

# SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

S H E R I F F C O R O N E R



Fall Creek State Park



A N N U A L R E P O R T

2011



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Sheriff Phil Wowak

## MESSAGE FROM THE SHERIFF

2011 was a dynamic year for the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office. State prison realignment, staffing reductions, and the continued development of the Sheriff's Center for Public Safety were among the larger institutional challenges we dealt with. At the same time, our Gang Task Force increased its investigative capabilities and removed a significant number of weapons from our streets. We also effectively responded to public demonstrations, and participated in dozens of community meetings and events in your neighborhoods, business districts, and public spaces. Throughout all of this, our staff performed professionally and I am very proud of our many accomplishments. Thank you for taking the time to learn more about the work we do on your behalf.

"THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE IS STEADFAST IN OUR COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY POLICING—A VITAL PUBLIC AND POLICE PARTNERSHIP THAT WORKS FOR LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS TO SAFETY AND QUALITY OF LIFE ISSUES."

## MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to ensure public safety in Santa Cruz County. We accomplish this through open communication and collaboration with our community as well as continuous professional development of staff to address crime and promote innovative corrections solutions.

### 2011: SUCCESSFULLY ADAPTING TO THE BIGGEST CHANGES IN THREE DECADES

The Public Safety Realignment Act (Assembly Bill 109) dramatically changed the way that the Corrections Bureau operates and is funded. Our focus in 2011 was on making a smooth and successful transition as we embraced these sweeping changes, and maintaining a high level of service to the community in all areas.

### ACHIEVING POSITIVE OUTCOMES FROM THE PUBLIC SAFETY REALIGNMENT ACT

AB 109 became effective on October 1, 2011. All qualifying low-level offenders convicted of non-serious, non-violent, non-sex offenses must now serve their sentences in Santa Cruz County rather than in state prison. This is projected to add approximately 100 additional low-level offenders who will be housed in county jails each year or placed into our Custody Alternatives Program. The law also adds responsibility to the County Probation Department for reducing parole violations to keep offenders from returning to state prison.

We see the changes required by AB 109 as an opportunity to improve the efficiency and sustainability of our local justice systems so that we can better serve the needs of all of our community members. Santa Cruz County has a history of leadership in justice reform at the juvenile and adult level to draw from. Our approach has been to collaborate with the community and to utilize evidence-based practice, data-driven decision making, and transparent processes. In 2011, we developed a Custody Alternatives Program that includes electronic monitoring and evaluations for pre-trial release. We also improved our work release program by expanding the eligibility criteria. In addition, to help us manage the inmate population and make sound decisions about how offenders serve their sentences, we implemented a state-of-the-art risk assessment

management system. This new database enables us to look at the complete history of an inmate and identify individuals who may be eligible for the Custody Alternatives Program.

The results achieved so far have been very positive. By working proactively and teaming with the community and other agencies, we have been able to accommodate the additional offenders, reduce county incarceration rates, and improve public safety at the same time. As a result, Santa Cruz County has served as a state-wide model for other Sheriff Agencies in recognition of our community's proactive response to AB 109.

As part of AB 109, every community in California was required to establish a Community Corrections Partnership (CCP) to plan for AB 109 and to administer state funding for its implementation. The Santa Cruz County CCP has seven members, consisting of the Sheriff and representatives from the Santa Cruz District Attorney's Office, the Probation Department, the Superior Court of California, and the Watsonville Police Department. Based on State funding formulas, Santa Cruz County receives funds intended to provide for inmate population shifts.

### ANTICIPATING ADDITIONAL GAINS IN PRODUCTIVITY AT THE CENTER FOR PUBLIC SAFETY

Over the last few years, the Sheriff's Office has made great strides in productivity by applying new technologies and fine-tuning internal processes. We anticipate the next leap forward will take place when we consolidate operations at a new facility in Live Oak at the Center for Public Safety. Greater efficiency within the Sheriff's Office enables our staff to spend more time on public safety.

## ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION

An elected official, the Santa Cruz County Sheriff-Coroner is the county's Chief Law Enforcement Officer, with overall responsibility for the Sheriff's Office. Sheriff's Office employees are responsible for law enforcement services, including patrol and criminal investigations in the county's unincorporated areas, operating the adult jail system, providing court security for the Superior Court, and Coroner and Civil Service throughout the county. The Sheriff's Office consists of three bureaus: Operations, Corrections, and Administration. Each bureau is overseen by a Chief Deputy who is assigned Lieutenants, Sergeants, Deputies, and civilian employees.



Santa Cruz County is 441 square miles with 29 miles of beaches, and has a resident population of 262,382 (2010 US Census Bureau). About half of the population lives in four incorporated cities. The other half resides in 13 unincorporated areas which are served by the Sheriff's Office: Aptos, Ben Lomond, Bonny Doon, Boulder Creek, Brookdale, Corralitos, Davenport, Felton, Freedom, La Selva Beach, Rio Del Mar, Soquel, and Zayante.

Santa Cruz County's popularity as a cultural hub, tourist destination, and bountiful agricultural center continues to grow. In addition to its mild climate and natural beauty, county attractions include the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk, 22 state parks, Roaring Camp Railroad, and the abundance of accessible beaches. During large sporting events and the summer months and holidays the resources of all county law enforcement agencies are engaged.

