

Santa Cruz County SHERIFF'S OFFICE



2025 ANNUAL REPORT





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SHERIFF'S *Message*



As Sheriff-Coroner of Santa Cruz County, I am proud to present the 2025 Annual Report of the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office. This report highlights the dedication, professionalism, and commitment demonstrated every day by the men and women of our organization. Within these pages, you will find an overview of our operations, significant cases and incidents, community engagement efforts, and the many accomplishments achieved throughout the year. Most importantly, this report reflects the work of a team that remains focused on protecting our community while providing the highest level of public service.

The Sheriff's Office is a complex organization with responsibilities that extend far beyond traditional law enforcement. In addition to providing patrol services, criminal investigations, emergency response, and community policing in the county's unincorporated areas, we operate the county jail system, provide security for the Superior Courts, serve civil process, and fulfill the duties of the Coroner's Office. Through our Administration, Corrections, and Operations Bureaus, we deliver a wide range of essential public safety services to the residents and visitors of Santa Cruz County.

Throughout 2025, our deputies, correctional officers, professional staff, and volunteers responded to challenges with resilience, innovation, and compassion. This report captures the statistics behind our work, but it also tells the story of the people who make these accomplishments possible. Behind every call for service, investigation, emergency response, and community outreach event is a dedicated employee committed to making a positive difference in the lives of others.

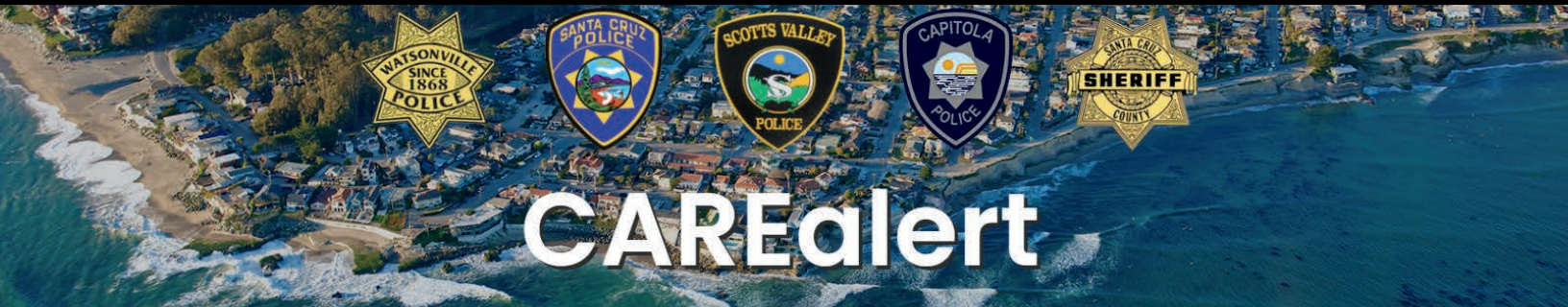
I invite you to explore this report and learn more about the scope of services we provide and the impact our employees have throughout Santa Cruz County. I am incredibly grateful for the hard work and dedication of our staff and for the continued support of our community partners and residents. Together, we remain committed to building trust, enhancing public safety, and ensuring Santa Cruz County remains a safe and vibrant place to live, work, and visit.

Chris Clark

Sheriff-Coroner
Santa Cruz County

NOTABLE EVENTS

NEW CARE ALERT PROGRAM LAUNCH



The Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office introduced the CARE Alert Program in early 2025. This is an initiative designed to enhance the safety and well-being of individuals with special needs by providing law enforcement with critical information to improve emergency responses. Through voluntary registration, families can share important details such as communication preferences, specific limitations, and potential triggers, helping ensure more informed and effective interactions.

Sheriff Chris Clark noted that the program was built upon ongoing efforts to support individuals in crisis, including mental health liaisons, ICAT training, and the Focused Intervention Team.

We would like to acknowledge the contributions of regional partners, including local law enforcement agencies, mental health collaborators, and Santa Cruz Regional 9-1-1, in supporting and implementing the program.

SHERIFF'S ACTIVITY LEAGUE 1ST ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

This year, the Sheriff's Office proudly hosted the first annual Sheriff's Activity League (SAL) Charity Golf Tournament at the Seascapes Resort, marking a major milestone in community partnership and support. The event was an overwhelming success, drawing more than 130 golfers and generating strong community engagement. The generous support of numerous local businesses through sponsorships and donations significantly increased SAL's ability to give back to the community, directly benefiting youth programs and outreach efforts throughout the county. This inaugural event laid a strong foundation for future tournaments and continued collaboration with our community partners.



NOTABLE EVENTS

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY MURDER SUSPECT ARRESTED IN SWITZERLAND

On May 29, 2025, 54-year-old James Smallwood was arrested in connection with the homicide of his 90-year-old father, Robert Smallwood.

Robert Smallwood was reported missing by family members on May 18, 2025, after several days without contact. On May 19, Sheriff's detectives, assisted by the Search and Rescue Team, conducted a search of his residence and property on Jarvis Road. During the search, Robert Smallwood was found deceased. An autopsy later determined the cause of death to be homicide.

A joint investigation by Sheriff's detectives and the District Attorney's Office quickly identified James Smallwood, who had been residing with the decedent, as the suspect. Prior to the discovery of the body, he fled to Switzerland. Investigators coordinated with international and federal partners to locate and apprehend him.

The Sheriff's Office acknowledges the critical support provided by the Search and Rescue Team, the District Attorney's Office, the Forensics Unit, the U.S. Department of Justice, the Department of Homeland Security, and Swiss authorities throughout the investigation.

James Smallwood was arrested on multiple charges including murder and elder abuse.

HIGHWAY 9 MEMORIAL SIGN

In November of 2025, a stretch of Highway 9 was dedicated in honor of Sgt. Damon Gutzwiller, forever marking the road he protected with his courage and sacrifice.

Sgt. Gutzwiller was killed in the line of duty on June 6th of 2020, and our agency continues to honor him in every way we can. This tribute is meaningful, but it will never measure up to the loss felt by his family, friends, and our community.



NOTABLE EVENTS

FIREWORKS AND IMPROVISED EXPLOSIVE DEVICE ARREST



On July 9, 2025, patrol deputies responded to Tradewinds Church in Soquel following multiple reports of a subject throwing lit fireworks into the street and church parking lot. The suspect was not initially located.

Bomb Team members conducted follow-up investigation and obtained video surveillance identifying two suspects igniting homemade “M-type” improvised explosive devices in the church parking lot. One suspect was arrested on July 11, 2025, and the second on July 13, 2025. The second suspect was found in possession of multiple homemade improvised explosive devices at the time of arrest.

Bomb Team members assisted in the preparation and service of a search warrant at the second suspect’s residence, where additional improvised explosive devices were recovered.

CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS RECOGNIZED BY VFW

Each year, the Veterans of Foreign Wars honors a law enforcement officer, firefighter and emergency medical technician (EMT) from each Department to receive the VFW National Gold Medal Award.

CO Ryan Fisher and CO Brannon Scianna were nominated by the Sheriff’s Office for the VFW Award for their outstanding work in Corrections. CO Fisher won first place and CO Scianna won second place for VFW District 12. They were recently presented with the Awards at the Gilroy Veterans Memorial Building. The first-place winner, CO Fisher, will be forwarded to compete at the state level.

Correctional Officer Ryan Fisher and Correctional Officer Brannon Scianna play a key role in the Main Jail Logistics Team at the Santa Cruz County Sheriff’s Office. Since 2015, CO Fisher has been responsible for managing supplies, maintenance, equipment testing, and coordinating various projects under tight deadlines.

In early 2022, during severe winter storms, Fisher and Scianna took swift action to protect the jail from potential flooding by reinforcing vulnerable areas and filling sandbags. More recently, they helped oversee a major security system upgrades, adjusting their schedules to ensure the project’s success. Other projects they’ve managed include installing a new generator, replacing water boilers, setting up remote visitation, waterproofing the roof, installation of the body scanner, and much more.

Both Officers also handle regular maintenance at the aging Main Jail. Their dedication is widely recognized, with both officers consistently receiving strong evaluations.



NOTABLE EVENTS

NORTH COAST IED RECOVERY AND ARREST

On July 21, 2025, the Bomb Team was called to the north coast following a report of multiple discovered “M-type” devices. A bomb callout was initiated, resulting in the safe recovery of well over 100 homemade improvised explosive devices, along with evidence indicating their manufacture. The devices were determined to be nearly identical to those recovered in an earlier case and were further linked to a suspect from that case through additional items located at the scene.

The Bomb Team safely processed the recovered items as evidence prior to rendering them safe at a nearby location. A comprehensive review of the evidence led to SCSO Detectives obtaining an arrest warrant for the suspect on charges of manufacturing multiple destructive devices, as well as a search warrant for the suspect’s residence. Bomb Squad members assisted with the suspect’s arrest and the execution of the search warrant, which resulted in the recovery of additional evidence supporting the manufacturing charge. The suspect later provided a statement admitting to manufacturing all of the recovered improvised explosive devices and to attempting to dispose of them on the north coast to avoid prosecution.

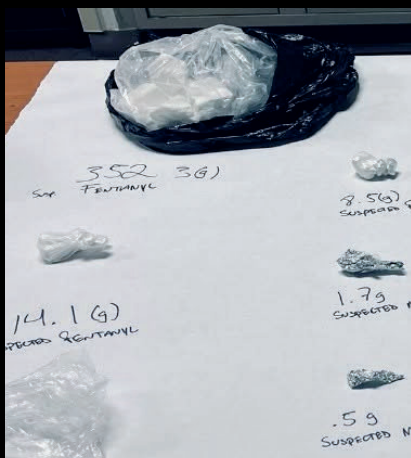
MAIN JAIL HOUSING UNIT DOOR REPLACEMENT PROJECT

In 2025, the Sheriff’s Office completed a significant infrastructure improvement project at the Main Jail, replacing entry doors, patio doors, and cell doors in seven housing units. This project addressed documented deficiencies and operational risks associated with the original doors, which had experienced substantial wear and degradation due to age, heavy daily use, and prolonged environmental exposure.

The upgrading of these housing unit doors has significantly enhanced facility safety and security by improving the reliability of locking systems and controlled movement throughout the jail. The upgrades support safer working conditions for correctional staff, improve living conditions for incarcerated individuals, and reduce the likelihood of mechanical failures that can impact emergency response and daily operations.



