



THE SHERIFF'S POST

SECOND QUARTER 2024 - APRIL MAY JUNE

Behind the Walls:

Corrections Deputies are responsible for maintaining the safety of inmates, while staying safe themselves. p6

Road Rules:

The Traffic Unit is responsible for enforcing traffic laws as well as investigating the numerous crashes that occur daily. p10

ON THE WATER

ANGLERS VIE FOR PRIZES IN THE THIRD ANNUAL FISHING WITH FLOWERS TOURNAMENT BENEFITTING THE FLORIDA SHERIFFS YOUTH RANCHES. p4



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

<https://www.emergencyprofile.org/>



RAPIDSOS



Create a **FREE**
Emergency Health profile



In the event of an emergency,
CALL 911



RapidSOS automatically
SENDS your 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.

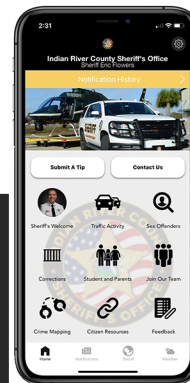
Sign up for **FREE** with Rapid SOS and when help is on the way, you know emergency crews have all the right information. Watch a video explaining the system, here—<https://bit.ly/3CnXniu>

Indian River County Sheriff's Office



Download our **FREE**
mobile app today!

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



SCAN to download!



events we'll be attending. 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.

FROM THE SHERIFF'S DESK



Welcome back to our latest edition of The Sheriff's Post. This issue highlights our second quarter, April through June.

We have three great pieces in this issue, highlighting the hard work and dedication of an entire department and that of a unit.

The third, our cover story, shines a light on our 3rd annual Fishing With Flowers fishing tournament, which benefits the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches (p4).

This was our largest tourney to date and we expect it to keep growing. We raised \$4,000 for the Youth Ranches, adding to the \$62,000 we presented to the organization in March during our annual barbecue.

Our next fundraiser will be this fall, with our annual Clay Shoot. More information on that event and how you can help support the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches will be released as it approaches.

Also within these pages, you'll get a more in-depth look at what happens within our county jail. Those who get to tour the jail for themselves, while at the barbecue or during our Citizens Academy class, get a behind-the-scenes look at what goes into the day-to-day operations at the county jail.

Corrections Deputies and their civilian counterparts are responsible for keeping the inmates - and each other safe (p6).

On page 10, you'll learn more about our Traffic Unit, which is responsible for not only educating the public on the rules of the road but also enforcing them. And, when a fatal crash does occur, they're the ones we send out to investigate.

During the school year, they patrol problematic school zones, citing drivers for traveling too fast, talking on their phones - not hands-free - and passing stopped buses. Doing any of those three things puts the safety of the community's children at risk.

Our Traffic Unit often runs targeted campaigns, such as Click It or Ticket, and Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over, among others.

We continue to work hard for our community. Stay tuned for more!

YOUR SHERIFF,
ERIC FLOWERS

FISHING WITH FLOWERS

FISHY FUN FOR YOUTH RANCHES

After several days of iffy weather, the skies cleared and the clouds parted in time for the third annual Fishing With Flowers Fishing Tournament benefitting the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches. Seventeen captains registered for the tourney with the hopes of landing the largest fish and claiming the prize money.

But it was the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches that won big. The Indian River County Sheriff's Office fund-raiser netted \$4,000 for the organization, which provides services to youth who might need a bit of a course correction.

"We wouldn't be able to provide that if not for the Sheriff's Office's support," said FSYR President Bill Frye. Specifically, without the fund-raising efforts from the Sheriff's Office, the Youth Ranches wouldn't be able to offer Harmony in the Streets, the mobile camp the organization brings to the county each summer.

Over the years, the Sheriff's Office has raised more than \$1.22 million for the Youth Ranches – nearly \$250,000 during Sheriff Eric Flowers' term.

Not an angler himself, Sheriff Flowers said the fishing tournament serves as a chance to reach out to a specific part of the community that might not otherwise have considered supporting the Youth Ranches.

"It's a good opportunity to bring the fishing community," he said, noting that those youth who attend the camps often go fishing, making it a good tie-in.



(Above) Anglers submit their catches via photo before releasing their fish back into the water.

(Below) Sheriff Flowers celebrates the fishing tournament with FSYR Pres. Bill Frye and Ex. Pres. Maria Knapp.





