

Sheriff still short of manpower

Four promotions, eight new hires take oath

By Nick Baptista / The Valley Springs News / July 27, 2016

First-year Calaveras County Sheriff Rick DiBasillio had the pleasure of swearing in eight new hires Tuesday morning, four of whom were new deputies, but his office remains understaffed.

“We simply backfilled vacant positions and haven’t gained anything,” he said after the ceremony.

The new hires were deputy sheriffs Erik Schrantz, Lance Williams, Brian Terry and Tayla-Ann Mattos, correctional officers Katrina Large and Jason Crawford, dispatch clerk Samantha King and business administrator Maria Hinsey.

In addition, there were four promotions from within the department. Heather Gordon and Kevin Stevens were elevated to sergeants, while Deayrian Sanchez and Jim Moser were promoted to corporals.

“It’s a really good day to swear in and promote this many people,” Capt. Jim Macedo told family and friends gathered inside the sheriff’s office community room for the ceremony. “I hope you all have long, safe and prosperous careers.”

Sheriff DiBasillio’s staff is at about two-thirds of its approved level of deputies and the lack of manpower was identified as a critical issue within the office earlier this year when he and four other candidates were interviewed by the Board of Supervisors to replace Gary Kuntz, who died midway through his term in office.

DiBasillio is seeking four new deputies and two sheriff’s technicians as the county begins to regulate the cultivation of cannabis, but once approved, it will take time to screen, hire and train the new personnel.

“We’re constantly hiring and taking applications,” he added.

Sheriff DiBasillio’s office is down seven patrol positions, but he has some bright prospects.

The office has one deputy returning after briefly working for another law enforcement agency and possibly two more coming over from other agencies.

Pay within the department remains an issue. His staff is anticipating raises and if those raises don’t come through, the flight to other departments could continue, he added.