MAJOR FENTANYL TRAFFICKING INVESTIGATION



The Santa Cruz County Sheriff’s Office Fentanyl Crisis Response Team (FCRT), in collaboration with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), concluded a year-long investigation into narcotics trafficking, resulting in the arrest of two individuals.

On February 5, 2025, with assistance from the California Highway Patrol (CHP), detectives conducted a traffic stop on Highway 17, which led to the arrests. A search of the vehicle resulted in the seizure of nearly one pound of fentanyl.

One individual faced federal charges for possession with intent to distribute fentanyl, while the second faced state charges for narcotics transportation.

This operation highlighted the continued commitment of local, state, and federal agencies to combat the fentanyl epidemic and reduce the impact of narcotics trafficking within the community. The Sheriff’s Office recognized the DEA, FBI, and CHP for their partnership and support in the investigation.

NOTABLE EVENTS

1976 COLD CASE HOMICIDE SOLVED

On May 28, 1976, deputies responded to the discovery of a deceased woman near Aptos Village Park. The death was investigated as a homicide, and the victim was identified as 25-year-old Karen Percifield. Although forensic evidence was collected, no viable leads were developed, and the case went cold.

In 2019, the case was re-evaluated, and evidentiary items were submitted to the California Department of Justice for advanced testing. A male DNA profile was developed, but no match was found in existing databases. During the original investigation, Richard Sommerhalder had been identified as a person of interest; however, insufficient evidence existed at the time to support an arrest.

He was later arrested in September 1976 for two separate murders in Santa Cruz County, served 8½ years in prison, and was paroled out of state.

While attempting to obtain a DNA reference, investigators learned Sommerhalder had died in 1994. Through genetic genealogy and familial DNA analysis, conducted with assistance from the Department of Justice and Othram Laboratories, he was ultimately identified as the suspect responsible for Percifield's murder. Although he was never held accountable, the identification provided long-awaited closure to the victim's family.



CORRECTIONAL OFFICER INJURED

In September of 2025 a Correctional Officer was assaulted without provocation by an incarcerated person while assisting with a medication pass inside a housing unit at the Main Jail. As a result of the assault, the Correctional Officer sustained significant injuries, including a fractured leg and facial injuries. The nurse responsible for administering medication immediately radioed for assistance, and responding Correctional Staff quickly intervened, successfully stopping the assault. Medical Staff responded and provided immediate medical treatment for the injuries sustained. At the time of the incident, the incarcerated person had been housed at the Main Jail for nearly five years while awaiting trial for homicide. Following the incident, the incarcerated person was rebooked on multiple charges, including Assault on a Custodial Officer and Battery with Serious Bodily Injury.

NOTABLE EVENTS

SKELETAL REMAINS IDENTIFIED AS MISSING NEW YORK TEEN

On March 22, 1995, partial skeletal remains were discovered in a riverbed off Highway 129 east of Rogge Lane. For many years, the identity of the decedent remained unknown, though early DNA testing confirmed the remains were female. In 2019, the case was re-examined and submitted for additional forensic analysis, including carbon dating, which indicated the decedent was likely born in the 1960s, with an estimated date of death between 1977 and 1984.

Between 2022 and 2023, investigators utilized advanced genetic genealogy to identify potential relatives. In partnership with Othram, new investigative leads were developed, ultimately leading to the identification of the remains as 13-year-old Laura O'Malley of Queens, New York, who had been reported missing in August 1975. It remains unknown when or under what circumstances she arrived in California.



We would like to acknowledge the contributions of volunteer genealogist Deborah Medina and Deputy Casandra Galotti for their extensive efforts in the case. The agency also recognized its partnership with Othram and the role of forensic advancements in providing long-awaited answers to the victim's family.

MURDER SUSPECT ARRESTED

On December 5, 2025, Sheriff's detectives arrested a 63-year-old suspect for the 2012 shooting death of Jeffrey Stephensen Smith, marking the culmination of a thirteen-year investigation.

On August 16, 2012, at approximately 3:00 a.m., deputies and medical personnel responded to a residence on Nicasio Way in Soquel for a reported shooting. They located Smith alive but critically injured; despite immediate medical efforts, he died at the scene shortly after their arrival.

In coordination with the Santa Cruz County District Attorney's Office, detectives obtained an arrest warrant for murder. The suspect was taken into custody at the Santa Cruz County Jail, where he was already in custody on unrelated charges.

The Sheriff's Office reaffirmed its commitment to pursuing unresolved cases and seeking justice for victims and their families, and acknowledged the assistance of the California Department of Justice, the District Attorney's Office, and the Sheriff's Forensic Services Division.

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Correctional Officer Gerardo Ramirez was assigned to the Classification and Discipline Unit, where he consistently distinguished himself as an invaluable asset to jail operations. Through his extensive knowledge of gang dynamics, tattoos, monikers, and the organizational structures of local gangs, Officer Ramirez played a critical role in supporting gang-related investigations and providing intelligence that strengthened safety and security within the jail. Officer Ramirez demonstrated a unique ability to develop informants and cultivate reliable sources of information within the custodial environment. His skill in gathering intelligence directly led to the discovery and seizure of significant quantities of narcotics within the jail, including nearly one ounce of fentanyl in one case.



**GERARDO
RAMIREZ**

Correctional Officer of the Year

The removal of this amount of fentanyl from a custodial setting was critically important, as its presence posed a substantial and immediate risk to the health and safety of incarcerated individuals, staff, and overall facility operations. Had these narcotics remained accessible, the potential consequences could have included overdoses, medical emergencies, violence, and significant liability exposure for the Sheriff's Office.

In addition to mitigating these risks, Officer Ramirez's intelligence-gathering efforts assisted deputies and correctional officers in preventing assaults, disrupting illicit activity, and identifying individuals involved in criminal conduct both inside the jail and throughout the county. His work also supported outside law enforcement agencies by providing information that advanced broader criminal investigations, demonstrating an impact that extended beyond the walls of the facility.

Officer Ramirez was also responsible for handling discipline for the incarcerated population. During the year, he managed 119 major discipline cases within the facilities, a responsibility that was critical to maintaining safety, accountability, and order within the jail environment.

Officer Ramirez was widely recognized for his strong work ethic, reliability, and willingness to go above and beyond the expectations of his assignment. He routinely took initiative in complex cases, supported fellow staff, and stepped in to assist during high-pressure situations. His professionalism, judgment, and dedication exemplified the standards of the Sheriff's Office and reflected a sustained commitment to the safety of the jails, staff, and incarcerated population.

Based on the significance of his contributions—particularly in gang intelligence and the prevention of serious harm through narcotics interdiction—Officer Gerardo Ramirez was selected as the Correctional Officer of the Year.

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR



**ARITSON
JORGENSEN**
Deputy of the Year

Deputy Ariston Jorgenson served as the Intelligence Unit Detective in 2025 and also assisted the Property Crimes Unit with numerous investigations. Throughout the year, he consistently distinguished himself through exceptional investigative skill, advanced technical expertise, and an unwavering commitment to the agency, its personnel, and the community served. He was instrumental in the successful resolution of multiple high-profile criminal investigations and was relied upon heavily by detective units and patrol deputies to assist with advanced technology, tracking, and investigations involving high-tech criminal activity.

Deputy Jorgenson was also a critical member of the Unmanned Aerial Surveillance Team, where his operational proficiency enhanced officer safety and improved investigative effectiveness during critical incidents. In addition, he served as a certified firearms instructor, dedicating significant time to developing the skills and confidence of fellow deputies, which directly

contributed to the agency's overall readiness and professionalism.

Deputy Jorgenson's selfless dedication set him apart. He consistently gave his personal time to assist detectives and deputies with case-related challenges, technical issues, and training needs. His willingness to help others—often behind the scenes and without recognition—demonstrated his character, leadership, and genuine commitment to the mission of public service. Through his efforts, he continually worked to elevate those around him, an exceptional quality that greatly benefited the agency.

In recognition of his outstanding service, dedication, and impact on the organization, Deputy Ari Jorgenson was honored as the Deputy of the Year.

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

In recognition of her exceptional dedication and invaluable contributions to the organization, Elvia was honored with the Professional Employee of the Year Award.

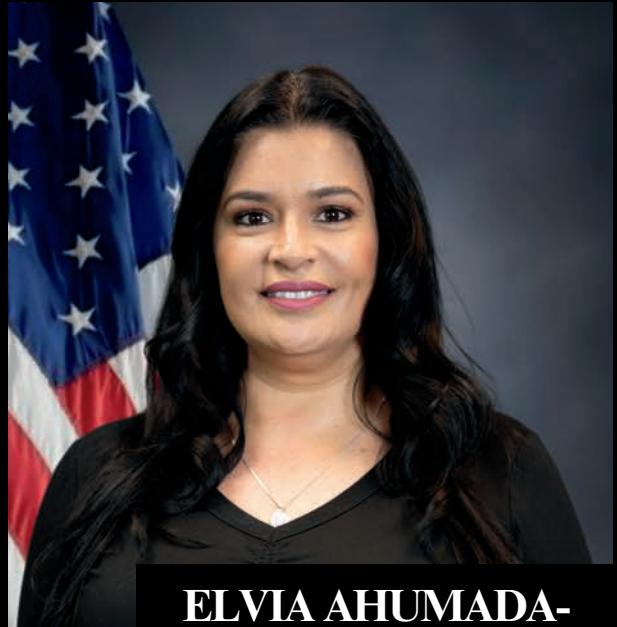
Throughout 2025, Elvia demonstrated outstanding dedication and leadership while managing the Civil Division during significant staffing shortages, including operating without an assigned Deputy and, for several months, without a Senior Accounting Technician. Despite these challenges, she ensured that all required civil functions for the county were completed accurately and within mandated legal timeframes.

The Civil Division handles highly specialized and time-sensitive matters such as evictions and temporary restraining orders. Elvia's extensive institutional knowledge and strong organizational skills enabled her to effectively prioritize workloads, maintain compliance, and ensure uninterrupted service delivery, thereby minimizing operational and legal risk to the Office.

In addition, Elvia played a key role in advancing compliance with AB 2791 by helping develop and coordinate a contract for electronic filing and cloud hosting. Her collaboration with vendors and external partners laid important groundwork for future implementation.

Elvia consistently demonstrated professionalism, accountability, and adaptability. With more than 23 years of experience, she served as a trusted supervisor and mentor who required minimal oversight and was relied upon to manage complex operations independently.

Elvia's sustained performance and leadership under challenging conditions exemplified the spirit of the Professional Staff Award. For these reasons, she was selected as the recipient of the Professional Employee of the Year Award for 2025.