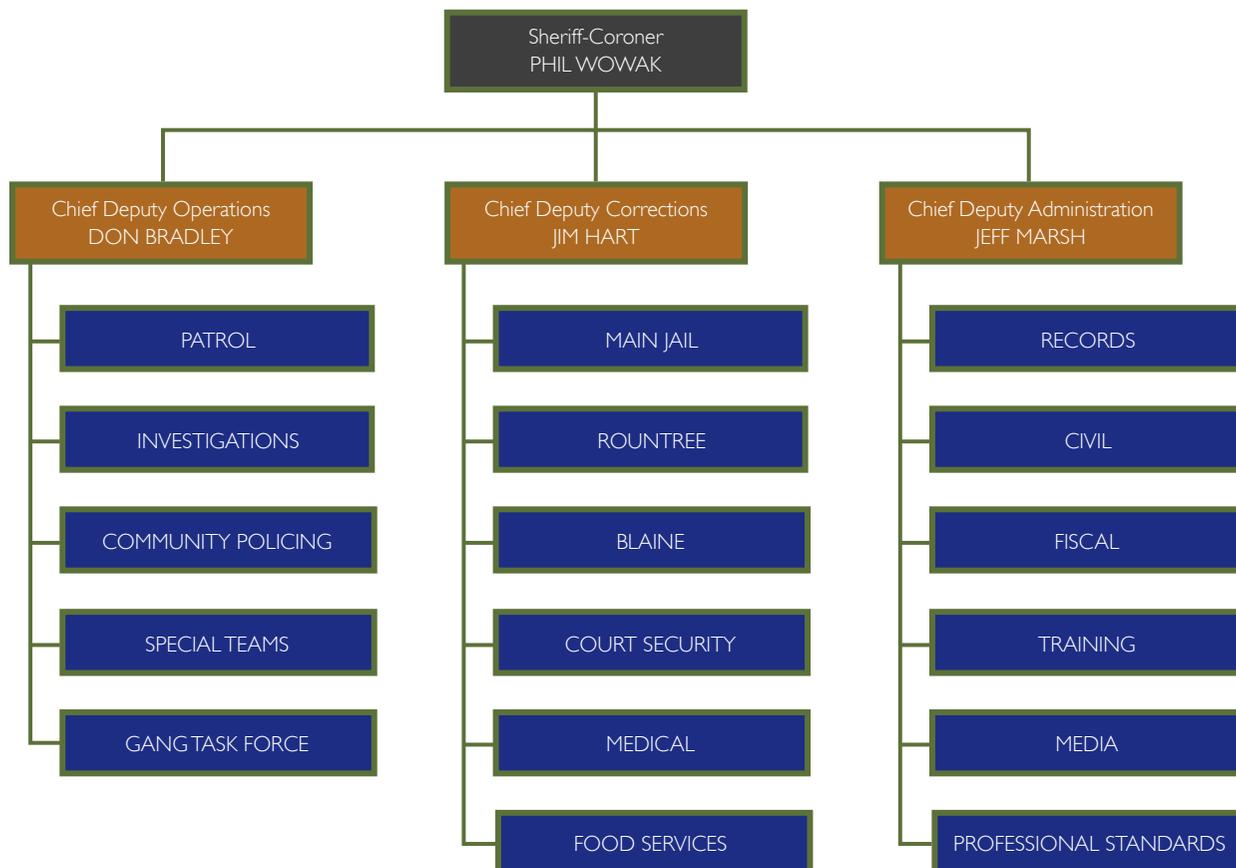
# BUDGET AND ORGANIZATION CHART

## FISCAL YEAR 2010/2011 BUDGET

Operations	\$31,281,996
Corrections	\$29,569,052
Court	\$5,194,594
Total	\$66,045,642

## AUTHORIZED POSITIONS IN THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE 2011

Sworn	161
Corrections	108
Civilian	82.5
Total	351.5



## OPERATIONS BUREAU

The Operations Bureau consists of Deputies who patrol our neighborhoods, Detectives who investigate major cases, and Community Policing Officers who work with the communities at our five Sheriff's Office Service Centers located throughout Santa Cruz County. The Patrol Division also supports Special Operations Teams: Canine Unit, Coast Patrol, Air Squadron, Bomb Team, Search and Rescue, Motorcycle Posse, Mounted Horse Posse, Special Weapons and Tactics Team, Crisis Negotiation Team, Tactical Team, and Reserve Duties.



## **WORKING HAND IN HAND WITH THE COMMUNITY: COMMUNITY POLICING**

The Community Policing Division provides long-term solutions to identify and alleviate the causes of crime and issues affecting individuals' sense of security in Santa Cruz County by personally interacting and working with groups, businesses, organizations, and individuals in the community.

An example of our collaborative relationship with the community is the Sheriff's Activity League (SAL) which engages youth in positive, healthy activities such as supervised sports, field trips, and other events. Over 900 children ranging in age from four to 18 participated in SAL activities in 2011 including South County Soccer, Core Scholastic Surf Leagues, Junior High and High School Surf League, Live Oak Futsal, Junior Giants Baseball, and Teach a Kid to Surf Day.

The Division operates five Sheriff's Office Community Service Centers that promote communication and develop connections within the communities served. The Centers are located in residential areas of San Lorenzo Valley, Live Oak/Soquel, Aptos, and Freedom, and one Center is located on the Cabrillo College campus in Aptos.

Staff that work out of the Centers include Sheriff's Sergeants, School Resource Officers, Rural Crimes Deputies, and Community Service Officers who patrol parks and tow abandoned vehicles. Service Center staff is supplemented by a strong team of volunteers who handle many different tasks. We are grateful to these dedicated and capable volunteers who enable us to continue to deliver vital services during these challenging economic times. The Centers provide neighborhood watch, bicycle registration, fingerprinting, vehicle abatement, and vacation watch. They are also a convenient meeting place for residents and law enforcement staff to discuss neighborhood issues. All of the Centers are available to serve as critical incident coordination centers during emergencies.

## **NATIONAL NIGHT OUT**

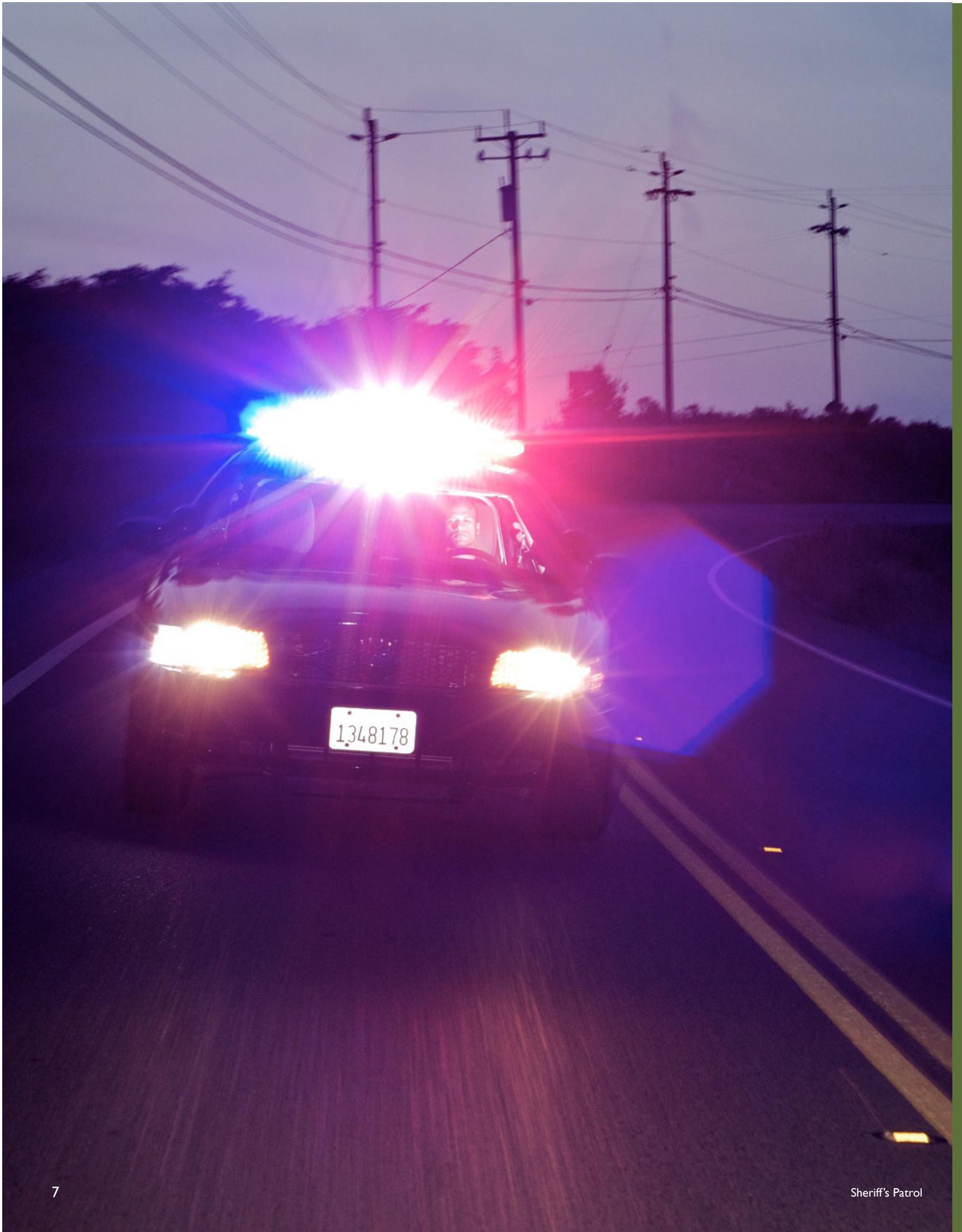
The Sheriff's Office celebrated its eighth year participating in "National Night Out," a nationally recognized event held the first Tuesday of August that highlights community programs to keep neighborhoods safe, such as Neighborhood Watch. The Sheriff's Office has hosted the event at the Sheriff's Service Centers in Felton, Aptos, Live Oak, Watsonville, and the Summit. National Night Out provides the Sheriff's Office the opportunity to educate the community about the services it provides. This event has become more successful each year due to the participation of Neighborhood Watch community members and other community groups.

