



2024 Annual Report

Nevada County Sheriff's Office
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Welcome



It has been my honor to serve my hometown and community as your Sheriff since 2019. We've come a long way since then and have grown considerably in terms of services offered as well as new programming and improvements.

One of our largest accomplishments for 2024 was centered on Wayne Brown Correctional Facility (WBCF), the primary jail we operate. WBCF earned accreditation from the National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCHC) by demonstrating compliance with NCCHC's nationally recognized standards of care for correctional health services in jails. This accreditation took over three years to achieve and ultimately recognizes WBCF's commitment to providing quality health services for the incarcerated population (see page 12 for full details).

While our annual report reflects only a snippet of the hard work and dedication of the Nevada County Sheriff's Office (NCSO), I hope it serves as a vessel of information and insights into the important role we play here in Nevada County and the impact we create together.

Mission

The Nevada County Sheriff's Office is committed to providing excellence in public service in partnership with our community.

Core Values

- Honor
- Integrity
- Professionalism
- Respect
- Loyalty

Significant Occurrences



New Operations Captain

Sean Scales was formally promoted to Captain of Operations on Jan. 12, 2024, with 18 years of experience.



Shannan Moon

A New Undersheriff in Town

Sam Brown was formally appointed Undersheriff by Sheriff Moon on Jan. 12, 2024, having previously served as Captain of Operations. He has over 20 years of experience.

Suspect Arrested for Homicide

On April 13, 2024, deputies responded to a 911 call after 58-year-old Mary Moran was found deceased in her room from an apparent gunshot wound. Detectives identified the boyfriend as the subject and launched a search that spanned Northern California. The Sacramento County Sheriff's Office located the subject the following morning with a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head. He survived and was arrested by NCSO for homicide.

Sheriff Moon's POST Senate Confirmation

On Sept. 12, 2023, Governor Gavin Newsom formally appointed Sheriff Shannan Moon to the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST), which was established by the Legislature in 1959 to set minimum selection and training standards for California law enforcement. On June 19, 2024, this appointment was confirmed by the State Senate.

January

February

March

April

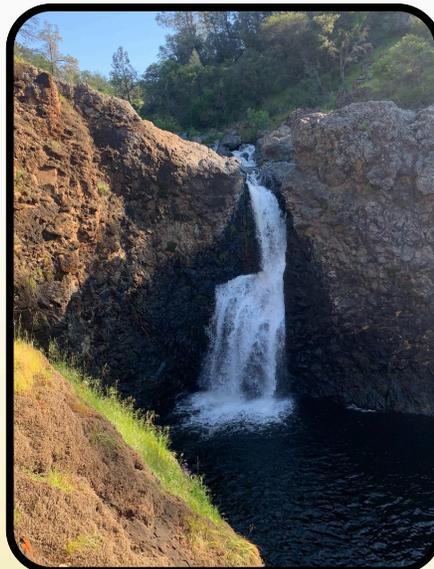
May

June



Diligent Detectives Solve 12-Year-Old Cold Case Homicide

A suspect was arrested on Jan. 3, 2024, and charged with the first-degree murder of Delbert Wilder, 63, of Grass Valley. Detectives worked with the NCSO public relations team to create a cold case documentary, called **Murderer Among Us**, which was released Nov. 15, 2023, the 12th anniversary of when Wilder was discovered murdered. The video shared insights into Wilder's life and his murder and encouraged community members to come forward with information, and that's exactly what the community did, leading to an arrest soon after.



Hiker Missing 18 Hours Found Alive

A 70-year-old male from Crescent City, California was found alive and well, after getting lost hiking Fairy Falls Trail to Beale/Shingle Falls, a popular 5.3-mile hike near Beale Air Force Base. Deputies and search and rescue volunteers learned of the missing hiker on April 19 and immediately responded and began canvassing the Beale Falls trail system. Over 75 people aided the search, including several allied agencies. At 8:17 a.m. on April 20, the man was located by the K9 teams alive and uninjured. He was cleared by medical on scene and was reunited with his family.