(Above) Generous area businesses donated hundreds of dollars worth of prizes used in a raffle to support the fishing tournament.

(Below) Dorothy Cobb receives her \$250 prize money for taking 2nd place for the Snapper she caught.



The sheriff noted that the newest fund-raiser continues to see growth year over year in participation. The first year had seven registered captains. Last year, it doubled to 14. This year, even more.

"It's phenomenal," Sheriff Flowers said. "I'm happy with the turnout."

Riley Freeman cast a competitive line for the first time and reeled in \$100 in prize money. The 14-year-old said she has never been into fishing, though her father owns Wabasso Bait & Tackle.

When her dad asked about signing up, she said she would – this was for a good cause. Riley plans to use the cash prize as fun money for the summer.

And, whether she'll launch a competitive fishing career, or not? That remains to be seen. She does, however, plan to cast a line again at next year's tournament.

Thank you Sponsors!

- Jake Owens Foundation
- Dale Sorensen Real Estate
- Sea Gypsy
- Walmart
- Outback Steakhouse
- Whites Tackle
- Vero Tackle
- Wabasso Tackle
- 21st Amendment
- Pat White

"We're excited" about the tournament, Frye said. He explained that every time there's a fund-raiser, the organization sees an increase in community awareness. "It's about the people" more than the money, he said.

Executive Vice President Maria Knapp agreed. She met a family at the annual barbecue in March that the Sheriff's Office hosted.

"One event connected a family in need of help," Knapp said.

Knapp and Frye noted that these and other fund-raisers are only possible because of the people and community willing to support them.

"We are so grateful for these folks," Knapp said. "They step right up."

CORRECTIONS

KEEPING INMATES SAFE WITHIN THE WALLS

From the moment a person is brought into the Indian River County Jail under the custody of a law enforcement officer until that person is released from or transferred to another facility, the men and women who serve in Corrections are expected to provide care, maintain custody, and ensure security.

Booking deputies are the first to greet subjects as they come into the jail, and typically the last ones to see them out upon their release. On any given day, there are more than 400 inmates housed at the jail – some waiting to bond out, others waiting to take their case to court, and many who are serving their sentence.

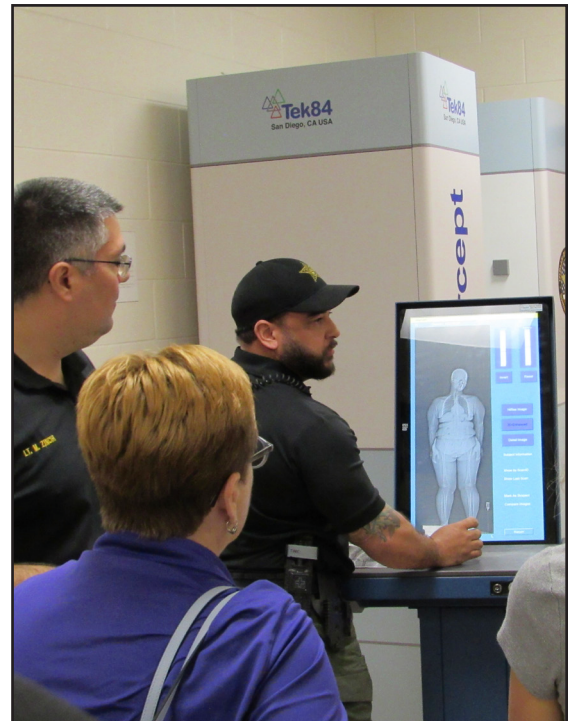
The jail was built over several phases, beginning in 1984 under then-Sheriff Tim Dobeck. It replaced the former jail, which was located in the 1700 block of 17th Avenue in Vero Beach, the current site of the Boys & Girls Club.

The former jail housed a maximum of 40 inmates. By comparison, the current jail has a maximum capacity of 742 inmates.

The campus continues to see expansion and renovation, including the recent Echo Complex, which is currently used for training and storage needs.

During winter, it can be converted into a cold-weather shelter for the homeless. The building serves as an alternative to going to hospitals and deters homeless subjects from committing minor crimes in order to get out of the cold.

Once booked into the jail, inmates are subject to a pat-down, fingerprinted, and have their information entered into the system to ensure they are who they say they are.



(Above) Dep. Rivera shows visitors the scanner Booking uses when a new inmate arrives.