## **EXPANDING SANTA CRUZ BASTA**

The Sheriff's Office has been involved in the expansion of the BASTA (Broad-based Apprehension Suppression Treatment and Alternatives) program in the north half of the county. BASTA, which means "enough" in Spanish, is a county-wide collaborative formed for the purpose of proactively keeping schools and the community safe by reducing and preventing youth gang violence, school truancy, suspensions, expulsions, and alcohol and drug abuse.

BASTA's Regional Operating teams are comprised of the heads of non-profit agencies serving school districts, representatives from the large school districts who work with high risk students, the director of Alternative Education Programs, and representatives from County Children's Mental Health, Probation, City Parks and Recreation, and the Santa Cruz County Office of Education. Operating teams also include a high level of law enforcement representation from all law enforcement agencies within the county.

BASTA dovetails with the work of the Santa Cruz County Gang Task Force, which proactively investigates, apprehends, and prosecutes criminal street gang members for violation of state and federal law. The task force achieved outstanding results during its first full year of operation in 2011.



## PATROL DIVISION SERVICE CALLS BY GEOGRAPHIC AREA 2011

AREA	CALLS	% OF TOTAL
NORTH COAST	1,742	2%
SAN LORENZO VALLEY NORTH	8,385	9%
SAN LORENZO VALLEY SOUTH	10,051	11%
LIVE OAK EAST	9,653	10%
LIVE OAK WEST	14,218	15%
SOQUEL	12,127	13%
SUMMIT	1,767	2%
APTOS NORTH	11,804	12%
APTOS SOUTH	6,900	7%
PAJARO VALLEY NORTH	8,443	9%
PAJARO VALLEY SOUTH	3,256	3%
MISCELLANEOUS	6,356	7%
TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE	94,702	100%

## PROVIDING CRITICAL, SPECIALIZED SERVICES

### BOMB TEAM

This team, the only one of its kind in the county, had an eventful year responding to several suspicious devices while working their respective jobs within the department. The team was enhanced by the addition of two certified Hazardous Devices Technicians in 2011. Training is a major focus for the Bomb Team. 400 hours of basic training is required for entry level Hazardous Devices Technician status, and skills must be refreshed every three years by the FBI. The team competed in several Bay area training events and took first place in the Urban Shield, the largest competitive training event in Northern California.

### SPECIAL WEAPONS AND TACTICS TEAM

The Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Team is deployed as a full team or as a rapid response group for emergency incidents. The Team also assists in pre-planned events such as high risk search warrants. In 2011 the Team assisted in four such warrants which resulted in numerous arrests without incident. Its 23 members are trained in weapons proficiency, emergency first aid, hostage rescue, barricaded subjects, executive protection, surveillance, and air operations. Within the SWAT Team are a Crisis Negotiations Team of 12 trained negotiators and a Deputy Support Team of 10 that provide logistical support. The SWAT Team trains a minimum of 10 hours per month.

### AIR SQUADRON

The Air Support Unit flies an average of sixty missions annually, has radio communication capabilities to respond to and assist all law enforcement agencies while airborne, and assists ground personnel with evacuations. The unit consists of an Aero Squadron of civilians and Deputies. The civilian pilots fly transportation missions in their own aircraft. These pilots must possess an FAA commercial pilot certificate with a current instrument rating, and have aircraft appropriate to the needs of the Sheriff's Office. The sworn pilots fly Cessna 172 aircraft that are located at Watsonville Municipal Airport. The Deputy pilots receive extensive training directly related to the missions they are called to fly including search and rescue, surveillance, aerial photography, scene security, and over-flights of major incidents and disasters.

**PATROL DEPUTIES RESPONDED TO 94,702 CALLS FOR SERVICE, TOOK 11,620 REPORTS AND 3,530 SUPPLEMENTAL REPORTS.**



### BOMB TEAM DEFUSES INCENDIARY SITUATIONS

In September, 2011 a suspect who had resisted arrest by one of our Deputies claimed to have a bomb in a bag in his residence on Brommer Street in Santa Cruz. The Bomb Team retrieved the improvised incendiary device and rendered it safe at the scene. In another case that summer, the Bomb Team and the Special Weapons and Tactics Team were deployed to a house in Watsonville where there had been an exchange of gunfire with a Police Officer. The suspect had barricaded himself within the residence and taken his own life. Prior to making entry into the residence, the Bomb Team used our robot, "Sparky," to breach the front door safely without causing injury to human life.

## SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAM

The Search and Rescue (SAR) Team is comprised of full time Deputies and volunteers with specialized training. The SAR Team is on call 24/7. Its 88 members include 28 Deputies and 51 civilian volunteers including nine Mounted Horse Posse members, 21 Motorcycle Posse members, five Technical Ropes Team Members, one Canine Handler certified in wilderness searches, and two Canine Handler teams in training. During 2011 the SAR Team volunteered a total of 2,200 hours and responded to six searches in Nisene Marks and Castle Rock State Parks. The team located four lost persons, completed one body recovery, and responded to two Mutual Aid Call Outs in Monterey and San Luis Obispo Counties.