Sheriff Moon Elected Treasurer of CSSA

Sheriff Moon was elected treasurer of the California State Sheriff's Association (CSSA) for 2024-2025 on June 6, 2024, with a goal to elevate the law enforcement system through cooperation with other law enforcement agencies. She previously served as sergeant-at-arms.



and Cases of 2024



Woman Missing 12 Days in Nevada County Found Alive

Deputies and search and rescue volunteers never gave up looking for 24-year-old Esmeralda Pineda, who went missing on Aug. 26, 2024, from a mining claim camp in the vicinity of the middle fork of the Yuba River and Sweetland Creek in Nevada City. After 12 days, two deputies spotted her on the top of the river canyon, severely dehydrated and emaciated, and in need of immediate medical attention. She was airlifted to a hospital with assistance from the California Highway Patrol and North San Juan Fire Department. Against all odds, she survived and made a full recovery.



Rescuing Park Fire Animals

Several animals were trapped in the Park Fire and subsequent burn scar in Butte and Tehama Counties. Twenty-five Sheriff's HEART volunteers responded on July 28-29, 2024, and handled over 100 calls for service and rescued 21 animals, including 16 cats, four dogs, and one bunny.



Over 10,000 Raised for Breast Cancer Services

Every October, NCSO participates in the Pink Patch Project with partner agencies to raise awareness and support for breast cancer services and treatment. Partner agencies together raised \$10,411.

July

August

September

October

November

December

Animal Control Saves 49 Animals

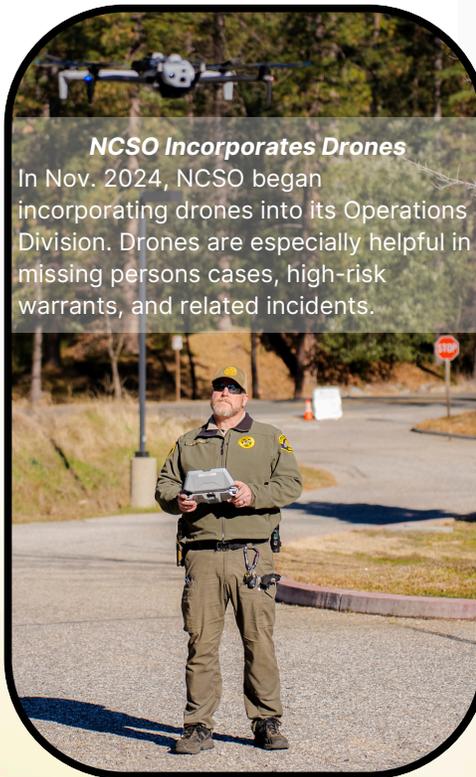
An anonymous tipster called in early August to report several animals left regularly unattended in a local business unit. Animal Control officers investigated the tip and ultimately arrested the owner for animal cruelty and seized 49 animals, including snakes, reptiles, rabbits, guinea pigs, rats, ducks, chickens, birds, cats and dogs. Many of the animals were locked in small cages or tubs contaminated with urine and feces with no access to water or food.

Detectives Prevent \$32,000 Scam

On Sept. 26, 2024, an unsuspecting elderly woman in Grass Valley was almost scammed out of \$32,000 after receiving a "Microsoft Windows error" message on her computer. She was told there was criminal activity (scam) on her computer and was convinced to remove \$32,000 from her bank to prevent further fake criminal activity and to aid the investigation. On Sept. 27, before the money was scheduled to be handed over, the victim called NCSO at the urging of family, and a detective immediately responded with fellow deputies in route. The detective waited inside the victim's home and intercepted the scammer when he came to the door to collect. The scammer was arrested for attempted grand theft, obtaining money by false pretense, conspiracy to commit crime, and elder theft.

