



Gibson County Sheriff's Office

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To: Local Media
From: Sheriff George Ballard
Date: April 28, 2011
Re: Hiring of two new deputies and one new corrections officer

Sheriff George Ballard is pleased to announce the hiring of three new employees. John P. Fischer, age 28, of Fort Branch and Uriah B. Smith, age 22, of Princeton have been hired as new deputy sheriffs; and Loren Barchett, age 31 of Tennyson, Indiana has been hired as a Corrections Officer. All three passed a written test, physical agility test, background investigation, Merit Board interview, physical exam, eye exam and drug screen.

John Fischer is currently a Deputy Sheriff for the Martin County Sheriff's Office. Fischer graduated from Southridge High School in May 2000. He graduated Magna Cum Laude from Indiana State University in May 2004 with a Bachelor of Science degree and his major was in criminology. Fischer has also graduated from the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy in June of 2006. He graduated 4th in his class at the I.L.E.A. scoring a 97.2 out of 100. He has been a Deputy Sheriff for the last five years. He is married to Susan Fischer of Fort Branch.

Uriah B. Smith is currently a corrections officer at the Gibson County Jail, and has served in that capacity for the past 1 1/2 years. Smith graduated from Princeton Community High School in May 2008 with an academic honors diploma, was a member of the National Honor Society, and lettered in several sports at P.C.H.S. He is currently attending the University of Southern Indiana working towards a Criminal Justice Degree with a minor in Sociology.

Loren Barchett graduated from Vincennes Lincoln High School in May 1998. He also is a graduate of Faulkner University in Montgomery, Alabama where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Bible Studies. He also has a B.S. degree in Liberal Arts with an emphasis in Criminal Justice. He is currently a minister for Spencer County Church of Christ. He is married to Elesha Barchett and has 3 children. Loren Barchett will start work this week.

There will be a public swearing in ceremony for Fischer and Smith on May 6, 2011 at 1:00 PM in Gibson Circuit Court. Judge Jeffrey Meade will preside over the ceremony. The swearing in ceremony is open to the public.