## ENSURING THAT LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS MEET THE HIGHEST STANDARD

The Field Training Officer Program (FTO) teaches and mentors Law Enforcement Officers hired by the Sheriff's Office to ensure that they have attained the competence and character to perform their duties effectively and ethically. 2011 was a busy year for the FTO. We were fortunate to fill vacancies within the Sheriff's Office with 11 experienced Police Officers, the majority of whom came from the San Jose Police Department following city-wide layoffs. Hiring experienced officers saved tax dollars because basic academy training was unnecessary, however, the FTO program did focus on orienting the new Deputies to local community expectations and the Sheriff's Office operating procedures.

## SERVICES PROVIDED BY SHERIFF'S OFFICE SERVICE CENTERS

CHILD IDENTIFICATION	742
MISSING PERSONS FOLLOW-UP	268
CITATION SIGN-OFF	999
COMMUNITY MEETINGS	180
WALK-IN CLIENTS	4,991
TELEPHONE CALLS RECEIVED	6,775
VOLUNTEER HOURS	11,693



## RECOVERING STOLEN GUNS FROM GANG MEMBERS

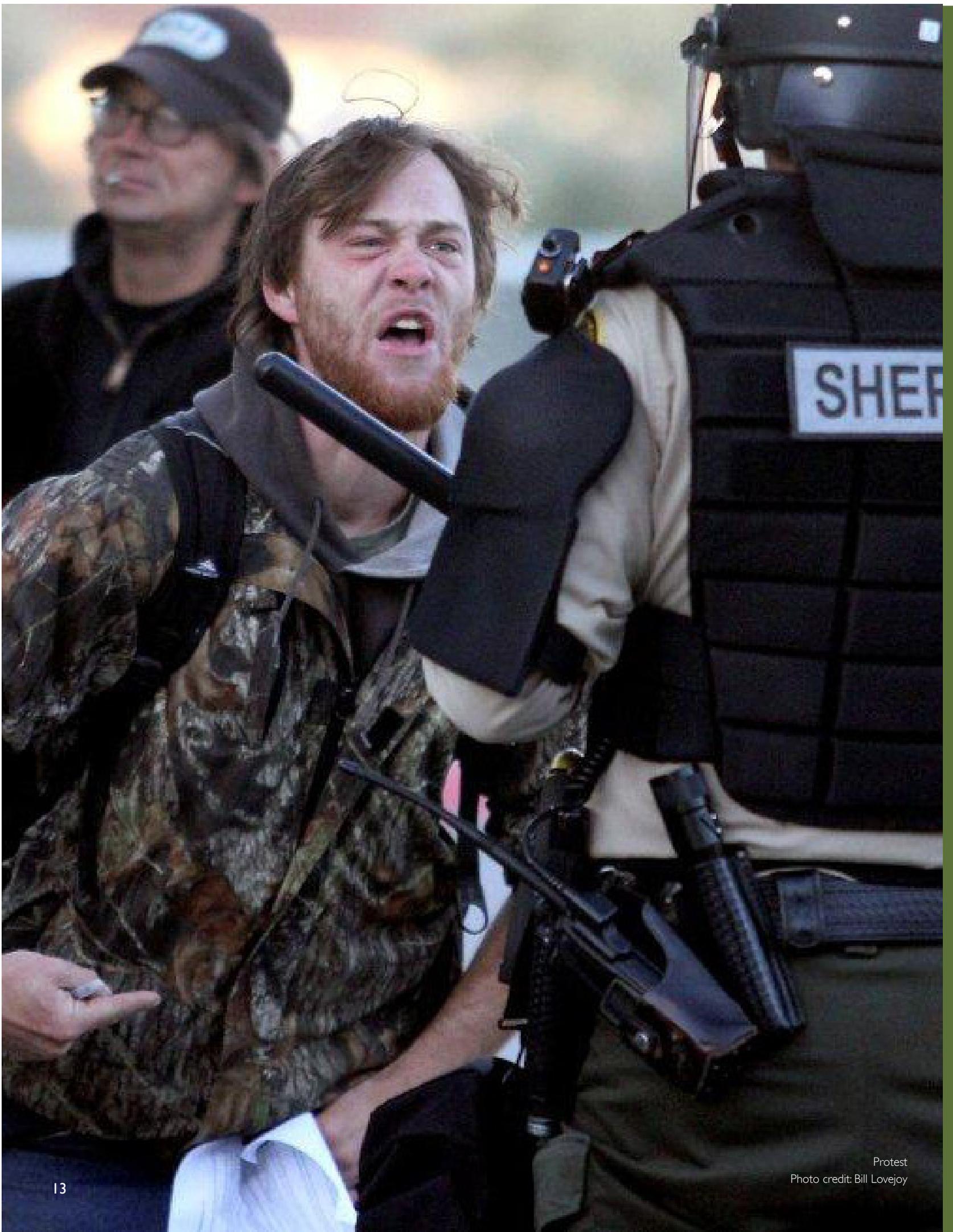
In the fall of 2011, Sheriff's Office Deputies recovered several guns stolen during a residential robbery and arrested three dangerous gang members. During a surveillance of three gang suspects at an apartment complex in Watsonville, two of them fled on foot but were caught. A third suspect unlawfully entered an occupied apartment and threatened to "shoot it out with the cops." Once the resident fled the apartment, Deputies retreated from the apartment and maintained a perimeter while waiting for SWAT personnel to arrive and take over the operation. Prior to the SWAT Team's arrival, the suspect, who was in possession of a loaded shotgun, surrendered, and was taken into custody by Deputies. The stolen guns were located in a search that followed the arrests.



## COMMUNITY POLICING DIVISION: MAINTAINING A SAFE ENVIRONMENT AT CABRILLO COLLEGE

Cabrillo College contracts with the Sheriff's Office to provide crime prevention and law enforcement services on its three campuses in Aptos, Watsonville, and Scotts Valley. Our mission is to make the campus a place where everyone can attend safely without fear. Our staff continues to handle a large number of demands through the dedication of a Sergeant, a Deputy, a full-time Security Officer, and a part-time Security Officer.

WALK-INS	9,124
PHONE CALLS	6,833
CALLS FOR SERVICE	3,417
LIVE SCAN FINGERPRINTS	4,642
PARKING CITATIONS	3,380
CRIME REPORTS	166
CITATION APPEALS	816



Protest  
Photo credit: Bill Lovejoy

## KEEPING THE PEACE DURING THE OCCUPY MOVEMENT

The Occupy protest movement took root in Santa Cruz in the fall of 2011. On October 4, Occupy Santa Cruz held its first General Assembly with approximately 200 people at San Lorenzo Park adjacent to the county building. Within days, scattered campsites appeared in the park, on county lawns, and around the courthouse on Water Street. After the City issued a temporary permit to allow camping, tents were set up on the city lands above the San Lorenzo River. Dozens of protesters gathered each day on the Water Street courthouse steps and erected a large metal structure they called the “Occudome” in early November.