NCSO Incorporates Drones

In Nov. 2024, NCSO began incorporating drones into its Operations Division. Drones are especially helpful in missing persons cases, high-risk warrants, and related incidents.



Child Predator Caught and arrested

An investigation that began on Nov. 25, 2025 ended with a suspect arrested for several alleged offenses, including possession of child pornography; using a minor for obscene matter; covert videotaping; annoying or molesting a child, lewd and lascivious acts with a child under 14 by force/fear. By mid-December, 15 additional charges had been added, including five counts of lewd and lascivious acts with a child under 14; 10 additional counts of using a minor for obscene matter; and for possession of over 600 child sexual abuse materials.

2024 Nevada County Crime Statistics

Prior to 2021, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) collected crime data from law enforcement agencies across the country in a monthly report known as the United Crime Report (UCR), which was a Summary Reporting System (SRS) consisting of an aggregate tally of crimes by jurisdiction. NCSO participated in the monthly submission of UCR data to the California Department of Justice (DOJ), which in turn reported to the FBI on behalf of California agencies.

As recommended and approved by the FBI, the UCR Program retired the SRS and transitioned to a more detailed collection of data known as the National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) in January 2021. Implemented to improve the overall quality of crime data collected by law enforcement, NIBRS captures details on each single crime incident—as well as on separate offenses within the same incident—including information on victims, known offenders, relationships between victims and offenders, arrestees, and property involved in crimes.

The transition to NIBRS reporting has rolled out over the last several years, with more agencies converting to the new system each year, including NCSO beginning in 2022. While the new reporting system offers many benefits to analysis of crime, there are challenges faced in comparisons of historical data to the new baselines established under NIBRS, that more precisely capture reported crime in a community. For this reason, users of the data are cautioned when comparing historical to current crime data, as the criteria have changed and are measured differently than in previous years under SRS. Part 1 Crimes, also known as the eight FBI index crimes, are defined as serious offenses that are most likely to be reported and are grouped by Violent, Property, or Arson offenses.

NEVADA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE PART 1 CRIMES	2024	2023	% CHANGE
Violent Crimes	168	185	-9%
<i>Homicide</i>	1	2	-50%
<i>Rape</i>	27	31	-13%
<i>Robbery</i>	8	4	100%
<i>Aggravated Assault</i>	132	148	-11%
Property Crimes	302	322	-6%
<i>Burglary</i>	111	94	18%
<i>Vehicle Theft</i>	17	8	113%
<i>Larceny Theft</i>	174	220	-21%
Arson	7	0	n/c
<i>Arson-Structure</i>	3	0	n/c
<i>Arson-Mobile</i>	1	0	n/c
<i>Arson-Other</i>	3	0	n/c
Total Part 1 Crimes	477	507	-6%

2024 Operations Division Overview



NCSO conducts 24/7 patrol throughout unincorporated Nevada County, as staffed by four sergeants and 23 deputies. Patrol staff cover 933.1 square miles of Nevada County's total 974 square mile footprint.

General Operations

- 40,233 calls for service
- 6,965 reports or supplements
- Facilitated emergency evacuations
- Addressed homeless and mental health issues

Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Patrol

- 883 OHV contacts made
- 470 hours of OHV patrol conducted
- 2,250 miles covered



Marine Patrol

- Conducted 989 enforcement stops
- Conducted 2,147 non-enforcement contacts
- Provided safety presentations to 1,439 people
- Conducted five accident investigations
- Assisted 23 subjects and 11 vessel assists
- Gave 793 verbal warnings
- Issued 42 citations



Fun Facts!

- There are 103 lakes in Nevada County
- 12 most-populous lakes are regularly patrolled
- 47 lakes are periodically patrolled
- Remaining lakes are patrolled as needed
- In 2024, Marine Patrol provided safety demonstrations to 1,439 people!

Special Enforcement Detail

The Special Enforcement Detail (SED), also known as a Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team, trains at least 16 hours per month to ensure when critical incidents occur, they're prepared for any high-risk scenario. Our goal is to protect our community members to the best of our ability. In 2024, SED completed two missions and attended 21 trainings.



new!



