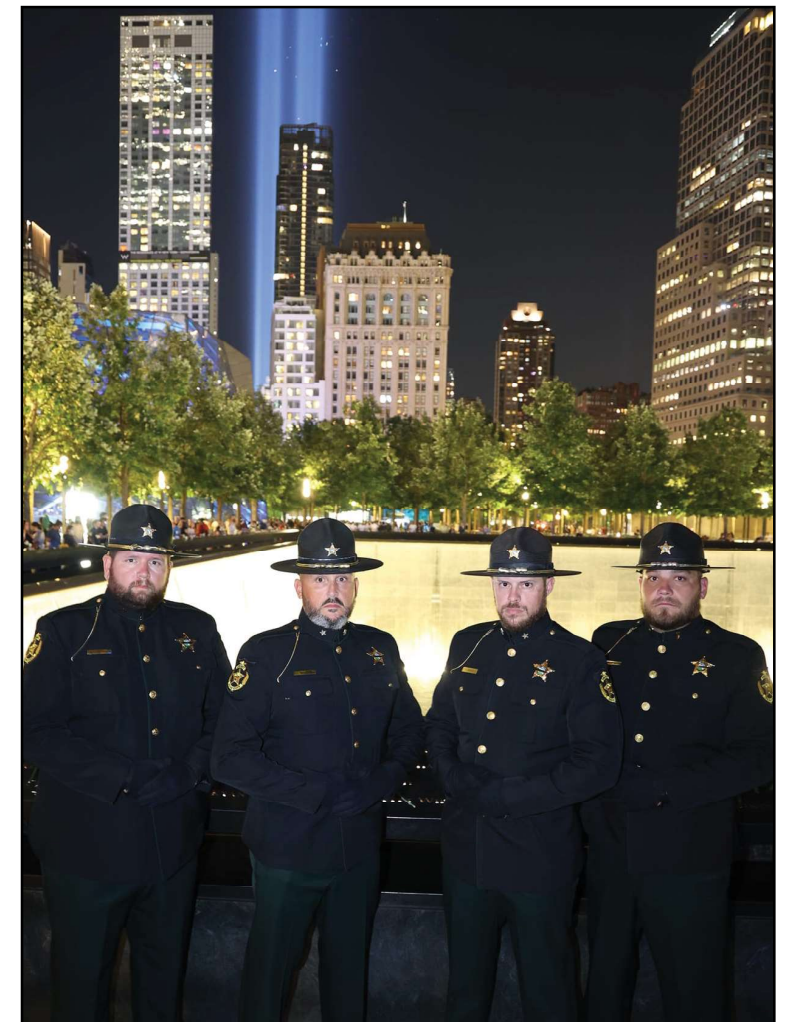
(BELOW) OTG LIQUIDATION CENTER DONATES BACKPACKS, LUNCH BOXES AND HAND SANITIZER TO THE HOPE FOR FAMILIES CENTER JUST IN TIME FOR THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR.



JUST A MATTER OF WEEKS INTO THE PALMETTO BERRY PICKING SEASON, THE AGENCY MAKES MORE THAN TWO DOZEN ARRESTS AND CONFISCATES THOUSANDS OF POUNDS OF BERRIES, WHICH ARE DONATED TO THE FRIENDS OF ST. SEBASTIAN RIVER FOR FUNDING IMPROVEMENTS AND MAINTENANCE OF THE PRESERVE.



KIDS AT VERO BEACH ACADEMY PARTICIPATE IN THE RAD KIDS PROGRAM, LEARNING SELF-DEFENSE.



MEMBERS OF THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE HONOR GUARD, SGT. KEVIN JAWORSKI, DEP. ED GAST, DET. BOB SUNKEL, AND LT. FLETCHER MCCLELLAN, ATTEND THE 9/11 ANNIVERSARY CEREMONIES IN NEW YORK CITY.