During the following month, over 100 complaints were received for incidents taking place in and around the county building including fights, drunkenness, drug use, vandalism, and public urination and defecation. In response, the county developed property use restrictions. After repeated warnings, Sheriff’s Deputies abated the situation on December 4 without a single arrest and assisted the City of Santa Cruz in a multi-agency operation to clear the area of campsites and trash four days later. The Occupy movement continued but safety and security at the county building and the courthouse were restored.



## INVESTIGATION DIVISION

The Investigation Division works on complex criminal matters not routinely handled by the Patrol Division. The Division's focus is to complete follow-up on as many felony cases as possible. Its major areas are: Crime Scene, Coroner, Persons Crimes (Robbery/Homicide/Domestic Violence), Sexual Assault/Physical Child Abuse, Property Crimes, and the Narcotics Enforcement Team.

Detectives in the Investigation Division require special technical skills and training. Before cases are assigned, the division must assess and evaluate cases as they are received to look for solvability, type of crime, impact to the community, and other factors.

## INVESTIGATING AND SOLVING COMPLEX FELONY CASES

### CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATION

The Crime Scene Investigation team (CSI) is recognized county-wide as the subject matter experts in crime scene investigation. The team is frequently called upon to assist with cases in other jurisdictions and to testify in court. CSI responded to over 86 calls to process major crime scenes and handled more than 510 follow-up requests from the District Attorney's Office. It handled 243 in-house requests from Deputies and Detectives, and over 176 follow-up requests from outside the Sheriff's Office. CSI also prepared numerous court exhibits for major cases and gave close to a dozen presentations to local schools.

### CORONER SECTION

The Coroner Section investigated over 886 deaths in Santa Cruz County. A total of 204 autopsies were performed for 11 homicides, 35 suicides, 11 traffic-related deaths, 115 accidental deaths, and 32 natural or undetermined cases of death. The Coroner Section also investigated 270 missing persons/runaways reports. They handled 37 indigent burials with the assistance of the Public Administrator.

THE CORONER SECTION INVESTIGATED OVER 865 DEATHS, PREPARED 204 AUTOPSIES, AND INVESTIGATED 270 MISSING PERSONS IN SANTA CRUZ COUNTY IN 2011.

## PERSONS CRIMES

The Persons Crimes Unit received an average of 140 cases per month for review and follow-up investigation. Of the cases received, the unit was assigned to investigate 277. Notable cases included two gang-related homicides and one murder/suicide involving an elderly couple. Also of note was the jury trial and conviction of Michael McClish for a 2006 homicide of Asha Veil and her unborn child which involved hundreds of hours of trial preparation and testimony by Detectives. The unit also continued to work on several cold homicide cases.

## SEXUAL ASSAULT/PHYSICAL CHILD ABUSE

In 2011 the Sexual Assault Unit investigated 112 cases involving unlawful sexual activity, including 38 sexual assault cases committed against adults and 62 involving child victims. The unit also investigated 29 cases involving child endangerment or child physical abuse. This unit is responsible for the registering, tracking, and monitoring of approximately 200 sex offenders residing in Sheriff's Office jurisdiction. They participate in a state-wide task force to monitor over 9,000 sex offenders in the state. Cases of note include the arrest and conviction of two individuals on multiple counts of child molest. One recently pled to 25 years in prison, the other has been offered 20 years in prison.

## PROPERTY CRIMES

As in past years, Property Crimes Detectives saw a rise in theft-related cases. Detectives also saw an enormous increase in identity thefts and fraudulent phone scams targeting the elderly. Due to staffing levels, the Property Crimes unit operated with only one Sergeant and a single Detective for 11 of the 12 months in 2011. The Property Crimes Unit reviewed more than 4,000 cases in 2011. Those cases with the most promising leads for follow-up were assigned to Detectives.

## NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT TEAM

The Narcotics Enforcement Team (NET) had a productive year in 2011 resulting in 112 felony and 47 misdemeanor arrests during the year. In addition to investigating drug cases, NET assists other Detectives in homicides and other major investigations. Many of the violent crimes in Santa Cruz County have an element of drug abuse or sales at the root. The NET team is also the county expert on marijuana law and medicinal marijuana investigations. These investigations are often complex as many individuals utilize the medicinal marijuana exception as a means to gain wealth, not to assist patients with serious illnesses. In addition to a large volume of illegal drugs, \$186,906 was seized as proceeds from drug sales during these investigations.

THE NARCOTIC ENFORCEMENT TEAM SEIZED 291 POUNDS OF MARIJUANA, 2.7 POUNDS OF METHAMPHETAMINE, 189 GRAMS OF COCAINE, 2.2 POUNDS OF HEROIN, AND ERADICATED 14,821 MARIJUANA PLANTS FROM ILLEGAL CULTIVATION OPERATIONS IN 2011.

DEPUTIES MADE A TOTAL OF 2,721 ARRESTS DURING 2011.

## BRINGING GANG VIOLENCE UNDER CONTROL: SANTA CRUZ COUNTY GANG TASK FORCE

Criminal street gang violence, violent crimes, and other felonies perpetrated by area gangs as well as extortion, burglary, identity theft, and vandalism have alarmed many communities in our county. Gang activity has become of primary concern to community members, schools, and law enforcement. There are approximately 1,002 gang members and associates who are involved with 24 different criminal street gangs in Santa Cruz County.

The Santa Cruz County Gang Task Force (GTF) was established in July, 2010 by Sheriff Phil Wowak and District Attorney Bob Lee to proactively investigate, apprehend, and prosecute criminal street gang members for violation of state and federal law. The task force is comprised of Sheriff's Deputies and officers from the District Attorney's Office, Watsonville Police Department, Santa Cruz Police Department, State Parole, and Probation Department.

The combination of the proactive enforcement efforts of the GTF and our Investigation Division has yielded excellent results in its first full year of GTF's operation including solving several homicides that might have otherwise gone unsolved. The GTF has the skills and abilities to conduct complex gang-related investigations, which offer unique challenges including uncooperative witnesses and victim intimidation. Since its implementation, the GTF generated 284 arrests, 185 of which were felonies. 132 searches were carried out and 252 gang field interviews were conducted. 25 firearms, 15 edged weapons, and 16 blunt weapons were taken off the streets. Marijuana, methamphetamine, heroin, and cocaine have been seized. In addition, the GTF provided expert testimony in 17 court cases to support enhanced prosecutions for gang related crimes.

The GTF's efforts have made a positive impact beyond reducing gang violence. The GTF has lowered the fear of crime in certain communities and encouraged community members to become more cooperative with police and report criminal activity.



### MAJOR CRIMES IN THE UNINCORPORATED AREA OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY 2011

	HOMICIDE	RAPE	ROBBERY	ASSAULT	BURGLARY
REPORTS	3	34	36	708	917
ARRESTS	2	9	14	373	61



## LATENT FINGERPRINT ON VEHICLE WINDOW HELPS SOLVE ATTEMPTED MURDER

In October, 2011 the Santa Cruz Latent Print Program played a key role in identifying a suspect in a stabbing. While backing his car out of his driveway, the victim was approached by an unknown adult male who was shouting gang statements. The victim was then stabbed through the open car window. The Santa Cruz Police Department processed the vehicle for forensic evidence, developed and collected latent prints, and submitted the evidence to the Sheriff's Office Latent Print Program. The latent prints were searched and identified, culminating in the arrest and prosecution of the suspect for attempted murder.