The Sheriff's Office acquired its Lenco BearCat G3 in June 2024, which is considered an armored vehicle, designed to better protect deputies in potentially dangerous situations, increase their ability to rescue others, streamline critical information and intel gathering, and safely engage subjects that may require crisis negotiators. The BearCat is designed for utilization in potentially dangerous situations and was deployed for three missions in 2024, involving a high-risk warrant and two shooting incidents.

Our SED team responds to:

- Barricaded subjects
- Hostage situations
- Rescue operations
- Counter sniper activity
- Riot and crowd control
- VIP/dignitary protection
- High-risk warrant service
- Surveillance and reconnaissance
- Other situations

Critical Incident Negotiations Team

The Critical Incident Negotiations Team (CINT) is designed to defuse potentially life-threatening crisis situations through the use of proven verbal crisis management and communication techniques

CINT responds to:

- Suicidal persons
- Mentally ill
- Armed or barricaded subjects
- High-risk search warrants
- Hostage situations

In 2024, CINT was activated 10 times and completed seven trainings.





K9 Program Expansion

In May 2024, K9 Ranger retired after four years of service. At the time, he was one of two K9s that represented the Sheriff's Office with K9 Vito since the program was reinstated in 2020.

Goodbye, K9 Ranger!



Mobile Crisis Team

The Sheriff's Mobile Crisis Team (MCT) was formalized in 2020, pairing a licensed clinical social worker with a deputy sheriff on mental-health related calls for service (this is known as a co-responder model and is the first program of its kind to be introduced in Nevada County).

2024 MCT Highlights:

- Responded to 356 calls for service
- 459 mental health contacts
- Provided 657 services and 249 referrals to treatment
- Completed 127 mental health evaluations

When this team isn't on active calls, they do follow-up checks with people who previously experienced mental health-related calls for service. The goal is to build trust between the person and the Sheriff's MCT so if that person ever has a mental-health related crisis again, they know they can dependably call on the Sheriff's MCT for assistance.

To supersede K9 Ranger and expand the program, Sheriff Moon introduced two additional K9s to the team that year: K9 Riggs and K9 Odin. Both are Peace Officers and Standards Training (POST) certified in K9 Patrol, which includes suspect searching, building searching, tracking, article detention, handler protection, and apprehension. K9 Riggs is also certified in detection for narcotics, such as methamphetamine, cocaine, and heroin.

Welcome, K9 Riggs and K9 Odin!



A big thank you to the Rüdiger Foundation for their ongoing support of the K9 Program.

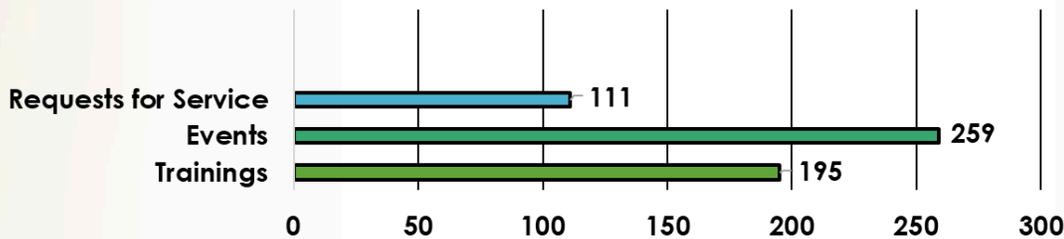
Nevada County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue



NCSO is dedicated to helping those in the community who become lost or who need rescuing. Over 100 volunteers make up the Nevada County Sheriff's Search and Rescue Team (NCSSAR), which is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization equipped to carry out this important function for Nevada County.