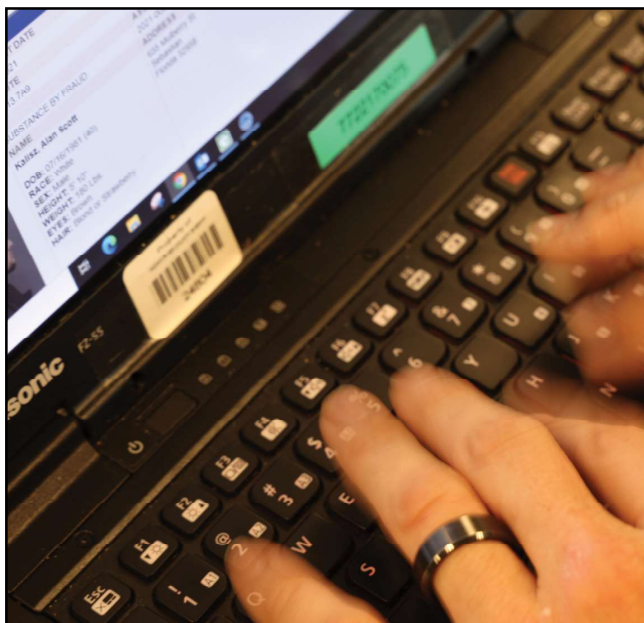


JOHN WALSH, OF AMERICA'S MOST WANTED FAME, FILMS THE FUGITIVE OF THE WEEK WITH SHERIFF ERIC FLOWERS.

FUGITIVE OF THE WEEK PUTTING CRIMINALS BEHIND BARS

With the help of the public, the fugitive apprehension team at the Sheriff's Office has been busier than ever. Every time the agency posts one of its Fugitive of the Week videos, calls come into Treasure Coast Crime Stoppers with tips on where the fugitive was last seen or hiding out.

"The public's assistance has been very helpful," said one of the members of the team. "We can't do it as well as we can without [the public]. It's a team effort."



ARMED WITH TIPS FROM THE COMMUNITY, DETECTIVES ON THE FUGITIVE APPREHENSION TEAM TRACK WANTED FUGITIVES.

In some cases, fugitives resign themselves to the inevitable and just turn themselves in because they don't want to be featured on social media, the team said.

The identities of the fugitive task force are kept confidential due to the nature of their work.

Before the regular Fugitive of the Week videos, there was seemingly little consequence for those who continued to evade arrest. But once the Fugitive of the Week videos started being posted, the public started keeping a collective eye out for the featured fugitives and their movements became hindered.

"The fugitive of the week has been very, very successful," the team member said.

In the few months that the agency has been posting the videos, 90 percent of the featured fugitives have been captured or have turned themselves in.

Treasure Coast Crime Stoppers has noted a 25 percent increase in the number of tips it receives from Indian River County tied to the videos.

The videos feature law enforcement friend John Walsh, of America's Most Wanted fame. He now hosts a show called In Pursuit with John Walsh.

"I'm thrilled to hear it is playing out so well," Walsh said. When Sheriff Eric Flowers approached Walsh about the Fugitive of the Week videos, he jumped at the

opportunity.

"I know what the power of TV can do," he added. "I know first-hand."

Walsh's production company covered the costs and handled the filming.

"If you give people the opportunity to do the right thing without fear of retribution, they'll do the right thing," Walsh said.

The fugitive team has multiple cases going simultaneously, some that have been going for more than a year.

The team said one of its biggest success cases is that of fugitive Shannon Whitfield, who had been wanted for a year and a half on a drug-sale related warrant. The Sheriff's Office had been investigating drug sales and Whitfield saw associates being arrested.

"Whitfield high-tailed it out of town," the team said.

Once her video went on social media, tips started coming in, pointing them to Polk County.

Fugitives don't always stay near their home and often flee the state altogether. When the team thinks they have a line on a wanted fugitive hiding out in another jurisdiction – state or otherwise – they call the law enforcement officers in that area to assist.

Detectives and members of the U.S. Marshals Fugitive Task Force and Polk County Task Force were able to locate and apprehend Whitfield hiding in Polk County.