**ELVIA AHUMADA-
GARCIA**

Professional Staff of the Year

DAMON GUTZWILLER AWARD



**KYLE
WARD**

Damon Gutzwiller Award

Officer Kyle Ward was presented the Damon Gutzwiller Award for his exceptional leadership, teamwork, and professionalism in advancing the agency's training program over the past year. Officer Ward is not only deserving of the award from the sheer amount of work conducted in the training program, but also for his zeal and true compassion to train officers effectively and in turn, spark their desire to grow.

Officer Ward played a key role in supporting a high-volume training pipeline of 40 trainees in varying stages of completion while also helping deliver 96 hours of in-service training (excluding CERT days). Officer Ward was instrumental in shifting training away from traditional lecture-based instruction and toward scenario-based, task-driven, and group problem-solving training, with training topics updated annually to ensure officers remain challenged and prepared for evolving operational.

demands. Increased training attendance this year further amplified the impact of these improvements across the facility. Officer Ward also helped plan and execute a highly realistic Mass Casualty Incident scenario in coordination with Medical Staff and Correctional Officers. This scenario was conducted four times over two days, allowing multiple teams to participate, and utilized numerous role players with simulated trauma and overdoses supported by realistic props to enhance immersion and decision-making under stress.

His work gained recognition beyond the agency when Deputy Chief Matthew Triplett of the Las Vegas Department of Public Safety visited to observe one of our ICAT training days as his 500-bed facility seeks to improve its own training model. Officer Ward's dedication to training excellence has measurably strengthened readiness, safety, and performance, making him highly deserving of the Damon Gutzwiller award.

2025 MEDALS AND AWARDS

PURPLE HEART

- CO Luis Madrigal

MEDAL OF MERIT

- LVN Morgan Vargas

LIFE-SAVING AWARD

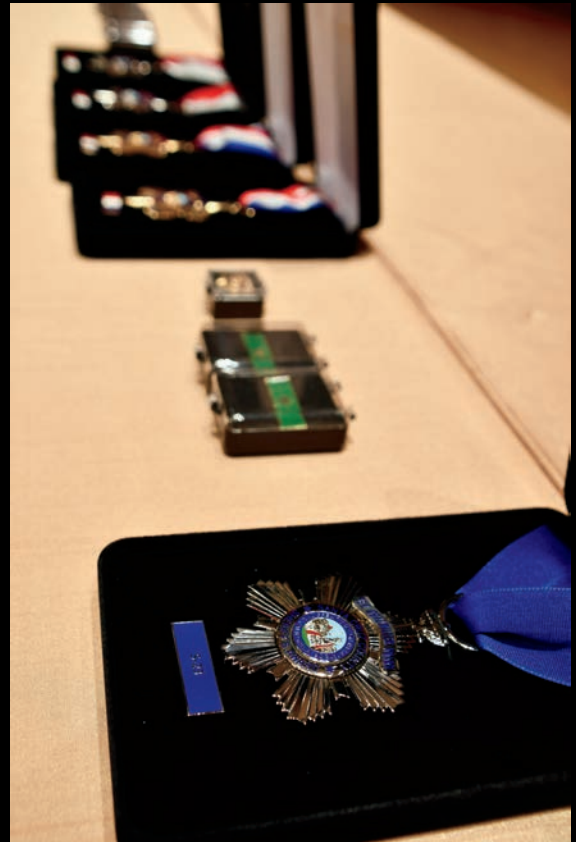
- CO Sabrina Organista
- CO Erik Hernandez
- Deputy Kade Archer
- Medical Manager Sarah Hewett
- RN Mercel Waziri
- RN Tracy Lawrence
- LVN Augie Remigio
- LVN Morgan Vargas
- LVN Ruby Perez

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

- Deputy April Skalland
- Lieutenant Dee Baldwin

SHERIFF'S LETTER OF COMMENDATION & CITATION BAR

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| • CO Cameron Leonard | • CO Jose Maqueda |
| • CO James Page | • CO Gerardo Ramirez |
| • CO Channing Peacock | • Sgt. Ryan Farotte |
| • CO Christy Walker | • CO Norman Houdesheldt |
| • CO Omar Martinez | |



CIVILIAN DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

- Rishi Lal

2025 A Snapshot of Operations and Impact

Law Enforcement & Community Engagement

 **67,268** Calls for Service

 Calls for Service Involving Emotionally Distressed Persons: **3,478**

Electronic Field Interviews:
154



Arrests: Felony 752
Misdemeanor: 1,627

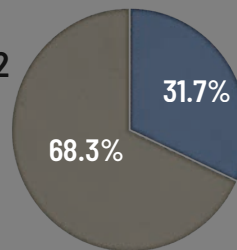


Criminal Citations:



1,006

Foot Patrols:
2,566



Investigations & Forensic Services

 **8,648**
Property and Evidence Items Received



Abandoned Vehicles Abated/Cited:
123 / 1,467

Cases Assigned to Investigations:

1,127



Latent Print Identifications: **57**

Evidence Items Processed: **768**



Autopsies: **110**



Reportable Deaths: **585**

Jail Operations & Court Security



330

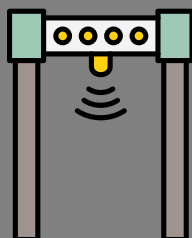
Average Persons in Custody Per Day

Admissions to Housing
2,636

Jail Bookings (All Agencies): **6,883**

Average Daily Number Supervised by Work Release: **47**

Court security screenings:
151,665



Edged Weapons Prevented From Entering:
1,059



Daily Average Supervised by Custody Alternatives Program (CAP): **6**

SHERIFF'S OFFICE OVERVIEW

The Santa Cruz County Sheriff-Coroner is the **Chief Law Enforcement Officer** for the county. The Sheriff's Office is responsible for a wide range of public safety functions, including:

- **Patrol Operations:** Respond to calls for service in unincorporated areas.
- **Criminal Investigations:** Investigate property crimes, sexual assault cases and persons crimes.
- **Emergency Response:** Respond to emergencies countywide.
- **Corrections:** Operating the county jails and managing incarcerated persons.
- **Court Security:** Ensuring the safety and security of the county courthouses.
- **Coroner Division:** Investigating deaths to determine cause and manner.
- **Civil Division:** Serving legal documents and managing civil court orders.

445 Square Miles



29 Miles of Coastline



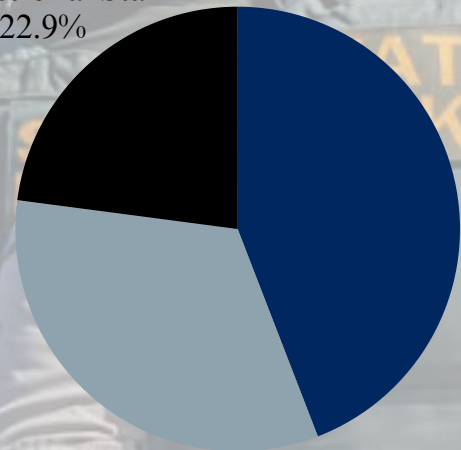
4 Incorporated Cities



16 Unincorporated Areas



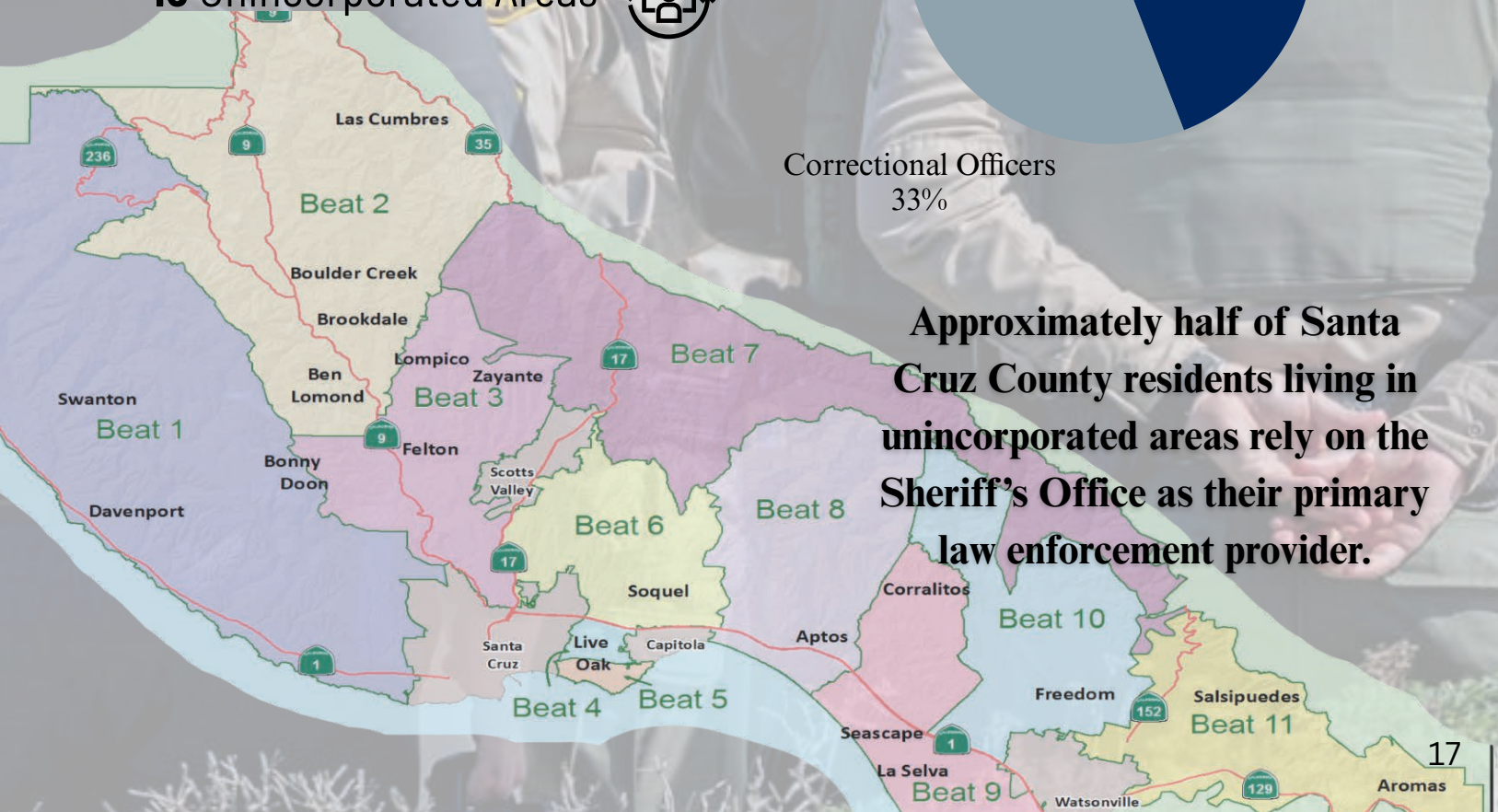
Professional Staff
22.9%



Sworn
44.1%

Correctional Officers
33%

Approximately half of Santa Cruz County residents living in unincorporated areas rely on the Sheriff's Office as their primary law enforcement provider.