- 159 members strong
- 1 sworn sergeant who oversees NCSSAR
- 26 sworn deputy coordinators
- 132 volunteers

2024 Highlights



36,871
Hours
Donated

Dive Team

The mission of the Dive Team is to assist NCSSAR's operations with the deceased, injured, stranded, or lost individuals in all waterways and lakes.

2024 Dive Team Highlights:

- Nine members (five sworn staff and four Search and Rescue volunteers)
- Three dive missions
- 396 hours of combined training completed



Animal Control

Animal Control Officers (ACO) are employed to protect animals from improper use, abuse, neglect and inhumane treatment while protecting citizens of Nevada County from annoyance, intimidation, injury, and property damage by animals.

In 2024, ACO responded to 3,671 animal calls for service and wrote 1,047 animal incident reports or supplements. Several animals were seized for their safety.



Sheriff's Humane Emergency Animal Rescue Team



The Sheriff's Human Emergency Animal Rescue Team (HEART) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to rescuing animals during emergencies.

2024 Highlights:

- 106 volunteers
- Two activations
- Two Large Animal Technical Rescues (LATR)
- Chosen as LATR for Tevis Cup
- Monthly trainings



School Services

NCSO provides two deputies to serve as School Resource Officers (SRO) for the Nevada County School District. They assist approximately 9,000 students across 28 schools, with primary assignments at Nevada Union and Bear River High Schools. In 2024, NCSO SRO deputies handled 343 calls for service and took 85 incident reports and supplements.



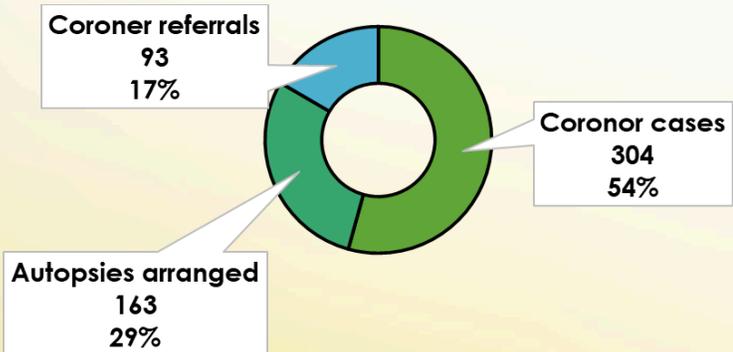
- SROs help with:**
- School safety
 - Truancy
 - Drug and alcohol use
 - Bullying
 - Suspected child abuse
 - Mentoring
 - Senior projects
 - Extracurricular activities
 - School events for security
 - Peer court classes

Honor Guard



Throughout the year, the Sheriff's Honor Guard is proud to present the colors at many ceremonies, community events, and memorial services for fallen officers. In 2024, the Honor Guard participated in 14 events.

2024 Coroner Highlights:



Coroner

Sheriff Shannan Moon is the coroner for all of Nevada County. She assigns a Chief Deputy Coroner who handles all death investigations.

2024 Corrections Division Overview



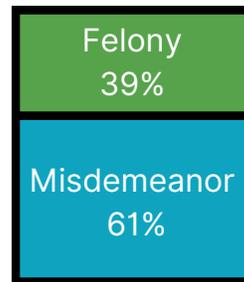
Two Jails

NCSO operates two correctional facilities within Nevada County: Wayne Brown Correctional Facility (WBCF) in Nevada City, which holds short and long-term detainees, and Truckee Jail in Truckee, a temporary holding facility that serves the greater Truckee region and allied law enforcement agencies in the area.

WBCF Highlights:

- Capacity: 284
- Average Daily Population: 154.2
- Meals provided: 243,566

Crime Type:



Average Population:

- Men - 78.21%
- Women - 21.72%
- Non-Binary - 0.03%

Most Common Ages:

- 34 - 50 years old

Truckee Jail Highlights:

- Capacity: 12
- Average Daily Population: 2.8
- Meals Provided: 5,200

Bookings & Releases:

- 2,888 bookings
- 2,884 releases

Corrections Emergency Response Team

The Corrections Emergency Response Team (CERT) at WBCF responds to critical situations that may occur within the jail that require immediate response for the safety of staff and the incarcerated population. CERT will respond to attempted escapes, mass arrests, hostage situations, natural disasters, riots, evacuations, fire, and more.