Along with the Fugitive of the Week videos, the team is coming up with other ideas to better get the word out



TIPS PROMPTED BY THE FUGITIVE OF THE WEEK HIGHLIGHT LED TO SHANNON WHITFIELD'S ARREST.

on those who are wanted. One idea floated has been a deck of playing cards with the fugitives printed on them.

The cards could be used in the jail, which could spur tips.

Electronic kiosks at county facilities could also display a rotation of fugitives and be another way of getting the faces in front of more eyeballs in the public.

Ultimately, though, the biggest help in tracking down fugitives has been Treasure Coast Crime Stoppers, which offers a way for people to remain anonymous and give information. They also offer cash rewards for those tips that lead to an arrest.

Walsh said one of the issues he plans to tackle is the funding for and awareness of Crime Stoppers.

"People have to get out their wallet," he said, explaining that Crime Stoppers needs more funding.

Treasure Coast Crime Stoppers is not attached in any to the Sheriff's Office. Instead, it reports to the state, which oversees the payouts on tips.

Payouts, in some cases, can hit \$5,000 – but those are typically reserved for murder cases or other similar crime. On average, payouts are usually a couple hundred dollars.

There are several ways to make an anonymous tip. The best-known way is to call (800) 273-TIPS (8477). But tips can also be made online via Treasure Coast Crime Stoppers' website, www.TCWatch.org, or through the organization's app found at P3Tips.org.

If something is happening in the moment, though, call 911. But if your information is not time-critical, then reach out to Treasure Coast Crime Stoppers.



STARWORTHY MILESTONES

The Indian River County Sheriff's Office congratulates its slate of employees who have served this agency with honor and dignity for at least 15 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 of the Second Quarter. Thank you for your continued service.



Kimberly Dean
33



Allison Klotzer
33



Kimberly Poole
30



Barbie Hiers-Spaulding
30



Debra A. Worley



Annette Coppersmith



Amy F. Ford
Angie D. Kears
Latonya A. Holiday



James D. Barkwell
Fletcher McClellan
Craig J. Thimmer



STARWORTHY RETIREMENTS



Jocelyn Lewis

May. 5, 1986 - Aug. 31, 2021

Jo transferred from Records to General Services and served as a receptionist before her retirement.

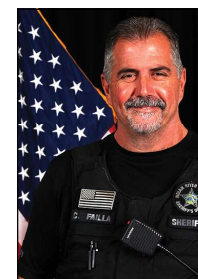
She earned many Going the Extra Mile Awards, as well as the Civilian Employee of the Quarter. Jo worked 35 years 4 months.



Dep. Anthony Beachum

Jan. 23, 1995 - Aug. 20, 2021

Beachum served as a Law Enforcement deputy, having transferred from Corrections. He also served in Uniform Patrol as well as School Resource Deputy. He earned the Tactical Award, Grand Cordon Award, and multiple Perfect Attendance awards. He worked 26.5 years.



Chris Failla

Aug. 28, 1995 - Aug. 13, 2021

Failla ended his career in the Judicial Services/Legal Process division. He started as a Reserve and served as a Corrections Deputy before transferring to the Civil Unit.

He earned an Instructor Award, Tactical Award, and Grand Cordon Award. He served 26 years.



Dep. Scott Carmine

Jan. 23, 1995 - Aug. 20, 2021

Carmine started as a Uniform Deputy and served as Detective, Road Patrol, and Court Services. He earned the Honorable Service Award, as well as a Perfect Attendance Award.

Carmine worked for 23 years 4 months with the agency.



Sgt. Tim Barnhouse

June 12, 2000 - July 2, 2021

Barnhouse worked in Corrections for 21 years and was ultimately promoted to the rank of Sergeant.

During his time, he received a Commendation letter and a Tactical Award.

Barnhouse was also recognized for his volunteer work on the Youth Ranch BBQ.



Dep. Mark Shoemaker

Feb. 17, 2003 - Aug. 2, 2021

Shoemaker earned two awards during his time with the Indian River County Sheriff's Office.

He received the Going the Extra Mile Award as well as the Honorable Service Award.

In 2012, he became a Field Training Officer. Shoemaker served 18 years 4 months.