(Below) Visitors on a tour of the Jail get a peek into one of the alternative housing cells used for inmates in need of special supervision.





Members of the Classification Unit then evaluate the charges levied on the inmate and other factors to determine to which block the inmates are assigned.

There are various blocks assigned based on the level of security the inmate needs given the severity of their charges. Once housed, they are issued certain items, including linens and hygiene products, for the duration of their stay.

They go through a reverse process upon their release back into the community and are provided with a packet of information containing resources that are available to them.

During their stay at the jail, inmates are offered several programs to help them successfully transition back into the community. Last year, more than 1,000 inmates participated in various classes and programs. Such programs include:

Anger Management, Substance Awareness, Parenting, Re-Entry, CPR/First Aid, GED (High School Diploma), Outside Work Crew, Special Detail Work Crew, In2Work (Food Service), Clear Gloss (Floor Care), Design Publication (Print Shop), River Farms, and Administrative Housekeeping.

Inmates learn how to build their résumés and hone their interview skills as they participate in job fairs. All these projects are funded

through the Inmate Welfare Fund, at no cost to taxpayers.

The agency has also added painting and yoga classes to better help inmates' mental and behavioral health.

(Above) Visitors are led through one of the inmate blocks where posters of inmate workers and artwork inmates created are displayed.

(Left) Inmates are issued their own bed, toilet paper, cinnamon toothpaste and other toiletries.



By the Numbers (2023)

- Meals Served - 547,500
- Recovered Funds - \$200,953
- Commission on Commissary from Sales - \$312,113
- In-Custody Deaths: 0
- Medical Emergencies: 408
- Detox Protocols Initiated - 720 patients
- Behavioral Health Screenings - 3,441
- Counseling: 3,233
- Mental Health Court: 109 clients admitted, 43 grads

ON THE SCENE





TRAFFIC UNIT

EDUCATING PUBLIC, ENFORCING LAWS

It's not like Forrest Gump's mama used to say – life being a box of chocolates and all. It's traffic stops. No two are the same. And there's no such thing as a "routine" traffic stop.

"We make thousands of traffic stops a year," Deputy David Flores said. "We're looking for what's irregular. We're even more heightened."

Deputy Flores is one of six members of the Sheriff's Office Traffic Unit – the team responsible for educating the public on the rules of the road – and enforcing said rules. They're also called out to investigate traffic-related deaths.

"They're a bunch of guys putting their lives on the line every day," Sgt. Doug MacKenzie said of his team. The Traffic Unit often patrols on motorcycles, in heavy traffic, with distracted drivers who are, apparently, more concerned with what's on their phone or in the mirror than who is driving nearby. "They do a job no one wants to do. It's the most dangerous job in the agency."



(Above) The Traffic Unit shows off their precision riding despite wet pavement.
(Below) At the intersection of 58th Avenue and State Road 60 in Vero Beach, Sgt. Doug MacKenzie, dressed as an elf, reminds drivers of the penalties for running red lights.



Reasons for traffic stops range from failing to use a seatbelt or having a tag light out to the more dangerous aggressive speeding and distracted swerving.

"We all handle a lot of stuff," Sgt. MacKenzie said. The allure of riding motorcycles drew Deputies Luis Nieves, Zachary Evans, and Flores to the Traffic Unit over other specialties.

Deputy Flores said he had always wanted to ride a motorcycle but never did before joining the Traffic Unit.



(Above) The Traffic Unit: Dep. Zachary Evans (from left), Dep. David Flores, Dep. Edouard Gast, Sgt. Doug MacKenzie, and Dep. Luis Nieves. (Not Pictured: Dep. Eric Gruber) (Below) The Traffic Unit performs maneuvers during the annual Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches Barbecue.

“It’s everything I wanted, and more,” he said.

For Deputy Evans, joining the Traffic Unit and riding a motorcycle was his ticket to providing escorts for dignitaries, something Road Patrol and others don’t get the opportunity to do.

The motorcycles are a big part of the unit. They allow the team to get into areas that cruisers wouldn’t be able to. Motorcycles have a smaller visible footprint. They can hide better. They can also maneuver more nimbly, especially on congested roadways.

One of the most frequent questions the crew gets asked is, “How fast is too fast?” While it’s fair to say the Traffic Unit exercises a bit of discretion when it comes to speeding, they won’t hesitate to stop someone going well above the posted limit.