2024 Highlights:

- One mission
- Two facility searches
- 11 trainings completed

Jail Earns Accreditation

WBCF earned accreditation from the National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCHC) by demonstrating compliance with NCCHC's nationally recognized standards of care for correctional health services in jails. The accreditation recognizes WBCF's commitment to providing quality health services for the incarcerated population.

To earn NCCHC accreditation, staff worked toward this goal over a period of three years with the facility undergoing a rigorous professional assessment in March 2024. During the assessment, a team of experienced physicians and experts in correctional health care surveyed the facility for compliance with jail-specific standards in several areas, such as patient care and treatment, health promotion, safety and disease prevention, governance and administration, personnel and training, special needs and services, and medical-legal issues.

Accreditation signals a constitutionally acceptable level of care for a facility's incarcerated population, which translates into better health, fewer health-related grievances and lawsuits, and reduced health risk to the wider community when released.

WBCF's accreditation is valid for 36 months. In March 2027, staff will take the necessary steps for reaccreditation, signifying our ongoing commitment to excellence in health care for incarcerated persons.



CERTIFICATE OF ACCREDITATION

2024 Medical Services Highlights:

- Facilitated 10,719 medical appointments, which included:
 - 5,812 medical services (RN, MD, DDS, PA)
 - 4,907 mental health services (LCSW/LMFT, SUDs/MAT program, Psychiatrist)

Expanded Jail Programming:

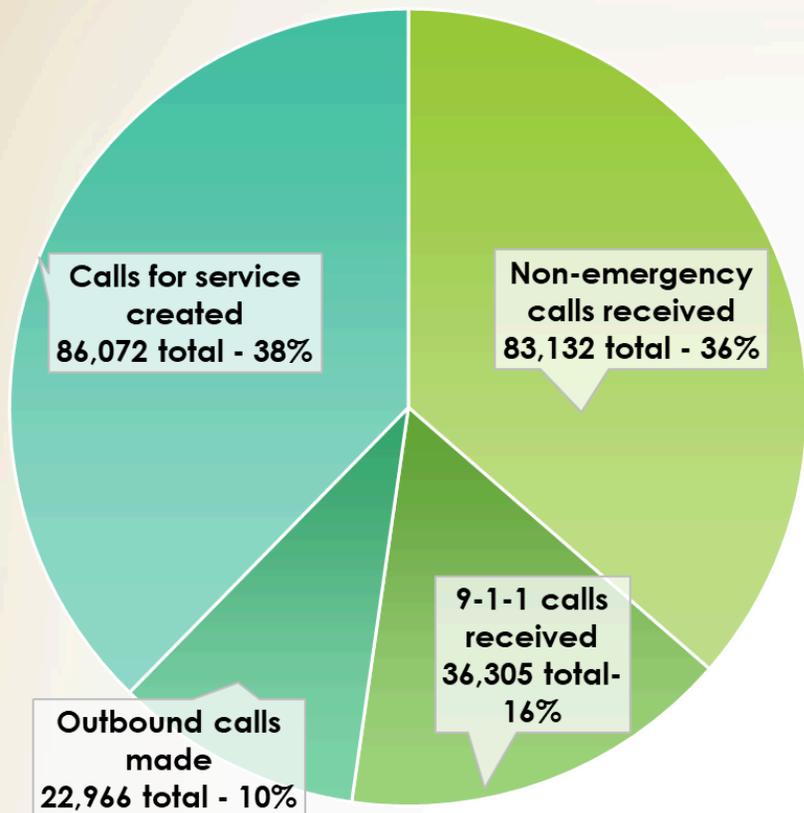
- Substance abuse group counseling
- Correctional counselors for discharge plans / re-entry services
- Alternatives to Violence (monthly program that teaches conflict resolution with an emphasis on violence prevention)
- Women's Speakers Group (formerly incarcerated women offer mentorship to presently incarcerated women)
- World-A-Life Church (this is the seventh church offering available at WBCF)
- Yoga for physical and mental wellness
- Self-help books and reading books

