

HardisonInk.com

Son of fallen deputy starts VPK



Gilchrist County Sheriff Bobby Schultz prepare to help Noel Ramirez Jr. out of the vehicle that brought him to school on Friday (Aug. 10). Chiefland Elementary Principal Michael E. Homan (to the right) waits to greet the new student. She welcomed hundreds of elementary school students to CES that day.

Story, Photos and Video

By Jeff M. Hardison © Aug. 10, 2010 at 3:28 p.m.

All Copyrights Reserved

CHIEFLAND – Students in Levy and Dixie counties began their 2018-19 school year Friday (Aug. 10) and Gilchrist County students start theirs on Monday (Aug. 13).

<https://youtu.be/LLdFzJsJKJw>

In this video, the contingent of law enforcement vehicles arrive at Chiefland Elementary School on Friday (Aug. 10) and Noel Ramirez Jr. arrives for his first day of VPK at CES.

HardisonInk.com



Levy County Superintendent of Schools Jeff Edison and LCSO Sgt. Max Long are among the people welcome all students to Chiefland Elementary School on Friday. Almost every other student had arrived before Noel Ramirez Jr.'s arrival. Trenton Public Safety Director Matthew Rexroat is in the background in a white shirt. He is the leader of municipal law enforcement and the fire department in Trenton.



Noel Ramirez Jr. takes a step from the vehicle to the sidewalk as his mother Glorimari "Gigi" Gellert assists him.

HardisonInk.com



LCSO Lt. Scott Tummond accepts a toy to give to Noel Ramirez Jr. as GCSO Det. W. Holder passes on the gift from another person.



HardisonInk.com



The line of 20 or more officers forms to welcome the new VPK student. The camera in this picture is from one of the two Gainesville TV stations that came over for the event.

HardisonInk.com



LCSO Lt. Scott Tummond



CES Principal Michael E. Homan

One child began the first day of his sojourn through academia by entering Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK) at Chiefland Elementary School with a lot of support from the Thin Blue Line, because his father was one of the two deputies with the Gilchrist County Sheriff's Office who was killed in April.

GCSO Sgt. Noel Ramirez Sr., 30, a seven-year veteran of law enforcement and GCSO Deputy Taylor Lindsey, 25, were killed April 19 by a man with a gun as the two law enforcement officers ate lunch in Trenton that day.

Since then, Noel Ramirez Jr. has been without his father and his mother Glorimari "Gigi" Gellert has been dealing with the aftermath

HardisonInk.com

from that horrific attack.

Several law enforcement vehicles rolled into the parent drop-off area at the front of CES Friday morning. Law enforcement and detention officers from the GCSO, Levy County Sheriff's Office, Chiefland Police Department and Trenton Public Safety Department were the most easily identified uniformed officers as they created a line to welcome the child on his first day of school.

The very young Mr. Ramirez was escorted to the cafeteria by his mother and Gilchrist County Sheriff Bobby Schultz, followed by the line of officers.

LCSO Lt. Scott Tummond, the public information officer for the LCSO, spoke to the press about the event.

This was "a proud parent moment, in the absence of a parent who was taken from us by a coward in Gilchrist County in April," Tummond said. "This should have been like any other first day of school for little Noel, having his mother and father escort him into class."

The GCSO and LCSO are part of the boy's family now, Tummond said. Most law enforcement officers feel a familial bond with all other officers.

Tummond said the GCSO and LCSO deputies are here to support the child, and beyond this moment so that during the milestones in his life, he will be surrounded by family.

In regard to the quality of education at CES, Tummond said the child is in the best learning environment that he could be in now. Chiefland Elementary School has opened its doors to Ramirez and will assure he gets the best education available, Tummond said.

Lt. Tummond said Sheriff Schultz and Gellert did today what Tummond has done three times in his life – with all three of his children at this very same campus.

"Whether the child is yours," Tummond said, "or someone you are responsible for, the nerves and the excitement are there for the child."

Sheriff Schultz, Tummond said, has a pure heart. His commitment to help this child is going to be forever. The emotions Schultz and Gellert showed, Tummond said, are those of a proud parent.

After Sheriff Schultz exited from dropping off the child as he walked to his vehicle to leave, he responded to a question by saying that this event was just like dropping off his own child. And like Lt. Tummond, Sheriff Schultz said he is sorrowful that this could not be Sgt. Ramirez dropping off his little boy for the first day of VPK.

CES Principal Michael E. Homan said she expects an average of 850 children at the school each day this year.

Principal Homan said she is very pleased that the arrival of the child went as smoothly as she had hoped. The attention was not an intrusion to him or to the other students, she said. Homan said mothers of Pre-K children all have an extremely difficult time when they drop their children off for the first time.

And for Gellert, the support shown by the law enforcement community helped her get through this moment.

LCSO Sgt. Max Long, a member of the team of School Resource Officers in Levy County, said he thinks Noel Ramirez Jr. is pretty special, and Sgt. Long said he is honored to have been part of the group of law enforcement officers welcoming the boy to his new school.