## NARCOTIC ENFORCEMENT TEAM HELPS CLOSE INVESTIGATION OF COUNTY'S LARGEST DRUG OPERATION

The Santa Cruz Sheriff's Office Narcotic Enforcement Team (NET) participated in the closure of a two-year investigation into a main supplier of heroin and methamphetamine for Santa Cruz County. This drug organization had been operating in Santa Cruz County for over 20 years. The NET team initiated the investigation approximately two years earlier and enlisted the aid of the federal Drug Enforcement Administration. The investigation concluded with the arrests and federal indictments of 24 persons for conspiracy and sales of methamphetamine and heroin, resulting in a significant decline in the drug trade in Santa Cruz County.

## CORRECTIONS BUREAU

The Corrections Bureau provides secure confinement of inmates and protects public safety. It consists of six Divisions: Main Jail Operations, Rountree Jail Operations, Medical Services, Food Services, Court Security/Transportation, and Work Release/Reception.



Santa Cruz County Main Jail

The mission of the Corrections Bureau is to protect the public by providing the secure confinement of persons committed to the custody of the Sheriff in a safe and humane environment. Staff are committed to three primary responsibilities: to maintain secure jail facilities to protect the public, to provide a safe environment for staff, inmates, and visitors, and to provide quality educational, health, and vocational programs that promote the return of inmates to the community in a law-abiding and constructive manner.

The three adult jail facilities are the Main Jail on Water Street, the Blaine Street Women's facility in the City of Santa Cruz, and the Men's Medium Security facility on Rountree Lane near Watsonville. A Minimum Security facility at the Rountree campus was closed in January, 2010 due to budget cuts, and inmates were relocated to the direct supervision unit inside the Men's Medium Security facility.

## TAKING A PROGRESSIVE APPROACH TO AB 109, THE CALIFORNIA PUBLIC SAFETY REALIGNMENT ACT

Before AB 109 went into effect, Santa Cruz county jails were at about 125% of capacity. Without changes in pre-sentencing and custody alternatives, it was projected that the jails would be running at 200% of capacity within two years. To accommodate the extra offenders, in 2011 we conducted a thorough review of incarceration practices to reduce overcrowding in the adult population.

A careful review of the county jail population revealed that 25% had been incarcerated for relatively minor misdemeanors. Using a new state-of-the-art risk assessment tool, the Corrections Management System, we were able to identify additional inmates who may be eligible to participate in our Custody Alternatives Program.

The Main Jail, built over 30 years ago, is in constant need of maintenance and this year's repairs included the replacement of damaged housing unit windows and compromised cell doors and locks.

Despite the formidable challenges of AB 109, by working proactively, and teaming with the community, we have been able to house the new inmate population, reduce county incarceration rates, and improve public safety at the same time.

### EXPANDING ROLE OF THE CUSTODY ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM

The Custody Alternatives Program (CAP) provides an alternative to non-violent offenders who pose a minimal risk to the community, yet who need close supervision to complete their court-ordered sentences while becoming contributing members of society. We have expanded CAP by absorbing the existing Work Release program and expanding the Electronic Monitoring program.

The Electronic Monitoring program can be used for offenders who have special needs or problems that may be better handled in their home environment. Electronic monitoring allows for close supervision of participants while in the community. Schedules are set for clients, who are allowed to work, attend school, counseling, and other appointments. Restricted areas can be established in cases where victims are involved. Progress and compliance with conditions of release are continually evaluated by the Sheriff's Office staff assigned to the program.

We have also expanded commitments to other county departments where Rountree inmates provide an off-site work force. Participants in the Work Release program pay a nominal fee to support the program. They are assigned to duties such as landscaping, light maintenance, or picking up litter at one of 52 sites

throughout the county, which include animal shelters, beaches, parks, Goodwill Industries, California Grey Bears, and food banks.

### RE-PURPOSING ROUNTREE FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS FOR INMATE SUCCESS UPON RELEASE

To prepare for AB 109, we implemented some innovative changes in order to provide housing for more than one year; implement custody alternatives, and enhance educational programs for minimum and medium security inmates. The Santa Cruz County Office of Education and Watsonville–Aptos Adult Education have re-structured their programs in order to accommodate inmates who are housed at Rountree for several years. Inmates will be presented with incentives to encourage them to take classes and attain a GED and become eligible for custody alternatives. We are confident that this approach will reduce recidivism and make inmates successful in and out of custody.

Another welcome change is that the mission of Gemma, a program of the Community Action Board of Santa Cruz, has expanded to serve men as well as women. This program empowers participants to successfully reintegrate and become contributing members of the community after incarceration through safe, structured, and skill-building support.

## PREPARING INMATES FOR RELEASE AND SUCCESSFUL INTEGRATION INTO THE COMMUNITY

The Sheriff's Office Corrections Bureau and its partners provide quality education programs, health education, religious services, and legal research services. These programs and services are designed to prepare inmates for their release and help end the cycle of recidivism. The Inmate Welfare Fund (IWF) provides the resources for these programs and services at no cost to the general public; the fund receives revenue from inmate telephone use, commissary sales, and other sources.

A majority of the IWF funds are spent on the education of the inmates and counseling services. Over 100 volunteers and instructors facilitate the following:

- Substance abuse - Alcoholics Anonymous
- GED classes
- Narcotics Anonymous
- Communication skills classes
- Domestic violence prevention classes
- Life skills classes