Improvements:

- **Truckee Jail:** remodeled men's locker room and laundry room
- **WBCF:** remodeled old dispatch center and converted for correctional counselors and medical staff; replaced kitchen equipment
 - Introduced an administrative analyst II to support admin/budget needs
 - Introduced a correctional technician to streamline booking processes and provide support for other areas as needed

Nevada County Regional Dispatch Center

2024 Highlights:



Operated by NCSO, the Nevada County Regional Dispatch Center handles 9-11 calls and non-emergency calls for the Sheriff's Office, Grass Valley Police Department, Nevada City Police Department, and Truckee Police Department. 9-1-1 Dispatchers also answer fire and medical calls that are rerouted to CalFire for dispatching.



Public Administrator

The Public Administrator (PA) is tasked with distribution of estates of county residents who died without a will, or for whom a will exists but for which there is no executor. The primary functions of the PA are to ensure that all assets of the estate are identified and catalogued, to search for and find any rightful heirs, and then to ensure that they receive the portion of the estate to which they are entitled.

In 2024, five pre-existing PA cases carried over into the new year with an additional five new cases added. The team also coordinated the care of 13 indigent individuals, including their cremation and final resting.

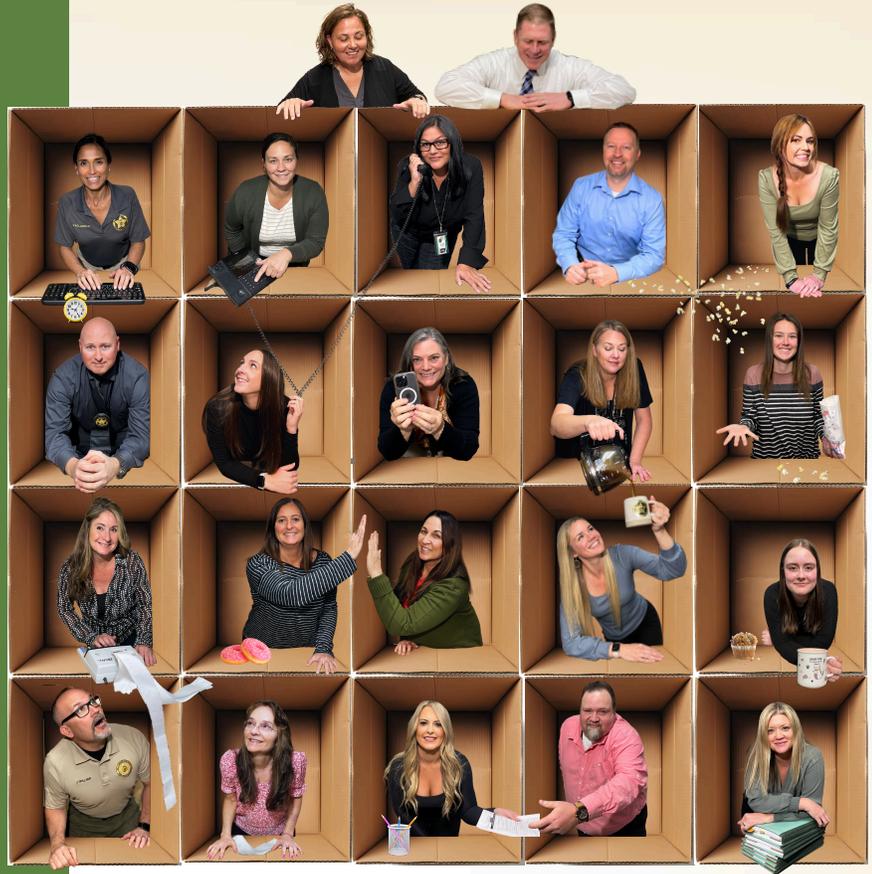


Records

The Administrative Support Division provides support services to the Sheriff's Office, including but not limited to the Finance Unit, Records Department, Human Resources, Public Relations, and more.