“It’s every day,” Sgt. MacKenzie said. They all recounted stops they conducted in the previous 24 hours where drivers were traveling 70 to 90 mph in 40-50 mph zones.

“People don’t pay attention,” Deputy Evans said.

Deputy Flores said drivers can do the Traffic Unit and themselves a huge favor by simply following the rules on the road. “Don’t make it more difficult,” he said, do as you’re told.

And those who happen to pass a traffic stop can help, too. “Give us the room to work,” Deputy Zachary Evans said. Drivers must move over a lane if possible, and if not, slow down 20 mph under the posted speed limit.

“We’re there for a reason,” Deputy Luis Nieves said.



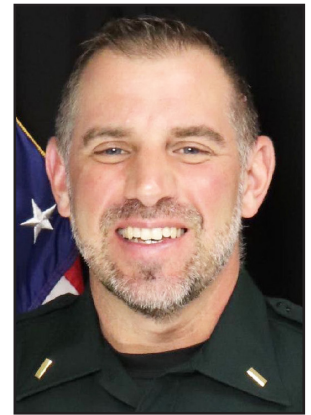
“My family drives these streets.”

~Dep. Zachary Evans

ANNIVERSARIES



Robert Haas, Jr.



James Dixon



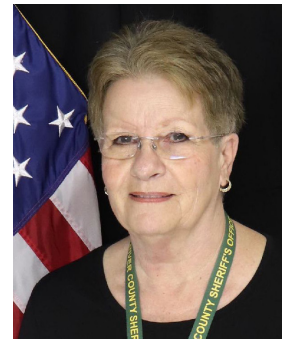
Brandi Ooley



Christopher Sharkey



Andrew Ceckanowicz



Dale Hendry



Matthew Redstone



Veronica Turner



Cara Bresett

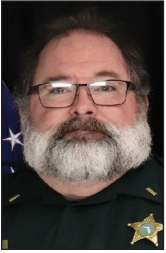


David Mahoney

RETIREMENTS

Lieutenant Roger Harrington

Jan. 2, 1996–May 3, 2024



Lt. Harrington served the agency for more than 28 years, beginning as a Deputy in Corrections and rising through the ranks.

He was a member of the Corrections Emergency Response Team and served in Transportation, Judicial Services, and Corrections Operations.

He received numerous awards over his nearly 3 decades of service, including Lifesaving, Going the Extra Mile, and Corrections Deputy of the Year.



as a School Resource Deputy.

During his tenure, he received several awards and commendations.

Such honors included Exceptional Duty, Grand Cordon – Honor Guard, Corrections Deputy of the Year, and Going the Extra Mile.

Deputy David May

June 30, 1997–June 7, 2024



Dep. May retired after almost 27 years, having served as a deputy in both Corrections and Law Enforcement, and most recently



Deputy Katheryn Gibson

Oct. 23, 2006–June 23, 2024



Dep. Gibson served the agency for nearly 18 years, beginning her career in 2006.

She became a Training Officer in 2008.

Dep. Gibson earned the Going the Extra Mile Award in both 2009 and 2021. She also earned the Perfect Attendance Award in 2021.



ACCOLADES

Deputy Ron Nalbandian-

Michael Krakosky called to commend and thank Dep. Nalbandian for his kindness and assistance with a fraud case. Because of Nalbandian's guidance, Mr. Krakosky was able to get the fraudulent charges reimbursed.

CTO Kasey Bailey, Deputy Alec Munni, Deputy Joseph Sheppard, Cpl. Brianna Barcaro, Deputy Frantz Villier, Sgt. Robert Sunkel, Sgt. Doug MacKenzie-

Andrew Moran wrote in commending all involved in the welfare check of his brother. His brother, during a deposition via Zoom, reached out of view and then

placed a handgun to his head.

Mr. Moran called law enforcement immediately and spoke to Bailey in Dispatch, who was able to keep the caller calm. She was able to research and obtain an address for his brother. Deputies arrived and located his brother safe at a nearby Wawa.

Mr. Moran is a retired police officer and former Public Safety Director from another state. He is grateful to everyone and for the deputies keeping in touch with him as the call for service progressed.

“As promised, I received my first call within a few minutes with an update on the situation. I received two more calls from your deputies to provide me with a sitrep. The communication was nothing short of outstanding.” (cont.)