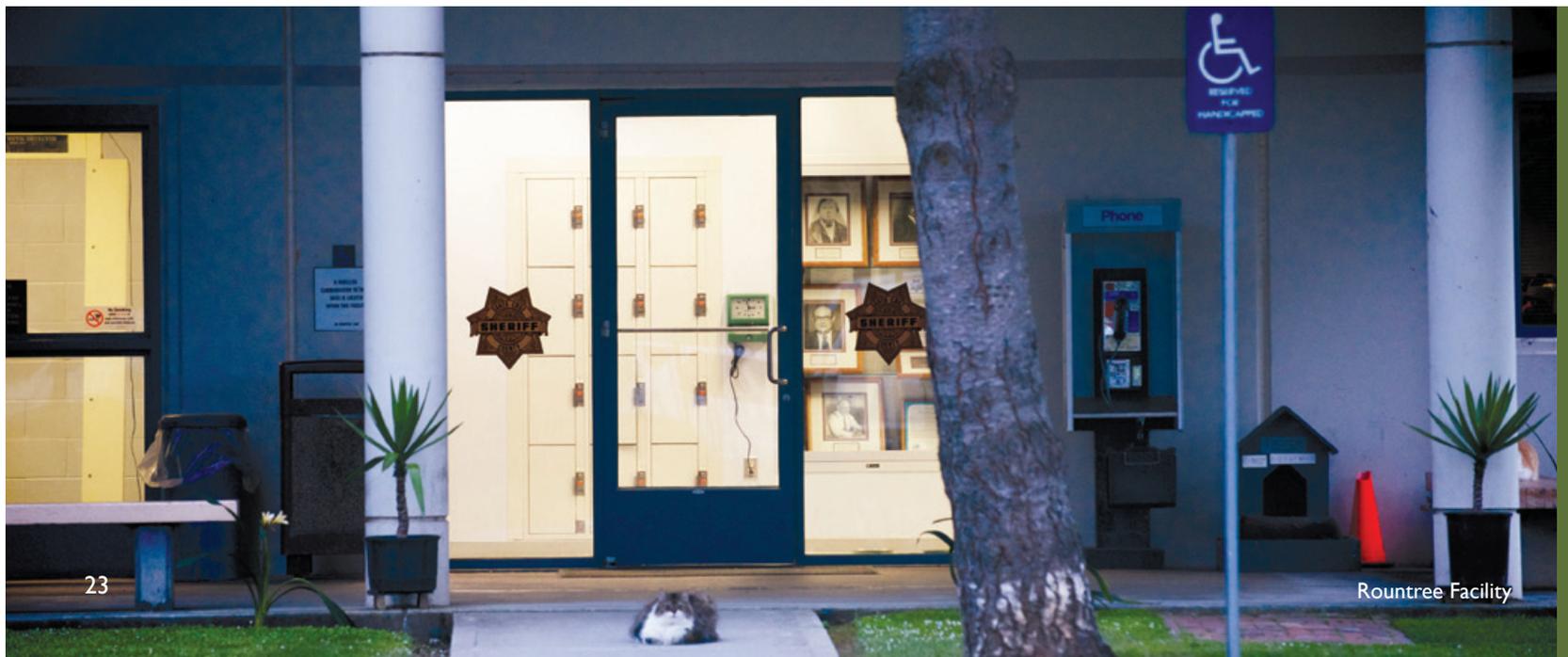
Inmates in our Blaine Street facility must attend programs as a requirement to being housed in that facility. Rountree facility inmates are offered programs on a daily basis, and are expected to participate in the programs offered. Inmates in the main jail are encouraged to attend inmate programs when they are offered.

Inmates can request legal research services which are available from the firm, Legal Research Associates. Requested case law information is provided within 48 hours. The cost for this service is equivalent to the cost of a law library for the inmates. IWF funds are also used to replace inmate televisions, recreational equipment, and indigent supplies.

**JAIL KITCHEN STAFF PREPARED AND SERVED 543,644 MEALS IN 2011.**

## PROMOTING SELF-ESTEEM AND GOOD DECISION MAKING THROUGH TEEN COURT

Teens who have committed certain misdemeanor crimes have an opportunity to bring their case to Teen Court where they are reviewed by a jury of their peers. The purpose of Teen Court is to promote good decision making and self-esteem, and interrupt any pattern of developing criminal behavior. The Sheriff's Office provides a safe environment for these proceedings and develops a positive relationship with the teens to help them understand the significance of the choices they make. Teen Court is held twice a month in Watsonville and Santa Cruz Courts during half the year.



## SANTA CRUZ COUNTY JAIL STATISTICS 2011

BOOKINGS	11,136
MAIN JAIL INMATE POPULATION	355
BLAINE STREET JAIL INMATE POPULATION	17
ROUNTREE INMATE POPULATION	103
WORK RELEASE POPULATION	261
DNA COLLECTED	467

## ROUNTREE JAIL FACILITY STATISTICS 2011

AVERAGE DAILY POPULATION	103
LENGTH OF STAY	13 TO 1,021 DAYS
AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY	178 DAYS
NUMBER OF GED SUBJECT EXAMS TAKEN	52
PERCENTAGE OF SUBJECT EXAMS PASSED	96%
RESULTING GED COMPLETIONS	6

**281,055 PERSONS WERE SCREENED AT COURT ENTRANCES IN SANTA CRUZ AND WATSONVILLE, RESULTING IN THE DISCOVERY OF 1,761 EDGED WEAPONS AND ONE FIREARM IN 2011.**

### CUSTODY ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM HELPS WOMAN WITH 31 ARRESTS TURN HER LIFE AROUND

In the fall of 2011, after being sentenced to jail for driving under the influence of alcohol and violating her probation, Marie was placed on the Custody Alternatives Program (CAP) with an electronic monitor that detects alcohol. She had already been arrested 30 times on a variety of charges. Diagnosed with Bi-Polar Disorder, PTSD, and depression, rather than take her prescribed medication, she would self-medicate, which resulted in acting out and getting arrested. Her daughter had cut off all ties with her which devastated Marie as she didn't know the pain she was causing others. By participating in the CAP program, Marie has made a new commitment to recovery and a 180-degree change in her lifestyle. She participated in family counseling which enabled her to mend ways with her family. She credits the CAP program with giving her the foundation and the building blocks to prove that she could be successful.



## ADMINISTRATION BUREAU

The Administration Bureau provides the tools, training, and support that Deputies and Correctional Officers need to do their work in serving the Community. The Bureau also communicates with the public and keeps them informed through several different channels.



## MAINTAINING SERVICE EXCELLENCY

Our Deputies continuously train to maintain and improve the skills necessary to preserve public safety, investigate criminal activities, solve community problems, and comply with requirements set by the California Commission on Peace Officers Standards and Training. This year, Deputies received 4,000 hours of training in the following areas: domestic violence investigation, legal update, interviewing techniques, juvenile law, high speed pursuits, crowd management, workplace harassment prevention, and the appropriate use of force.

## KEEPING THE PUBLIC INFORMED AND PROVIDING EASY ACCESS TO INFORMATION

The Sheriff's Office Press Information Officer (PIO) maintains a close relationship with the local media in order to get information out to the public quickly and accurately. As a result, dozens of stories about the Sheriff's Office appear each month in newspapers, on television and radio, and in online media.

This year, we started an all-county PIO network comprised of all of the law enforcement agencies in the county including our regional 9-1-1. They meet quarterly to discuss ways to work together and learn from each other, gain new perspectives, and hear presentations from media professionals. This initiative has proved beneficial for organizing resources for events such as Occupy Santa Cruz.

Since January, 2011 the Sheriff's Office has worked with local law enforcement agencies and the media to put out a weekly list of the "Most Wanted" criminals. 95 out of the 276 of these most wanted individuals were arrested last year. We anticipate continued success with this collaborative program.