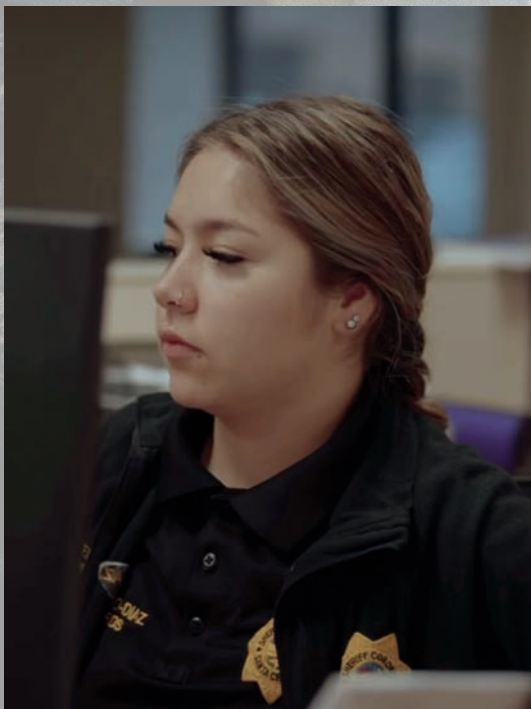


ADMINISTRATION BUREAU

The Administration Bureau is comprised of both sworn personnel and professional staff who serve in a broad range of administrative, technical, and support roles essential to the effective operation of the Sheriff's Office. This Bureau provides the organizational backbone that ensures all divisions are equipped to carry out their responsibilities efficiently and in compliance with applicable standards.

Key functions of the Administration Bureau include the oversight and maintenance of information management systems, as well as the development, forecasting, and preparation of the agency's annual budget. The Bureau also manages critical services such as forensic support, civil process operations, payroll administration, and financial accounting.

In addition, the Administration Bureau is responsible for records management, recruitment and hiring processes, and the coordination of media relations and public communications, including social media engagement. The Bureau also upholds professional standards by overseeing internal policies, procedures, and accountability measures, ensuring transparency and integrity across the Sheriff's Office.



CIVIL DIVISION

The Civil Division provides services for both the city jurisdictions and unincorporated parts of Santa Cruz County. Small claims actions, summons and complaints, restraining orders, subpoenas, eviction notices, and civil bench warrants are some of the services included. The civil division is made up of 3 civilian staff members and 1 deputy.

RECORDS DIVISION

The Headquarters Law Enforcement Records Division manages the County's Records Management and Arrest Warrant Systems, maintaining county-wide law enforcement data in CLETS and NCIC, including warrants, missing persons, restraining orders, and stolen property records. The division also handles public records requests, provides customer service, and supports law enforcement agencies throughout the county.



FISCAL DIVISION

The Fiscal Management and Analysis Unit manages the Sheriff's Office financial resources by delivering timely, accurate financial information, promoting responsible allocation of funds, and ensuring the overall financial integrity of the organization.

RECRUITMENT AND HIRING UNIT

The Recruitment and Hiring Unit is responsible for hiring sworn and professional staff for all departments within the Sheriff's Office. The unit comes up with unique and innovative ways to attract qualified applicants to better the future of the agency. The unit also attends job fairs, educational events, and conducts interviews and background checks on applicants. In 2025, there were 18 Corrections Officers, 24 Deputy Sheriffs, and 16 professional staff members hired.



PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND CONDUCT UNIT

Professional Standards and Conduct investigates complaints and claims and conducts administrative investigations within the Sheriff's Office. The Professional Standards and Conduct Sergeant also oversees the Concealed Carry Weapons program.

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

The Public Information Officer (PIO) is responsible for communicating with the community and answering questions through social media and news outlets. The PIO shares information with the public on crime prevention, critical incidents, and daily tasks at the Sheriff's Office to help them understand the mission of local law enforcement. The Public Information Officer also helps with internal communications and oversees the maintenance of the Sheriff's Office Website.



CORRECTIONS BUREAU

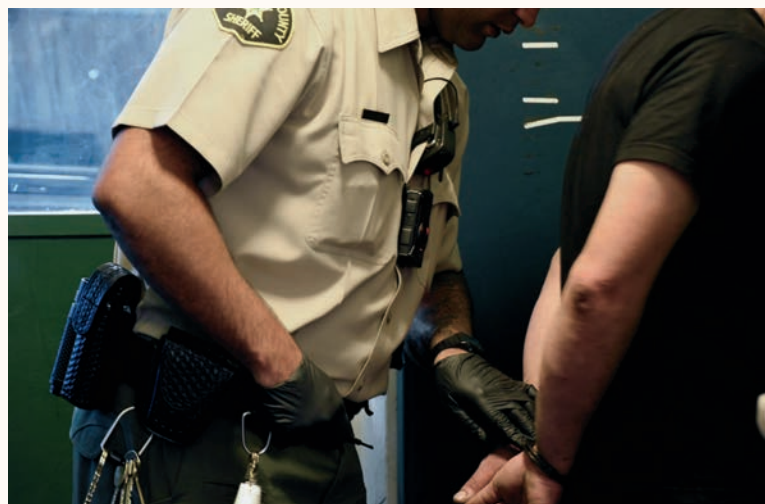
The Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office runs 4 corrections facilities in the county; the Santa Cruz County Main Jail, Blaine Street Women's Facility, Rountree Medium Security Facility and the Rehabilitation and Reentry Facility. The Corrections Bureau also oversees the Court Security Division, transportation of those in custody and works closely with the Medical Director for the delivery of medical services at all facilities.

The corrections facilities have a total capacity of 511 inmates, not including the Custody Alternatives Program.

CLASSIFICATION UNIT

The Classification Unit is a major component of the correctional process that impacts inmate control and supervision, and the jails overall orderly operation. Each member receives specific training on jail classification. Proper classification of inmates is crucial to the efficient and safe operation of any jail facility. When classification measures are applied consistently, it reduces escapes, inmate assaults and suicides.

Classification is the evaluation process by which housing decisions are made and is the primary management tool to aid in providing appropriate responses to the widely diverse inmate population. This team utilizes a variety of tools to effectively identify each inmate and ensure their housing assignments meet their level of sophistication and housing needs.



CORRECTIONS RECORDS CLERKS

Corrections Records Clerks (CRC's) provide 24/7 coverage, 365 days a year. As of 2025 they are officially growing from 11 positions to 12 positions. Their responsibilities include managing incarcerated persons' booking and release records in the Jail Management System, processing bail, maintaining corrections logs and inmate account records, and preparing and forwarding arrest information to county, state, and federal agencies. CRCs handle all emergency incoming items for Headquarters Records during nights and weekends. This includes emergent tasks such as warrant management, entering missing persons in the state and federal database, and emergency order processing.



Corrections Records Clerks also carry a special assignment as Court Liaisons. In this role, they process court minutes for all incarcerated persons' in custody, calculate and verify sentences, coordinate with Pretrial Services regarding releases, and serve as the primary point of contact for out-of-county extraditions. The team successfully processed approximately 6,750 bookings in 2025.

In addition, in-person visitation for incarcerated individuals with children began in late 2024 at the Blaine Street Facility and in early 2025 at the Rountree Rehabilitation and Reentry Facility. Family contact visits play an important role in rehabilitation by providing emotional support and helping maintain family bonds that are critical to successful reintegration into society. These visits were reintroduced with careful consideration for the safety and security of staff, the facility, and incarcerated individuals.

CORRECTIONS K9

The Corrections K9 was first introduced to our K9 team in December of 2019. These K9s specialize in narcotics detection and is dedicated to the corrections facilities with the duty of finding contraband inside all custodial settings and outside before entry. We currently have 2 K9s assigned to the Corrections Bureau. The K9 is one of the many tools we use to prevent harmful items and contraband from coming into our facilities. In 2025, the jail K9s conducted 34 perimeter searches and 75 unit searches.



ALTERNATIVE INMATE PROGRAMS

Included in the Corrections Bureau, is the Custody Alternatives Program (CAP), which offers several alternatives to incarceration for qualified individuals. The Work Release Program allows convicted low-level offenders to participate in specific worksites throughout the county to serve their sentence through community-based service work assignments. On average, 6 people daily were supervised under CAP and 47 were supervised by work release.

IN-CUSTODY PROGRAMS: ENRICHMENT AND WELLBEING

The purpose of our In-Custody Programs is to enhance safety, support functioning and quality of life, and improve successful reentry outcomes for participants while promoting public safety. Across four facilities, over 45 types of programs, activities, and services are offered, with approximately 100 classes each week. These programs are made possible by a dedicated team of 250 staff and volunteers from local organizations.

This year, we are highlighting our enrichment programs, which play a critical role in promoting prosocial engagement, personal growth, and overall well-being. Enrichment programs give participants opportunities to build skills, express creativity, and develop positive routines that support long-term personal and social growth.

Offerings include literacy programs such as Power in Poetry with the Poetry Project, People & Stories with the Santa Cruz Public Libraries, as well as meditation, yoga with Insight Meditation and Yoga for All Movement, culinary arts with the County Office of Education, crochet with the Santa Cruz Knitting Guild, and guitar with William James Association.

A new partnership with the UC Master Gardeners of Monterey & Santa Cruz Counties helped transform the previously underused Blaine Street backyard into a vibrant community space. Deputies, correctional officers, Master Gardeners, and program staff have worked together to create: A vegetable garden to grow fresh produce, a serenity garden for reflection and relaxation, and walking path to encourage movement and mindfulness

Building on this transformed space, the Master Gardeners now facilitate a weekly horticulture class for all women at Blaine Street. Participants learn gardening skills, experience the therapeutic benefits of working with plants, and engage in hands-on learning that fosters patience, mindfulness, and connection to nature. Produce grown in the garden is incorporated into farm-to-table meals prepared in the culinary class, teaching nutrition, cooking skills, and the value of fresh, healthy foods.





