



NEWS RELEASE



ALACHUA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

SADIE DARNELL, SHERIFF
P.O. BOX 1210 GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA 32602
OFFICE (352) 367-4050 • FAX (352) 374-1816
<http://www.alachuasheriff.org>

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Prepared By: Eugene Morris
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Inmate labor saves more than \$6,500 in August

In August, inmate work squads from the Alachua County Jail worked on a variety of projects that saved county taxpayers more than \$6,500. Last month, the squads:

- Filled sand bags in preparation of Tropical Storm Fay.
- Cut trees and brush at sites for the Gainesville Housing Authority.
- Cleared brush at the Gainesville Regional Airport.
- Painted parts of the High Springs Police Department and cleaned the downtown area.
- Removed weeds and spread mulch at Loften High School.
- Cleaned Alachua County School buses.
- Removed carpet and painted at the Alachua County Jail.

In August, the squads performed 503 hours of labor for a savings of \$6,584.27. From January through July, the squads performed 4,055 hours of work for a savings of \$53,079.95, according to the Florida Agency for Workforce Innovation (AWI). That calculates to a 2008 savings of \$59,664.22. From October through December 2007, a total of 677.5 hours of inmate labor were reported for a savings of \$8,868.48. Since the squads were initiated in October 2007, they have created a total combined savings to taxpayers of \$68,532.70.

AWI determines the value of work by multiplying the hourly wage value of \$13.09 by the total number of hours worked. The hourly wage value is based on a base rate of pay. They do not include holiday pay, overtime pay and shift differential pay, vacation pay or any other benefits such as health insurance benefits, profit sharing, stock bonuses, tuition repayments, or meal payments. The base hourly wage is determined from the Florida Occupational Wages 2007 Edition prepared by AWI.

For more information on work squad programs, call Lt. Mike Donovan, Transport & Facility Support Bureau Chief at the jail at 352-491-4468. For more information on this news release, call Eugene Morris, Bureau Chief for Inmate Programs and Services at the jail at 352-491-4525.

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