**95 OF THE 276 PEOPLE ON THE MOST WANTED LIST IN 2011 WERE ARRESTED.**



Deputy April Skalland,  
Press Information Officer

Photo credit: Shmuel Thaler

## THESE ARE SOME OF THE FEATURES AVAILABLE ONLINE AT [WWW.SCSHERIFF.COM](http://WWW.SCSHERIFF.COM):

**ABANDONED VEHICLES** – report abandoned vehicles for towing

**ARREST WARRANTS** – check to see if there is a warrant on any person

**CRIME MAPPING** – see what crimes are reported in specific locations

**FILE POLICE REPORTS** – report certain kinds of non-violent misdemeanors conveniently

**JAIL INMATE LOCATOR** – check if someone is in custody

**JAIL TOUR** – sign up for a free tour of the local county jail

**MISSING PERSONS SEARCH** – check to see if someone is reported to be a missing person

**SEX OFFENDERS SEARCH** – check to see if someone is a convicted sex offender

**VACATION CHECK REQUEST** – request that Deputies or volunteers check on your home while you are away

**VICTIM NOTIFICATION REGISTRATION (VINE)** – get notification if someone who is in jail is released or transferred

**ARREST LOGS** – see a list of all persons who were arrested on a daily basis

**CRIME STATISTICS** – view numbers of reported crimes summarized by month

**FORMS AND DOCUMENTS** – access the most commonly requested forms

**PRESS LOGS** – see information related to reports taken by the Sheriff's Office on a daily basis

**PRESS RELEASE** – view official agency press releases of major activities and events

**UNSOLVED HOMICIDES** – view a list of selected unsolved homicides to encourage the development of new information or tips



Sergeant Jim Ross

### EMPLOYEES RECEIVE ANNUAL COUNTY EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION AWARDS

We congratulate the Sheriff's Office employees who received Annual County Employee Recognition Awards in the Justice category in 2011. Sergeant Jim Ross was awarded the Gold Award for abating a drug house on Felton Empire Road in Felton. Sheriff's Deputies Anthony Gonzales and Jeff Simpson and Sheriff's Volunteer Mike Ross received the Silver Award for their outstanding work with the Santa Cruz County Gang Task Force during its first year of operation. Correctional Sergeant Andrew Lerios and Correctional Officer Frank Figueroa received the Silver Award for their work as part of the R5 Team (Recidivism Reduction Through Research-Based Rehabilitation and Reentry), which assisted with the implementation of public safety realignment.

## PUTTING A FACE ON THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE

This year we created a Facebook page to provide another way to connect with the community and disseminate important information. Our Facebook page is a resource for information about wildland fires, road closures, at-risk missing persons, rapidly evolving criminal investigations, and other events where assistance or education for local residents is required. In addition, press releases, media links, and stories about the history and future of the Sheriff's Office will be periodically posted. We also updated our website navigation, content, and graphics. Visitors will now find that it is easier to navigate and find what they are looking for.



[HTTP://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/SANTACRUZSHERIFFSOFFICE](http://www.facebook.com/santacruzsheriffsoffice)

DEPUTIES RECEIVED 4,000 HOURS OF TRAINING IN 2011.



### LONG TIME DEPUTIES CONTINUE TO DISTINGUISH THEMSELVES

Patrol Deputy Derek Fenster has been with the Sheriff's Office since 1988. He is highly regarded for his diligent follow-up on investigations in which suspects were arrested and cases solved. While investigating thefts from storage lockers, he discovered a large scale counterfeiting ring in the Live Oak/Soquel area. His investigation resulted in the involvement of the Secret Service and the arrest of several individuals who were counterfeiting \$100.00 bills and distributing them throughout Santa Cruz County.



Patrol Deputy Troy Zube has distinguished himself as a result of his self-initiated follow-up on investigations into cases other than his own, and tireless dedication. Deputy Zube has been a Sheriff's Office employee since 2002 and was previously a Police Officer with the Capitola Police Department. In 2011, he recovered seven stolen vehicles, most of which were taken during residential burglaries. All vehicles were returned to their owners along with other stolen property.

## EMPLOYEES GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

We recognize and appreciate the many employees of the Sheriff's Office who volunteer their time and talents to organizations throughout the county in 2011: Deputy Jacob Ainsworth, Victor Albers, Deputy Jordan Brownlee, Lieutenant Amy Christey, Sergeant Joe Clarke, Correctional Officer Ray Dalbesio, Correctional Officer Nicholas Flores, Deputy Greg Giguere, Deputy Kelsey Gillingham, Sandra Goldstein, Lieutenant Shea Johnson, Melissa McCuiston, Deputy Edward Ohye, Colleen O'Reilly, Correctional Sergeant Margaret Porter, Kathy Samms, Tim Sanford, Deputy John Shepard, Lieutenant Jim Skillicorn, Robert Sliter, Sergeant Christine Swannack, Sergeant Paul Tashiro, Lisa VanDien, Susan Wheeler, Sergeant Mark Yanez.





Sergeant Swannack and Records Clerk Robert Sliter with graduate



Deputy Brownlee teaches music



Sergeant Porter at Alcatraz garden

**Sergeant Christine Swannack** and **Records Clerk Robert Sliter** serve on the board of directors of the Pajaro Valley Aviation Academy. The Academy provides scholarships to youth interested in becoming pilots, and grants for training in aircraft mechanics, air transport, and instrument ratings.

**Deputy Jordan Brownlee** holds a Master of Music degree and teaches the fundamentals of music to students at St. Abraham's Classical Christian Academy in Aptos.

**Sergeant Margaret Porter**, Corrections Bureau volunteers 10-20 hours a month with the Garden Conservancy in the gardens on Alcatraz restoring and tending to the historical gardens on the "Rock."

**Civil Supervisor Colleen O'Reilly** coordinates Boy Scout outings and collects Christmas gifts for the needy with the Salvation Army.

**Susan Wheeler**, Registered Nurse at the Main Jail brightens up the day for residents of nursing homes. She volunteers with Twin Lakes Church's Bridge of Hope, which provides church service, celebrates birthdays, and provides clothing and treats through donations to nursing home residents.

## LOOKING FORWARD TO THE COMPLETION OF THE CENTER FOR PUBLIC SAFETY

When we consolidate our operations at the Center for Public Safety in Live Oak, our central location will improve our ability to respond to county-wide calls for service. The Sheriff's Office presence in mid-county, where the majority of our calls for service are generated, may reduce crime in the area and will also provide a convenient and comfortable place for community meetings and coordination. In addition, the facility's modern infrastructure will enable us to increase efficiency in many areas. For example, we estimate that productivity in the crime lab will increase from about 1,100 pieces of evidence processed per year to 11,000 pieces per year, and enhance and support the rigorous forensic standards required by the justice system. This will directly impact the number and speed at which cases can be investigated, which will in turn promote greater public safety. Planning and design for this project was recently completed. Construction is scheduled to begin during late 2012 with an anticipated completion date of 2014.



Rendering of Center for Public Safety



**SANTA CRUZ COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

701 Ocean Street Room 340  
Santa Cruz CA 95060

Phone: 831.454.2242

[www.scsheriff.com](http://www.scsheriff.com)