COURT SECURITY DIVISION

The Court Security Division provides security to the Superior Court of Santa Cruz County by serving as bailiffs, maintaining safety and order in the courtroom, management of inmates and arrests of persons ordered by a judge into custody. Our staff transports incarcerated individuals between corrections facilities and court rooms. Sheriff’s staff also run the front security for those entering the Santa Cruz and Watsonville Courthouses. They monitor the x-ray scanners, metal detectors and video security monitors to prevent weapons from entering the courts.

COURT SECURITY 2025 YEAR AT A GLANCE



151,665
Security Screenings Conducted

Edged Weapons & Contraband Intercepted



1,771

Court-Ordered Custody Arrests

343



Facility Transports

8,612



OPERATIONS BUREAU

The Sheriff's Office Patrol Division provides emergency and non-emergency services to the unincorporated areas of Santa Cruz County. There are 3 shifts daily with a Sergeant and Lieutenant assigned to each shift. The County is divided into 11 beats (service areas) with Deputies assigned to certain parts of the county during each shift. In 2025, the Sheriff's Office received or initiated more than 67,000 calls for service in the 11 different service areas.

PATROL

The Patrol Division is the backbone of the Sheriff's Office, providing 24-hour emergency and non-emergency law enforcement services to the unincorporated areas of Santa Cruz County. Deputies serve as the first responders to a wide range of calls, including crimes in progress, medical emergencies, and public safety concerns, while also proactively working to prevent crime and enhance community safety.

Sheriff's Deputies are assigned to one of two patrol teams, A or B, and work rotating day, swing, or night shifts to ensure continuous coverage. These teams are responsible for policing 11 distinct geographic areas throughout the county. Deputies become familiar with their assigned areas, allowing them to build relationships with residents, address ongoing issues, and provide responsive, community-oriented service.

In addition to responding to calls for service, Patrol Deputies investigate suspicious activity, assist other emergency service providers, and support specialized units when needed. Their constant presence and readiness play a critical role in maintaining public safety and delivering reliable, professional law enforcement services across the county.



PATROL K9 TEAM

Our operations K9 team is comprised of 3 Labrador Retrievers assigned to patrol/investigations as detection dogs. All of them are trained to detect narcotics including methamphetamine, cocaine, heroin and fentanyl.

273 DETECTIONS



INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

The Investigations Division is responsible for handling major and complex criminal cases that demand a high level of expertise, advanced investigative training, specialized resources, and technical proficiency. These cases often require close coordination with allied law enforcement agencies, forensic specialists, and prosecutorial teams to ensure thorough, accurate, and effective investigations. The division plays a critical role in supporting public safety by pursuing justice in cases that are often sensitive, multifaceted, and resource-intensive.

To maximize efficiency and expertise, the Investigations Division is organized into several specialized units, each dedicated to a specific category of crime:

 **1,127 CASES**  **853 WARRANTS**  **1,544 REPORTS**

Property Crimes Unit

This unit focuses on offenses involving theft or damage to property, including burglary, vehicle theft, fraud, identity theft, and vandalism. Detectives in this unit analyze patterns, and work closely with regional task forces and financial institutions when necessary.

Sex Crimes Unit

Investigators in this unit handle highly sensitive cases involving sexual assault, exploitation, and abuse. These cases require a victim-centered approach, careful evidence handling, and coordination with medical professionals, advocacy groups, and prosecutors to ensure both support for victims and strong case outcomes.



Persons Crimes Unit

This unit investigates violent crimes against individuals, including homicide, assault, robbery, and domestic violence. Detectives are trained to respond quickly, gather critical evidence, interview witnesses, and build comprehensive cases in situations that are often urgent and high-risk.

Intel Unit

Supporting all investigative efforts in the division, this unit plays a vital role in identifying crime patterns, linking cases, and providing actionable insights. Intelligence personnel collect, analyze, and disseminate information related to criminal activity, emerging trends, and known offenders. This intelligence-led approach enhances the division's ability to prevent crime, solve cases more efficiently, and support both tactical and long-term enforcement efforts.



CORONER'S UNIT

Outside of investigating crimes and enforcing the law, the Sheriff-Coroner Office determines the circumstances surrounding death. A forensic pathologist performs all exams determining cause and manner including any suspected homicide, suicide, accidental death, or natural death. In 2020, the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office received accreditation by the International Association of Coroners and Medical Examiners. During 2025, the Coroner's Unit was assigned 283 cases.

110

**FULL OR
PARTIAL AUTOPSIES**

109

**EXTERNAL
EXAMS**

585

**REPORTABLE
DEATHS**

FENTANYL CRISIS RESPONSE TEAM

The Fentanyl Crisis Response Team (FCRT) has the main goal of reducing fentanyl related deaths within Santa Cruz County. The team was created in 2024 to help combat the emerging Fentanyl Crisis in Santa Cruz County through working with community partners to get individuals into treatment, early education about the dangers of fentanyl and holding dealers accountable. In 2025, FCRT seized 1,337 grams of fentanyl, 1,834 grams of other narcotics and 26 firearms. They also wrote 292 reports, served 82 search warrants and made 73 arrests.



1,337

**GRAMS OF
FENTANYL**

1,834

**GRAMS OF OTHER
NARCOTICS**

26

**FIREARMS
SEIZED**

FORENSICS SERVICES DIVISION

The Forensic Services Division, fully civilianized in 2016, is responsible for crime scene investigations and laboratory analysis across multiple disciplines, including latent print examination, digital forensics, and forensic anthropology. The Division is also in the process of developing a state-of-the-art DNA laboratory, anticipated to begin casework in mid-2027.

In addition, the Division manages the County's Automated Biometric Identification System (ABIS), analyzes latent print submissions for all local law enforcement agencies, and oversees the County's Sexual Assault Response Team and Sexual Assault Forensic Examination Clinic, which provides examinations for sexual assault and domestic violence survivors.

8,648
EVIDENCE
ITEMS RECEIVED

3,334
DISCOVERY
REQUESTS

768
EVIDENCE ITEMS
PROCESSED

- 67 Crime Scene Responses
- 57 Latent Fingerprints
- 27 CODIS DNA Hits
- 313 Digital Devices Examined
- 42 Sexual Assault Kits Processed
- 766 Narcotics Tested



Property & Evidence Unit Manages:

- Body-Worn Camera Program
- Evidence Intake & Storage
- Property Disposition

CRIME ANALYST

The Crime Analyst collects and analyzes statistical information such as crime trends and internal work metrics. Information is sorted and organized to produce weekly, monthly, and quarterly reports that can help law enforcement managers direct agency resources to prevent, reduce or respond to crime trends. Because the crime analyst is comfortable utilizing multiple sources of information, they are often called upon to assist criminal investigations where important information may be difficult to find. The crime analyst also helps patrol staff determine where crime hot spots are occurring in their assigned patrol areas to develop action plans.

AIR SUPPORT UNIT

The Air Support Unit (ASU) consists of 2 divisions; the Fixed Wing Team and the Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) Team. The ASU provides airborne law enforcement assets to Santa Cruz County. The ASU flies a wide array of missions to the benefit of public safety, search and rescue and disaster relief. The ASU operates a fixed wing aircraft, known as, “Air One,” which is a Cessna 172N Skyhawk. The Fixed Wing Team consists of 3 sworn pilots, 3 tactical flight officers as well as 1 volunteer pilot, and is managed by a sergeant. In 2024, the Fixed Wing Unit flew a total of 6 missions. The UAS Team operates a variety of commercially available drones and is made up of 15 members of the Sheriff’s Office and 1 volunteer pilot who are certified under Code of Federal Regulations Title 14 part 107. The UAS is managed by a sergeant and the entire ASU is overseen by a lieutenant. In 2025, the UAS Team was deployed 79 times. Those deployments included search and rescue operations, suspect searches, crime scene documentation, high risk incidents and search warrants.



PEER SUPPORT TEAM

The Peer Support Team provides support during times of personal or professional crisis for employees. The team consists of 1 lieutenant, 5 sergeants, 8 correctional officers and 9 deputies. There are also 3 professional staff members, 3 chaplains, and 1 clinician. In 2025, the Peer Support Team was deployed 9 times.

SWAT

Our Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Team was deployed 4 times in 2025. The team is made up of 1 team commander (Lt), 3 team leaders, and 12 operators. Each member trains about 120 hours per year. This team provides our office with the specialized training, equipment, and personnel necessary to safely respond to high-risk incidents. These incidents may include armed suspects, hostage situations, barricaded individuals, high-risk search warrants, and other critical events that exceed the capabilities of routine patrol operations. for critical incidents exceeding the capability of first responders.



BOMB TEAM

The primary function of the Bomb Team is to respond to, and render safe, improvised explosive devices, incendiary devices, explosive chemicals, pyrotechnics, and ammunition. The Sheriff's Office Bomb Team is the only Bomb Team in the county and currently consists of 5 Public Safety Bomb Technicians, 6 support staff (non-technicians), 1 commander (Sgt), 1 supervisor (Sgt.) and 1 manager (Lt). Each Public Safety Technician is certified by the US Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) through the US Army Ordinance Munitions & Electronic Maintenance School, also known as Hazardous Device School (HDS). In 2025 the team participated in a large-scale training exercise, BAYEX, hosted by the 95th Civil Support Team (CST) and conducted at multiple venues throughout the Bay Area. During the exercise, the team was deployed to California's Great America, where members responded to simulated scenarios involving a radiological dispersal device and a mass-casualty event.

Throughout the year, the team conducted regular bi-monthly training to maintain critical perishable skills and ensure proficiency with specialized equipment. In addition to routine training, members also participated in advanced training opportunities offered through various vendors and government agencies. These efforts ensured the team remained well-prepared to respond effectively to complex incidents and emerging threats.



ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO COMPLIANCE UNIT

The Alcohol and Tobacco Compliance Unit was formed in 2018 to promote safety and compliance surrounding alcohol and tobacco sales in Santa Cruz County. The unit is overseen by 1 lieutenant, 1 sergeant and includes professional staff. The Unit frequently visits alcohol and tobacco retail stores to check compliance, and gives presentations to schools and parents. The main goal of this unit is to keep alcohol and tobacco out of the hands of minors to prevent potentially harmful situations.

SEARCH AND RESCUE



The Search and Rescue (SAR) Team is a team of highly trained Sheriff's Office personnel and volunteers dedicated to locating missing persons and helping those in need during times of distress. The SAR Team responds to a wide range of incidents ranging from overdue hikers and lost children to technical rescues in challenging terrain.

