

## **December 1, 2015 - DEPUTIES SHAVE FOR GIRL FIGHTING CANCER**

LURAH SPELL | BRISTOL HERALD COURIER

After participating in no-shave November, a cancer patient benefit program, Bristol Virginia Sheriff and deputies return to a clean-cut look.

BRISTOL, Va. — Bristol Virginia’s sheriff and more than a dozen of his deputies found a different way to help raise money for a little girl with brain cancer. They grew beards mimicking



the goal of the nonprofit organization, No-Shave November, which aims to bring awareness to cancer by letting hair, which many cancer patients lose, grow untamed. The men had to pay for the privilege of not shaving and also solicited money from family and friends.

The Sheriff’s Office raised more than \$2,200 for Madison “Maddy” King. Laura King, Maddy’s mother, said the money will be used to help pay for medical and travel expenses during Maddy’s treatment. Her father, Matt, used to work at the Sheriff’s Office so the

employees and the Kings are like family. “I don’t know where we would be without the support,” Laura King said. “This is where the whole saying goes, “You don’t have to be blood to be family.”

Sheriff Jack Weisenburger said he believes that as a family everyone should stick together. “One of the members of our family is in need and the guys stepped up,” he said. “To me, that’s the real part of being a public servant – when you can serve your community at times other than just carrying a badge and a gun.” He added that each deputy participating in the fundraiser had to donate at least \$50 to be able to keep their beard through November. Beards and uniforms don’t normally go together, he said.

“They weren’t going to get away with giving a five or a 10 ... to be able to not have to shave for a month,” Weisenburger said. The money was given to the family Monday at the Sheriff’s Office. At the gathering, Weisenburger and some deputies were “debearded” by Maddy and her brother, Issac.

Maddy was diagnosed in December with neurofibromatosis, a genetic disorder that disturbs cell growth in the nervous system, causing tumors to form on nerve tissue. The tumors usually aren’t malignant, but in Maddy’s case they are. She has been undergoing chemotherapy since February. Her tumors are inoperable and she is too young for radiation treatment.