

# Sheriff

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It's a necessary evil. That keeps their day occupied," Schaffer said.

Comcast will also allow the officers to control TV content in the jail, including orientation tapes and other information for the prison population for 2010.

Another change at the jail involved making visiting hours flexible so family members could schedule appointments.

"It's easier to get the children to see the person in there. It's more convenient for the person who has a job, also. It benefited everybody that way by setting up those appointments," Schaffer said.

"That was a huge win." Schaffer said a cashless system for the prison commissary was also implemented. Before, the prison handled cash only, but now prisoners have electronic accounts where relatives can deposit funds.

"The advantage to that is we don't have to worry about auditing and handling cash. It frees up officers' time," Schaffer said. "It also prevents money laundering. Now people who deposit money, we're going to know who deposited the money in the accounts."

The sheriff's department can take 50 percent in commissary account for medical co-pays, processing fees or to

replace property the inmate destroyed or damaged.

The correctional officers were also re-armed with handguns for transportation of prisoners and security assignments.

On the technology front, the department went from three servers to one secure law enforcement server, which enables the department to share records securely, Schaffer said.

The County Park Division went through restructuring and leadership changes, Schaffer said. Community oriented law enforcement officers patrol the county park on bicycle, car and on foot. In addition, the Sheriff's Department added a mounted

police patrol.

The mounted officer hired already has extensive experience in internal affairs cases, which Schaffer calls "a win" for the department.

Schaffer said the mounted officer has an advantage over other officers.

"It would take six officers to see what a guy on a horse would see because he's 13 feet up," Schaffer said. "He can see more than anybody can see. The horse can get into trails where the bikes and cars can't get in case kids get lost. Kids are naturally attracted to horses. What better way for a kid to come into contact with an officer?"

The county animal shelter, also operating under the

Sheriff's Office, reported successes under its new manager Judith Davies-Dunhour and assistant manager Leslie Riedel-Pulvino. Euthanization rates dropped from 62 percent of incoming cats and 16 percent of incoming dogs in 2008 to 8 percent of incoming cats and 11 percent of incoming dogs between May and December 2009.

In 2008, 82 animals were transferred to other shelters or advocacy groups from the county shelter, compared to 260 animals transferred in 2009. The transfers were made possible by a cooperative effort from Animal OutReach, Animal Alliance of Cape May County, SOS (Sea

Isle), CATS (Ocean City), the Humane Society of Ocean City and Beacon Animal Rescue.

For 2010, Schaffer said improvements include increasing the county's security system with security cameras in every county building. Schaffer said the county would also install more panic systems in the courts, which would "increase response time."

"We couldn't have done this without everybody working together," Schaffer said. "We're in tough economic times and we can only reduce costs. Where can we increase services?"

# Rally

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introduced that will help that."

"We have to use common sense," LoBiondo said. "Recreational and commercial fishermen are very concerned about maintaining fishing stocks."

LoBiondo said the fishing industry - recreational and commercial - is critical in south Jersey. The port of Cape May, he said, is the second largest seafood landing site on the East Coast and the fourth largest in the nation. As such, LoBiondo said fishing is obviously very important to the local economy. However, it's sometimes hard to impress that upon the

bureaucrats in Washington.

"It's very difficult to get things done in Washington. It's ridiculous how Washington can't get its head screwed on straight for something as simple as this," he said.

LoBiondo said he heard the frustration of the fishermen who came to the rally in Washington and appreciated the fact that fishermen from Alaska to New Jersey came to the nation's capital to make their feelings known.

"When someone takes time to come to Washington, when there are other things they have to do, I wanted to make it clear I hear them and I want them to understand I am happy to take the point position on this," LoBiondo said.

According to LoBiondo, passing the Palone bill and its companion, introduced by U.S. Sen. Scott Brown (R-Mass.), should be a no-brainer.

"We're not asking for money, we're talking about something important to the economy of the nation. We had people from every coastal state including Alaska. When you can have people from Alaska and New Jersey agreeing (there is a something wrong) we've got a problem," LoBiondo said.

"This is solvable. This is doable. The dots are easily connected," he added.

LoBiondo said what the Recreational Fishing Alliance has asked for is what he and

other congressmen on the Palone bill have wanted all along - to get the NMFS back to the drawing board and get the science right.

LoBiondo said besides the closing of fisheries, other issues such as size restrictions have to be looked at. He said in the case of fluke, fishermen have been restricted on what they can keep by size, and they end up catching 30, 40 or 50 fish and throwing them back in the water, where they might simply die.

"The bureaucrats are not grounded in what is under the water," he said. "We want regulations based on sound science. We have to make decisions that can work and will work. It's better for fish-

ermen and the species."

Szuczewski said fishing on manmade reefs was another issue affecting the area. He said over the years reefs funded by recreational fishermen have attracted fish, providing a habitat. Then the commercial fisheries found they were a great place to drop pots, which are often left in the winter months when they are not fishing, but the pots keep killing fish.

"We are hoping to get them off the artificial reefs," Szuczewski said.

Additionally, he said state Sen. Jeff Van Drew had proposed a measure to eliminate the need for a saltwater fishing license (see related story). The federal govern-

ment directed the states to create a fishing registry in order to keep track of catches.

"It looks like the state won't do anything," Szuczewski said. "If the state doesn't have a license we will have to pay a fee to the federal government."

Szuczewski said if the federal government requires a fishing permit, it would end up costing \$25. He would rather see the state collect the money and put it in a dedicated marine fisheries fund.

"The state will get millions of more dollars toward the fund by having a salt water license," he said. "New Jersey has the smallest budget for marine fisheries."

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