SAR members undergo extensive training and maintain standardized qualifications established by the Sheriff's Office. Team members bring a diverse set of skills and specialties, including wilderness navigation, technical rope rescue, swift-water operations, mountain biking, UAS and search management. This broader expertise allows the team to adapt quickly to dynamic and often hazardous environments while maintaining a strong emphasis on safety, coordination, and effectiveness. In 2025, the SAR Team is comprised of 49 civilian volunteers and 13 sworn law enforcement personnel. The team deployed for 10 missions, which included 2 mutual aid requests.

FOCUSED INTERVENTION TEAM

The Sheriff's Office Focused Intervention Team (FIT) was established in 2019 to address the growing issue of repeat offenders in Santa Cruz County who are resistant to assistance or treatment. FIT is made up of 1 deputy, 1 sergeant and 3 behavioral health clinicians who work intensively with individuals to get them the treatment they need and out of incarceration. FIT behavioralists and deputies not only contact the clients, but also visit those who are on their caseload and are incarcerated, to help them get the services they need.



CRISIS NEGOTIATION TEAM

The Crisis Negotiation Team (CNT) is trained in emergency communications to help resolve dangerous situations in crisis events. In cases of emergency, they prevent potential loss of life or harm to others. The team was deployed 1 time in 2025. This low number is greatly due to most deputies being trained in Crisis Intervention Training (CIT). CIT provides law enforcement officers with the skills and knowledge to interact with and de-escalate situations involving people in crisis.

CRISIS INTERVENTION TRAINING AND MENTAL HEALTH LIAISONS

When interacting with an individual going through a mental health crisis or behaving erratically, and sometimes dangerously, law enforcement officers are tasked with keeping the public and the individual safe. De-escalation has become a skill used daily for our deputies out in the field when interacting with people in crisis. In 2025, patrol deputies responded to 3,478 calls for people experiencing a mental health crisis. For the past 8 years, the Sheriff's Office has been providing deputies with Integrating Communications, Assessment and Tactics (ICAT) Training. This is scenario-based training that provides deputies with the knowledge, skills, and techniques to safely resolve dangerous and evolving situations when the subject does not have a firearm and is not an immediate threat to others. The Sheriff's Office also has 1 full-time Mental Health Liaison (MHL) who responds to mental health related calls with deputies. The MHL provides assessments, training, and crisis intervention services. They also provide links for individuals to treatment and services as needed.



TRAINING UNIT

Our Training Unit plays a vital role in ensuring our patrol staff remains highly skilled and prepared for the evolving demands of law enforcement. They are responsible for organizing monthly training sessions, ensuring compliance with mandated training requirements, and tracking the progress of our Deputy Sheriff Trainees and academy recruits. Additionally, this team identifies valuable external training opportunities and conferences that enhance our staff's knowledge and effectiveness, handling all necessary travel and accommodations.

Ongoing training is essential in law enforcement, as it equips our personnel with the latest skills, tactics, and legal updates needed to serve our community safely and professionally. By staying ahead of policy changes and best practices, we enhance public trust, improve officer safety, and maintain the highest standards of service. Our office takes great pride in this commitment to excellence, made possible by the dedication and hard work of our Training Unit.

COMMUNITY POLICING

The Community Policing Division works closely with community members to build trust and meaningful connections with the people we serve, while collaborating to address issues impacting those who live and work in our community. The Community Policing Team is dedicated to strengthening relationships through active participation in community meetings, school outreach programs, and local events.

The team helps operate six service centers, or substations, throughout the county. We believe that positive and consistent police-community interactions are essential to building strong, lasting partnerships.

In 2025, the Community Policing Team participated in 149 community events and delivered 32 presentations focused on school, child, and workplace safety. Our School Resource Officers are also an integral part of the Community Policing Team, and together they work to promote a safe and supportive environment for students, staff, and families. Through mentorship, education, and proactive engagement, they help bridge the gap between law enforcement and youth, fostering trust and encouraging open communication.

SRO UNIT

Interacting with and keeping our youth safe is a primary function of the Sheriff's Office. Our School Resource Officers (SRO) Team is made up of 1 sergeant and 3 deputies who are assigned to schools throughout the county. The role of the SRO is to engage with students, be a part of the school community and ensure student safety. While their primary duty is to keep everyone on campus safe, they also strive to build trust between students and law enforcement. In 2025, SROs were assigned to Aptos, San Lorenzo Valley and Soquel High School. Our SROs also host an annual Youth Academy and Junior Sheriff's Academy to engage with youth interested in learning more about careers in public safety.

MULTICULTURAL CLUB

The San Lorenzo Valley High School Multicultural Club was founded in January 2023 by SRO April Skalland after a student expressed feeling disconnected and underrepresented on campus. Created to promote inclusivity and belonging, the club has grown from 20 students to about 30 active members.

Meeting twice monthly, students organize cultural celebrations and educational events throughout the year, often drawing 200–500 attendees. A highlight was the school's first Winter Festival, which brought families and community members together to share global traditions.

Supported by community partners, the club also offers opportunities like college visits. What began as a response to one student's experience has become a thriving, student-led organization that fosters connection, representation, and school pride.



JUNIOR SHERIFF'S ACADEMY

The Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office Junior Sheriff's Academy is a free, weeklong summer program for incoming 6th and 7th grade students across Santa Cruz County. Offered in two sessions each summer in 2024 and 2025, the program filled to capacity both years, reflecting strong community interest.

Hosted at San Lorenzo Valley High School, the Academy provides a structured, age-appropriate introduction to law enforcement, first responders, and civic responsibility. Students participate in hands-on activities such as physical training, obstacle courses, crime scene investigations, first aid/CPR, defensive tactics, K-9 demonstrations, and a mock investigation, along with a tour of the Felton Fire Department.

Community service is also emphasized, with students completing a campus beautification project at the end of each session. The program concludes with a graduation BBQ and certificate presentation for families. Fully funded by the Sheriff's Activity League, the Academy is offered at no cost and provides each student with program materials and gear. The program has had a strong positive impact, with students showing increased confidence, teamwork, and understanding of public safety, while parents report noticeable growth and motivation.



YOUTH ACADEMY

The Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office High School Youth Academy is a multi-week program that introduces students to law enforcement operations, public safety roles, and career opportunities. The 2025 academy ran from October 1 through November 12, with weekly Wednesday sessions, and served 30 students from schools across the county, including Aptos, San Lorenzo Valley, Soquel, Harbor, and Monterey Bay Academy. Several students returned from prior years, reflecting continued engagement and program success.

Participants completed about 20 hours of instruction through hands-on activities, tours, and presentations from a wide range of units, including Patrol, Investigations, SWAT, Bomb Squad, Search and Rescue, Dispatch (911), Probation, CSI/Coroner, and more. In 2025, a new session focused on the Fentanyl Crisis Response Team, featuring a personal story that emphasized prevention and awareness.

The program concluded with a final session and certificate presentations, reinforcing its goal of educating and inspiring the next generation of public safety professionals.

ABANDONED VEHICLE ABATEMENT

The Sheriff's Office administers the Abandoned Vehicle Abatement Program (AVA) that responds to complaints of unoccupied vehicles left parked on the streets for more than 72 hours in the unincorporated areas of the county. Community Service Officers verify violations, mark the car, post notices to remove, arrange for towing of cars and other abandoned parts. In 2025, a total of 123 vehicles were abated and 1,467 AVA Notices or Citations were given.

VOLUNTEERS

The Sheriff's Office does not only have dedicated staff, but dedicated volunteers who choose to spend their time helping the community. In 2025, 73 volunteers contributed 7,934 hours of service. Volunteers assist in many areas including the Service Centers as Civilian Patrol Drivers and Office Assistants, Home Inspections, Child Safety Program, Chaplains, Recruitment and Hiring, Records, Forensic Services, Coroner, Missing Persons/Investigations, Minor Decoys in the Alcohol and Tobacco Compliance Unit, Little Free Library Steward, Community Contact Team, and Community Events.

CABRILLO COLLEGE DIVISION

The Sheriff's Office collaborates with Cabrillo College to enhance student safety by maintaining open communication and working closely with campus staff. Our services extend to all Cabrillo College facilities, including escorting students and staff to their vehicles, assisting with vehicle lockouts and jump-starts, responding to crime reports, and providing civil assistance. In 2025, we responded to 508 service calls at Cabrillo, conducted 871 safety checks, and performed 904 foot patrols.



SERVICE CENTERS AND SUBSTATIONS

As part of our commitment to the Santa Cruz County Community, we acknowledge that not everyone has the means to travel to the Sheriff's Office Headquarters in Live Oak. Knowing this, the Sheriff's Office has several other locations throughout the County where community members can make reports and get questions answered by deputies or volunteers. The Services Centers and substations are in Davenport, Boulder Creek, Felton, Aptos, Watsonville and Live Oak. These are staffed by deputies, sergeants, or volunteers throughout the week.

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Boulder Creek 13210 Central Avenue (State Route Hwy 9)
Boulder Creek, CA 95006 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Felton 6062 Graham Hill Rd., Suite A & B
Felton, CA 95018 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• South County 790 Green Valley Road
Watsonville, CA 95076 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Live Oak 5200 Soquel Ave
Santa Cruz, CA 95062 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aptos 171 Aptos Village Way
Aptos, CA 95003 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• North Coast 450 Highway 1
Davenport CA 95017 |



INCLUDING THE COMMUNITY

Our partnerships extend beyond other law enforcement and public safety agencies in Santa Cruz County, encompassing our community members as well. Maintaining open communication and collaboration with the residents is crucial for us to perform our duty of keeping the community safe. Therefore, the Sheriff's Office offers various programs and opportunities to the people of Santa Cruz County, enabling us to better serve the community.

Sworn and professional staff enjoy taking the opportunity to interact with the community during events held throughout the year. These events include National Night Out, Trunk or Treat, the County Fair, Polar Plunge, Coffee with a Cop and much more!

POLICE IN PURSUIT

Police in Pursuit is a community event aimed at raising funds and awareness for Special Olympics of Northern California (SONC) athletes. The money raised goes directly to SONC to help pay for athletes' practices, equipment, and tournaments. Police in Pursuit includes law enforcement agencies from around the Bay Area who race their hot-rod vehicles at Watsonville Ocean Speedway to raise money. In 2025 Detective AJ Waltrip and Deputies Hunter Gathier and Kyle Wowak competed for the cause!