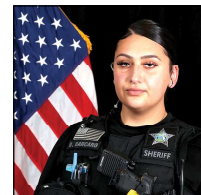
STARWORTHY AWARDS

Law Enforcement Officer of the Quarter



Sgt. Ron Garrison - First Quarter

Sgt. Ron Garrison was nominated for assistance provided to an individual who received a citation due to mistaken identity. Due to Ron's diligence and persistence, all was rectified for the individual.



Dep. Brianna Barcaro - Second Quarter

Dep. Brianna Barcaro was nominated for quickly removing an individual from a submerged vehicle. Brianna also received the Life Saving Award.

Corrections Officer of the Quarter



Dep. Veronica Turner - First Quarter

Dep. Turner was nominated for her quick actions recognizing that a fellow deputy was having a medical episode and seeking medical assistance for this individual. She also received the Life Saving Award.



Dep. Theresa Wood - Second Quarter

Dep. Wood was nominated for her interaction with a Special Needs inmate. She has developed a great rapport with this inmate and is able to deescalate the inmate's episodes, which saves valuable time.

Civilian of the Quarter



Annette Coppersmith - First Quarter

Crossing Guard Annette "Nana" Coppersmith was nominated for her 20 years of dedication to the families at Citrus Elementary. She recently obtained her certification in traffic control to better assist in arrivals and departures.



Julie Bennett - Second Quarter

Finance Administrator Julie Bennett was nominated for recognizing an error in one of the agency's systems and ultimately saved the agency unwanted orders and expenses.

Volunteer of the Quarter



No Nominations were made for the first quarter due to COVID 19.



Michael Sherwood - Second Quarter

Sherwood was nominated for assisting with the transfer of the volunteer unit. His willingness and dedication to the unit contributed to being selected for the position of Civilian Traffic Assistant.

Dispatcher of the Quarter



Lu Owens - First Quarter

PSD Supervisor Lu Owens was nominated for her part in saving someone's life. The parents of this individual stopped by to personally thank Lu. She also received the Life Saving Award.



Tiffany Leiva - Second Quarter

PSD Leiva was nominated for her professionalism in her abilities when answering a 911 call regarding a choking infant. Tiffany maintained her composure and concentration during this 7-minute call.



STARWORTHY FEATS

A prayer for our agency



Dear Sheriff Flowers. All Officers and Staff. I wish for y'all the very, very best! May Jesus make your lives most richly blest! May heaven help your sweetest dreams come true; today in every way, may God bless you!

May God bless y'all today and every day, and make and keep your loved ones A-OK! May heaven's light illuminate your way! God bless you all! In Jesus' name, I pray!

Steve Gifford



Dep. McKenzie, 'your kindness will be remembered'

A family in a hurry to get to a friend's home to say goodbye to their beloved pet was pulled over by Dep. McKenzie when the driver, Mr. Danforth, swerved to get into the correct lane. Mr. Danforth called to compliment Dep. McKenzie for handling the situation in a caring way.

Dep. McKenzie checked on Mr. Danforth's daughter, who was in the backseat visibly upset, and used calming words. Mr. Danforth described Dep. McKenzie as "extremely polite and caring" in regards to the situation. He said the deputy did excellent policing, and that he was very thankful that the deputy let them be able to get to their friends before the dog passed.

Mr. Danforth said Dep. McKenzie "made a huge difference in their lives that evening." And that he appreciated all he did for them. Dep. McKenzie's kindness will be remembered for a very long time by him and his family.

Dep. DeLeon exhibits 'overwhelming compassion' in assistance

Dear Mr. Flowers,

I am writing to you today (Aug. 5, 2021) to say thank you for one of your amazing deputies! On July 28, approximately 9 p.m. in the parking lot of Sam's Club, Dep. DeLeon rescued me from a bad situation, which could have become a much, much worse situation!

Dep. DeLeon exhibited strength, courage, determination, and overwhelming compassion in a way I may never be able to express in mere words. She deserves a medal!

Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Sincerely yours,

Ms. Shepard





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