ACCOLADES (cont.)

Cpl. Jeffrey Chouinard, Deputy Carlos Negron, Detective Dylan Farrinacci-

On the evening of May 8, 2024, Cpl. Jeffrey Chouinard, Deputy Carlos Negron, and Det. Dylan Farinacci were training in the Intermediate BJJ Class at RT Association in Vero Beach. During the middle of their training, another student, John Commins, fell unconscious. w

Negron and Farinacci placed Commins in the recovery position and assessed his condition. While doing so, Commins' condition deteriorated and he began exhibiting signs of severe medical distress.

Negron and Farinacci, who had both recently taken Basic Life Support training just weeks prior, recognized these signs and immediately began CPR.

PA Kris Hasenauer, another student at RT Association, was notified of the incident while in the parking lot and rushed back into the building to assist Negron and Farinacci with CPR.

Chouinard called 911 and assisted EMS in quickly locating RT Association in the Indian River Mall.

Negron, Farinacci, and Hasenauer performed CPR until EMS arrived. EMS took over BLS and transported Commins to Cleveland Clinic, where he was finally stabilized after being resuscitated twice.

The ER doctor at Cleveland Clinic stated that if it were not for the quick actions of Chouinard, Negron, Farinacci, and Hasenauer, there was a significant probability that Commins would have succumbed to the heart attack he had suffered.

Lt. Mathieu Zincir-

Gilles Wiseman shared his experience with Lt. Zincir during a tour of the jail during the FSYR BBQ. Mr. Wiseman speaks predominantly in French.

He was thankful to Zincir for taking the time to translate into French what was being said during the tour. Because of this, he had a wonderful experience.

"I take my hat off to this gentleman and all your police and administrative staff. Google has just helped me write my sincere thanks to you – Merci."

Sgt. Scott Liberatore-

Lori Windheuser wrote a letter praising Sgt. Liberatore for his kindness and compassion for her and her son, who is currently an inmate. Her son suffers from severe mental illness.

"He is very professional and knowledgeable of mental illness and understands the pain parents go through. He is a credit to his profession and definitely an asset to your facility."

Cold Case Coordinator Ed Glaser-

Jim Davis wrote a letter of appreciation and thanks to Ed Glaser for assisting his grandson with an assignment to produce a report on a cold case for his Forensic Pathology studies at Marshall University.

The cold case of Dortha Randolph from 1977 was the topic. The professor graded him a perfect score, which meant that not only was he at the top of his class, but also had one of the best reports ever received.

Victim Services Unit-

SAO Victim Advocate Taylor gave a big shoutout to our Victim Services Unit for the members' assistance with helping Taylor's office locate multiple victims they had been unable to locate.

Lindy Coleman, Estephanie Salgado, Robyn Candarini & Spirit, Deputy Tiffiany Welsh-

Misty Lundeen wrote in to express her gratitude to you all. She said you showed so much kindness and care to her son and his group of friends on the morning that one of their teenage friends committed suicide.

"They sat with all 6 of our kids and talked to them, as well as us parents, for at least an hour. The support, kindness, and empathy they gave to all of us was incredible."

NOW HIRING

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 \$40,000–\$53,000 based on experience. Civilian Corrections Assistants can expect to start at \$34,680.

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 emergencies and non-emergencies in a 911 dispatch center, including dispatching of Fire-EMS and Police Calls for service.

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 is based on recent, verifiable experience—between \$40,000 and \$53,000.

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 \$34,680 per year.

Other Positions Available

- Law Enforcement/Corrections Deputy—starting \$50,619
- Contract Administrator—starting \$49,980
- Investigative Support Technician—starting \$37,740

A photograph of five stuffed dogs of various breeds (Golden Retriever, Weimaraner, German Shepherd, etc.) dressed in black police uniforms with yellow star badges. They are sitting in a row on a dark surface. The entire advertisement section is enclosed in a thick black border.

Support our K-9 Unit - take one home today!

www.IRCSheriff.org Email Mindy Mangel - mmangel@ircsheriff.org

The logo of the Indian River County Sheriff's Office, featuring a circular seal with an American flag and the text "INDIAN RIVER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE".



Indian River County Sheriff's Office

Eric Flowers, Sheriff

4055 41st Ave.,

Vero Beach, FL 32960

(772) 569-6700

EMERGENCY? Dial 911

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