SHERIFF'S ADVISORY TEAM

The Sheriff's Advisory Team meets monthly with the Sheriff to give feedback concerning public safety related issues. The Advisory team is made up of individuals who live and work in Santa Cruz County.

BREAKING DOWN THE NUMBERS

\$59,032,023

OPERATIONS/ADMINISTRATION

\$49,387,294

CORRECTIONS

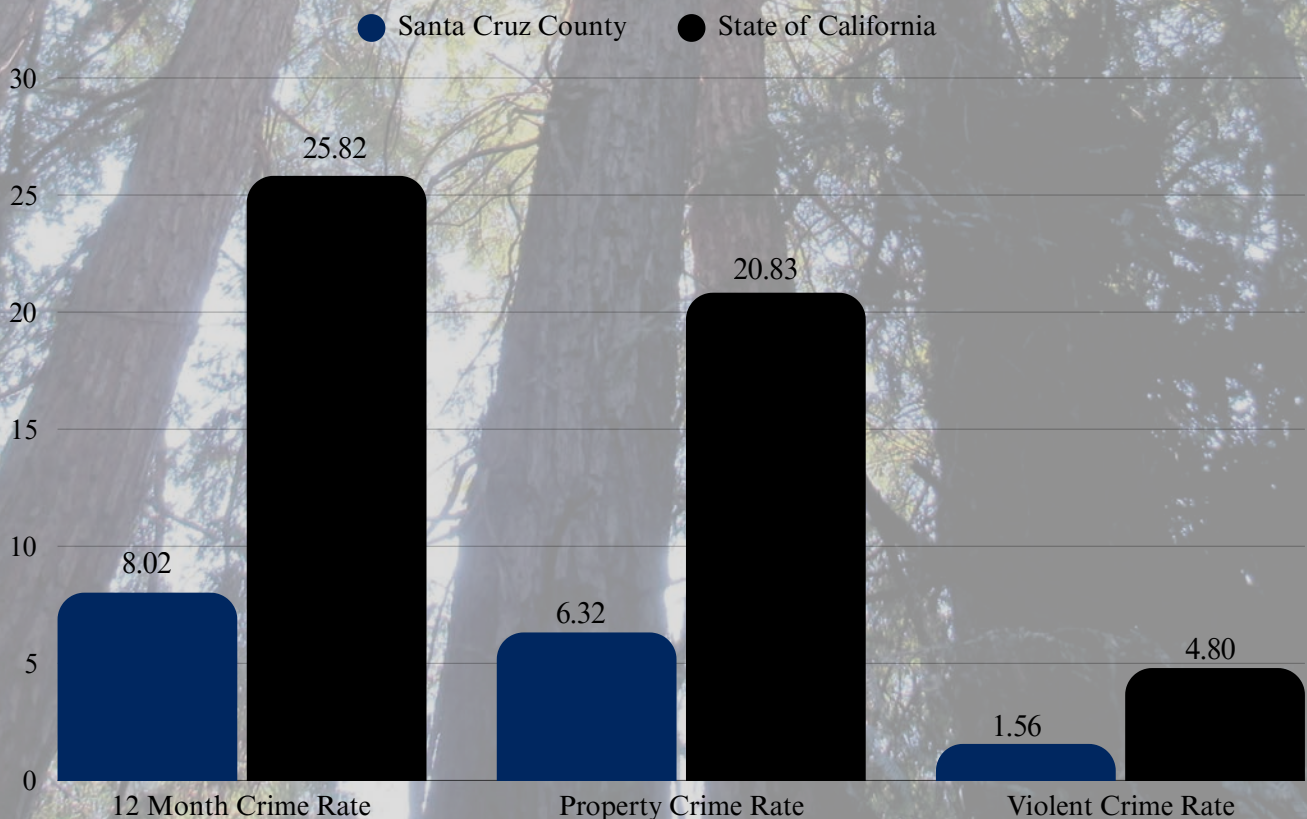
\$6,135,808

COURT SECURITY

\$114,555,125

TOTAL BUDGET

Comparative Crime Rates Per 1,000 Residents Unincorporated Santa Cruz County



SHERIFF'S OFFICE EMPLOYEES 2025

ADNEY, KIRK
AHUMADA-GARCIA, ELVIA
AINSWORTH, JACOB
AMBROSINO, AMANDA
ANGEL VILLASENOR, EDRICK
ANGELES ORTIZ, JENNIFER
ANTONIO, JASON
ANZALONE, MARK
ARCHER, KADE
ARREDONDO, ADRIAN
AYON, ERICA
AYYAD, HASSAN
BAEZ OCASIO, MARIA
BALANCIO, MARLON
BALDRIGE, NICHOLAS
BALDWIN, DEE
BARAJAS, ESTEBAN
BARBOSA-CABRERA, JASMINE
BARNES, ALONZO
BAROCIO, JASMIN
BARRON, DAISY
BASTIAN, MARILYNN
BATIN, CAROLE
BEST, MATTHEW
BLANKENSHIP, LELAND
BLOCK, TREVOR
BONNEY, CADI
BOOTH, MARQUIS
BRENCIAGLIA, TRISTAN
BROPHY, MAGGIE
BROWNLEE, JORDAN
BUCHANAN, ROBERT

BUCIO, ANA
BURHANS, MICHELLE
BURNETT, WILLIAM
CALHOUN, NATHANIEL
CARBAJAL, EFRAIN
CARLOS, FELIPE
CARMONA, ERICA
CARMONA-VASQUEZ, KRISTAL
CASTANEDA, JOSEPH
CASTERSON, EMILY
CHAVEZ, CERA
CHAVEZ, RAMON
CHEEKS, CHRISTOPHER
CHEUNG, MAY
CHRISTIANSEN, MARK
CHRISTIANSEN, MARV
CISNEROS, KEVIN
CLAES, KEVIN
CLARK, CHRISTOPHER
CLARK, WENDY
CLARKE, JOSEPH
CLAUSSEN, ANGELO
CLEMENS, KRISTIE
CLEMENTS, BENJAMIN
CLEVELAND, BRIAN
COLE, BRIAN
COOPER, JAKE
CORTEZ, SAMUEL
CORUM, HANNAH
CORUM, KURT
CRAWFORD, KARYN
CRIVELLO, CRYSTAL

CRUZ PACHECO, HUGO
CRUZ PULIDO, ABRAHAM
CRUZ, DANIEL
CUMMINGS, NICHOLAS
CURTICE, NICHOLAS
DANG, YEN
DAWSON, JASON
DE LA TORRE, ALFONSO
DE LEON, RAMON
DEEG, KENNETH
DELGADILLO, RODOLFO
DERR, MICHAEL
DIAZ, ALLISON
DIMAANO, TEOFILO
DIMICK, ARTHUR
DOBBS, COLLEEN
DOERR, ERICA
DOLEN, JOSEPH
DOMALANTA, BRENNAN
DOYLE, TIMOTHY
DUARTE CHAIDEZ, JOSE
DUNN, JASON
EICKHOFF, GREGORY
EISNER, JEFFREY
ENGELHARDT, ELIZABETH
ENGELHARDT, NATHAN
ENRICO, SCOTT
ESCALANTE-PEREZ, REYNALDO
ESPARZA, LUISANNA
ESPINOZA, ANA

SHERIFF'S OFFICE EMPLOYEES 2025

ESPINOZA, JESUS
ESPINOZA-GONZALEZ, ADRIAN
ESTRADA, HERIBERTO
ESTRADA-YANEZ, FATIMA
FAROTTE, RYAN
FARRIS, CLINTON
FENSTER, DEREK
FEPULEA'I, FRANCINE
FERNANDEZ DUARTE, BRAIAN
FERNANDEZ, GERMAN
FERRARA, JOHN
FIGUEROA, VANESSA
FIORE, STEPHANY
FISH, NOLAN
FISH, STEFAN
FISHER, KEVIN
FISHER, RYAN
FLORES, ADRIAN
FLORES, JAIME
FLORES, ROLAN
FLORES-RENTERIA, LUIS
FRANKLIN, DAMON
FREEMAN, PATRICIA
FREITAS, DANIEL
FULTON, RYAN
GAGNON, STEPHEN
GAITHER, HUNTER
GALINDO, FABIOLA
GALLARDO SAUCEDO, AYLIN
GALOTTI, CASANDRA

GALVAN, ADAM
GALVIN, ROGER
GANSCHOW, DAVID
GARCIA, NELSON
GARCIA, STEVEN
GARCIA-ZARAGOZA, MATTHEW
GENTRY, JACK
GERBER, MINNIE
GIDDING, ROBERT
GIGUIERE, GREGORY
GOERICKE, ADRIANA
GOMBOS, FRANK
GOMEZ-CASTANEDA, JESUS
GONZALES, ANDREW
GONZALEZ, ALEAH
GONZALEZ, ALEJANDRO
GONZALEZ, ALEX
GONZALEZ, CESAR
GONZALEZ, GABRIEL
GONZALEZ, JAVIER
GONZALEZ, JULIANA
GOUKER, ERIC
GRAHAM, NATHANIEL
GREENE, EDWARD
GREGORY, NICHOLAS
GRIFFIN, LARRY
GRIFFITH, MICHELLE
GRIFFITH, TIMOTHY
GROSS, CATHERINE
GROSS, JEFFREY

GUADIAN-FRANYUTTI, AMY
HANCOCK, DAMON
HANSEN, PETER
HARLAMOFF, CRAIG
HARRISON, CURTIS
HART, JAMES
HAYES, ERIN
HELD, CONNOR
HERNANDEZ GAMA, ALDO
HERNANDEZ, DAISY
HERNANDEZ, JAMES
HERNANDEZ, LAURA
HERNANDEZ, MICHAEL
HERNANDEZ-GUZMAN, ERIK
HERRERA-AMEZCUA, FRANCISCO
HERSEY, HUNTER
HOLBACK, JACOB
HONEYCUTT, MONIQUE
HOP, RANDALL
HOUDESHELDT, NORMAN
HUERTA, KARINA
HUGHES, BRIAN
HUNTLEY, EVONNE
HUNTSMAN, MARGO
HUNTSMAN, TRAVIS
HURTADO ORTEGA, JESUS
HURTADO ORTEGA, RENE
HUTCHCRAFT, ERIK
HUTSON, SAMUEL
JAQUEZ, STEPHEN
JIMENEZ, JESSICA