2024 Records Department Highlights:

- Processed 9,615 reports
- Processed 796 Concealed Carry Weapons (CCW) permits (issuing 625 new CCW permits; 1225 total valid permits in Nevada County)
- Managed 105 sex offenders
- Submitted 374 livescans
- Processed 320 subpoenas
 - 128 for criminal cases
 - Two for civil cases
- 1,157 civil files served



Sheriff's Property Unit

The Sheriff's Property Unit (SPU) is where most case evidence is stored. SPU staff manage the storage, retention, and disposition of roughly 30,000 items. The SPU also has an onsite fingerprint and DNA laboratory.



Professional Standards Unit

The Professional Standards Unit (PSU) is responsible for the recruitment, training, and development of all new and existing staff. They attend several career events year-round, such as the Sierra College Job Fair and Trades Day.

PSU 2024 Highlights:

- Hosted three Jail Job Fair and Facility Tours, plus monthly Agility Tryouts
- Hosted two Deputy Sheriff Trainee Tryouts
- Hired 27 new team members
- Offered 73 total recruitments

Events

NCSO places a strong emphasis on community outreach, engagement, and connecting with the public to build long-term trust and partnership with the community.

Some of Our Favorite Events & Happenings:

- National Night Out & Kids Color Run
- Nevada County Fair
- Youth Holiday Card Contest
- Youth Water Safety/Boating Demonstrations
- California Peace Officers' Memorial and Enrollment Ceremony
- Neighborhood Watch
- Speaking Engagements
- Special Olympics Torch Run
- Jeep Rides to School
- Holiday Events
- Penn Valley Rodeo
- Community Forums



Community Academy



Since 2021, Sheriff Moon has invited community members to participate in the NCSO Community Academy every fall, which is a free, 12-week class designed to give those with little to no law enforcement exposure or experience a chance to see what goes on “behind the scenes” at the Sheriff’s Office. Registration opens late spring every year and is available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Volunteerism

Nine administrative “White Shirt” volunteers aided the Sheriff’s Office in 2024, logging 1,905 hours of community service. NCSO is always looking for volunteers to join its team. Popular opportunities include but are not limited to civil service, school support, boat safety, residential vacation checks, events, and administrative support, among others.





The Future: *Final Words from Sheriff Moon*

As we look ahead into 2025 and beyond, our team continues to explore ways to better protect, serve, and engage our community. Exciting projects in the works that will carry into 2025 (and beyond) include:

- Advancing our radio infrastructure with the introduction of new Motorola portable radios (we began this process this year and hope to complete it by 2026).
- Expanding our Nevada County Regional Dispatch Center into a state-of-the-art regional training facility for our staff and local law enforcement partners. This multi-year project will be a major benefit to not only the Sheriff's Office but all local law enforcement.
- Implementation of the California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) Justice-Involved Reentry Initiative at WBCF to help incarcerated persons receive linkages to the critical medical care and supportive services they need through Medi-Cal as they transition back to the community (this process began in 2023 and is expected to launch in fall 2025).
- Transitioning from Watchguard (our current body worn camera system) to Axon (an advanced evidence-based camera system) that has the ability to streamline our processes and decrease staff time associated with preserving video evidence. Implemented is expected by summer 2025.
- NCSSAR is presently working to become Mountain Rescue Association certified, which raises the bar on our trainings and our overall competencies for rescue missions (we are on track to achieve this certification by spring 2025).

Thank you for supporting your Nevada County Sheriff's Office. We are proud to serve you.

Sheriff Shannan Moon