SHERIFF'S OFFICE EMPLOYEES 2025

JOHNSON, JOSHUA	LOPEZ-VARELA, MOISES	MEDRANO, DANNY
JOHNSON, LEIF	LORENTE, AARON	MEIER, PAUL
JONES, CHRISTOPHE	LUKE, RYAN	MEJIA, SALVADOR
JORGENSEN, ARISTON	LUNA, SOCORRO	MELGOZA, LUIS
KADUK, MONIQUETTE	MA, ALEXANDER	MENDEZ, ROBERTO
KANE, KALEN	MACDONALD, MICHAEL	MENDOZA, FIDEL
KATICH, LEE	MADAHAR, PAIGE	MERKEL, DONIA
KEEHN, ASHLEY	MADISON, DAVID	MEYERS, LUKE
KENNEDY, RYAN	MADRIGAL SOSA, LUIS	MIER Y TERAN, MAGALY
KENT, KELLY	MAGANA, GABRIELA	MITCHELL, KRISTEN
KENVILLE, NATHANIEL	MAGI, JOY	MITCHELL, ROBIN
KINSELLA-MONTES, BRYANT	MAJOR, PHILLIP	MIYOSHI, ERIK
KOENIG, KRISTOPHER	MALONE, JACQUELINE	MOISE, MICHAEL
KRINER, DARRYL	MALONE, JORDAN	MOLINA, JUAN
LAMASCUS, IAN	MAQUEDA, JOSE	MONTALVO, SARAH
LAMBERT, MICHAEL	MARTINEZ, ANGELICA	MOODY, SAVANNAH
LAMOTHE, MARK	MARTINEZ, LEONEL	MORA, VICTOR
LANDEROS, JASMIN	MARTINEZ, OMAR	MORALES-PLASKETT, DIANA
LANDSDOWNE, GREGORY	MARTINEZ-FERNANDEZ, MIRNA	MORAN, EDDIE
LAWRENCE, ASHELY	MARTINEZ-LIMON, DENISE	MORAR, DAN
LAZO, MARTHA	MATSON, KYLE	MORENO, HUGO
LEONARD, CAMERON	MATTHEWS, ALEXANDER	MORGAN, JASON
LEONETTI, SHON	MAXFIELD, HEATHER	MOSSER, MITCHEL
LEVENDIS, ALEXANDRA	MCBRIDE, CAITLIN	MOYA, EDUARDO
LLOYD, JENNIFER	MCCALL, COURTNEY	MUNGUIA, JUAN
LOPEZ TEJEDA, EMILIO	MCCALL, DANIEL	MUNOZ DE LA TORRE, ERIC
LOPEZ, DAISY	MCCLURE, RIANDA	MUNOZ, JACOB
LOPEZ, JOSE	MCKIM, JOSHUA	NAVARRO, MIRIAN
LOPEZ, LYSETTE	MCMAHON, MATTHEW	NOBLE, GATISA
LOPEZ, PAUL	MEDINA PACHECO, LUCIO	NORRIS, BRETT
LOPEZ, SERGIO	MEDINA, CHRISTOPHER	NOVAK, MICHELLE
	MEDINA, SAMI	NUNES, MAYA

SHERIFF'S OFFICE EMPLOYEES 2025

OCAMPO, ANTHONY	RAINWATER, MALLORY	RODRIGUEZ, MINERVA
O'DONNELL, SEAN	RAMIREZ ESQUEDA, GABRIEL	RODRIGUEZ, MIRANDA
O'HARA, MARC	RAMIREZ, CESAR	RODRIGUEZ-ROCHA, ANDREA
ORGANISTA, SABRINA	RAMIREZ, FRANCISCO	ROMERO VALENCIA, CESAR
OROZCO MATIAS, HERIBERTO	RAMIREZ, SALVADOR	ROSAS, AMANDA
ORTIZ GALLEGOS, BIANCA	RAMIREZ-CORTES, GERARDO	ROSELL, DAVID
ORTIZ, JUAN	RAMM, WENDY	ROSS, JAMES
PADILLA BAEZ, JESSICA	RAMOS NINO, SAIDA	ROSS, JESSICA
PAGE, JAMES	RAMPONI, EMMA	ROTHSTEIN, AMANDA
PALM, CHASE	RANIA, MARC	ROWE-KAIRYS, AMANDA
PASTOR, JOSHUA	RANKIN, GABRIEL	RUMRILL, ETHAN
PATRICK, JARROD	RATTI, ISABELLA	SALZBERG, ANDREW
PATZKE, MICAH	REED, JOHN	SAMMS, KATHY
PATZKE, SEAVANA	REED, ZACHARY	SANCHEZ JR, ROBERTO
PATZKE, STEPHEN	REHNBERG, JAKE	SANCHEZ, MEGAN
PAYNE, MELINDA	REILMANN, GENEVIEVE	SANCHEZ, THEODORE
PEACOCK, CHANNING	RICE, JARED	SANCHEZ-ECHEVARRIA, ATHENA
PEREA, SAMANTHA	RIDGWAY, BRIAN	SANDLIN, PEACE
PERERA, JOHN	RIDGWAY, MICHAEL	SANDOVAL, CARA
PEREZ, BETSAIDA	RIOS HERNANDEZ, YADIRA	SANTILLAN, WALTER
PESCE, RANDY	RIOS RAMIREZ, EILEEN	SAVAGE, MICHAEL
PLAGEMAN, FREDERICK	RIOS, MICHAEL	SCHIRRMACHER, KARL
POLITO, BRANDON	ROBBINS, DANIEL	SCHULZE ELSE, POLLY
PONCE PALOMINO, MARIO	ROBERTS, ADAM	SCHWINGEL, ROGER
PORRAS, JORGE	ROBINSON, CHEYENNE	SCIANNA, BRANNON
PRESLEY, HEATHER	ROBLES, JAVIER	SEEVERS, RACHAEL
PRIETO ALVAREZ, ROXANNA	ROBLES, MARISELA	SEDANO-DIAZ, JOCELYN
PRUGER, JACOB	ROCHA, ANGEL	SEFERYN, SEASON
PRUGER, MICHAEL	ROCHA, MONICA	SEGAL, JORDAN
PURCELL, AMANDA	ROCHA-GUZMAN, JESSE	SERRANO-HERNANDEZ, MARI
QUINTAL, TROY	RODRIGUEZ ALFARO, ELMER	SHEARER, CHRISTOPHER
QUIROGA, DIANA	RODRIGUEZ, ALBERT	
	RODRIGUEZ, MICHELLE	

SHERIFF'S OFFICE EMPLOYEES 2025

SHIAH, TENG-SHUNG	UVA, MARRA	ZACK, LISA
SHILLITO, RYAN	VACA, ANTONIO	ZAMORA, JOSE
SILVA, ANTHONY	VALDIVIA, DAHNA	ZARAGOZA, ADRIANA
SILVA-GUERRERO, ESAI	VAN DIEN, LISA ANN	ZARAGOZA, RYAN
SILVEIRA, STEPHEN	VAN DYKE, SARA	ZEISE, NATHANIEL
SIMPSON, JEFFREY	VAN HORSEN, PAUL	ZEPHRO, LAUREN
SINNOTT, JAMES	VARGAS, JULIANNA	ZIGMAN, EVAN
SKALLAND, APRIL	VARGAS, LISET	ZUBE, TROY
SMITH, KERRI	VASCONCELLOS, DILLYN	
SMITH, TAMARA	VASQUEZ, MATTHEW S	
SOLANO, ABIGAIL	VAUGHAN, BRIANNA	
SOLANO, NICHOLAS	VELASCO, JOSEFINA	
SORCIA, SARA	VELASCO, MARIANNA	
SOTELO VILLARREAL, SEBASTIAN	VENTURA, ASENAT	
SOTO, RHANDY	VILLANUEVA-LOPEZ, JORGE	
SOUZA, NICOLA	VIZCARRA, LETICIA	
SPENCER, ALEXANDER	WALKER, CHRISTY	
STEWART, JOSHUA	WALKER, LARA	
STRONG, TAYLOR	WALTRIP, AUGUST	
SUAREZ, LISANDRO	WARD, ANTHONY	
SWEENEY, CORDERRO	WARD, KYLE	
TAYLOR, JONEE	WELLS, KAREN	
TELLEZ, FERNANDO	WEST, ZACHARY	
TERAN-MURILLO, JESSICA	WHEELER, CAMERON	
TOBAR, ANNA	WHITLEY, RODERICK	
TORRES ESCOBEDO, KARLA	WILEY, HENRY	
TORRES, MARYSOL	WILLIAMS, MARC	
TRITENBACH, MARK	WOOLLEY, JOSHUA	
TUCKER, TATUM	WOWAK, KYLE	
TURNER, MALLORY	YANEZ, MARK	
URETA, KRYSTIN	YNIGUEZ, ANDRE	
URQUIDEZ, CASSIE ANN	YNIGUEZ, ROBERT	
	YORK, RYAN	

SHERIFF'S OFFICE VOLUNTEERS

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DEDICATION TO OUR COMMUNITY!

ASHLEY MARIE ESCOBAR MACIAS

ALICE HARDEN

ARACELI HERNANDEZ

ARACELI PADILLA

BERT DONLIN

BONITA RODEMEYER

BRISEYDA FIGUEROA

CATHERINE DUFORT

CELESTE SILVA

CHRIS SMITH

CLAUDIA LLAMAS-PADILLA

DANIEL WORMINGTON

DARIUS PARK

DAVID CAMPBELL

DAVID LEE

DAVID WORMINGTON

DEBORAH MEDINA

ESMERALDA ZAVALA

FRANCINE RAPHAEL

FRANK MARRONE

JAN HATHAWAY

JANELLE CORNELIO

JENNIFER HERSCHKORN

JERAD SPENCER

JERRY RAPPOPORT

JILL HOLDAWAY

JOHN ADAMS

JUAN VALLEJO

KATHI HOWARD

KENNETH CARVALHO

KERRY MCDONALD

KEVIN HILDRETH

KOUROSH NOSRATI

LAURA SPIEGEL

LINDA BINGHAM

LINDA FESSETTE

LORRI WARE

LYLE VACHON

MARGIE ESTBERG

MARK STOVALL

MEGAN FULTON

MELISSA SOSA

MERARI MOYA

MIKE BALLARD

MIRA BHAKTA

MYKA ENOMOTO-MCLAIN

NICOLE GIDDING

PAT MOESINGER

PATRICIA MEDINA

PAUL FLORES

PAUL NEUMAN

PAYTEN TAGGART

PRIYANKA BHARGAVA

RANDY PESCE

REBECCA AGUIRRE

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ROBERT JOHNSON

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