

FLORIDA SHERIFFS ALL POINTS BULLETIN



Volume 9, Number 3, 1999

SARASOTA USES "IRIS SCAN" FOR POSITIVE ID OF INMATES

During 1998, the Sarasota County S.O. became the first agency in the State of Florida to obtain a highly advanced iris scanning unit (IriScan) for identification use in the jail. The iris is the colored ring that surrounds the central black pupil and it is the most personally specific, visible characteristic on the body.

The iris scan is far more accurate than fingerprints for identifying persons. Fingerprints have about 60 different forms of variations, but the human iris has over 400.

Finding two identical irises at random is approximately 10 times less likely than finding two identical fingerprints at random. The irises of identical twins are different and unique; even a person's own two irises are different.

The unit uses a video camera to take a photo of the eye, recording each feature of the iris, then it compares the image to its database to determine identification. If no match is found, a new identity record is created for the individual. The equipment provides positive identification, works with glasses or contact lenses, and is virtually fool-proof.

The sheriff's office uses the new system to identify and confirm iden-

**Sarasota
County C.O.
Brian Biegel
demonstrates
the use of the
IriScan.**



tities of inmates prior to being released from the facility, whether it is for a court appearance, work release, or release after completing his or her term. "We chose iris recognition technology over other biometrics because we want to be absolutely certain that we're letting the right person walk out the door," said Captain Joseph Fontana. "IriScan's system helps drastically reduce the risk of error we face with every release decision."

Iris recognition technology relies on the computer-based processing of patterns from the iris of the human eye. No two irises are alike. In fact, the probability that two irises could produce the same IrisCode is approximately 1 in 10 Billion (the population of the earth is around 6 Billion). "It will be virtually impossible for an inmate to defraud our system now," said Fontana. "Stealing or counterfeiting another person's identity will prove unsuccessful."

The sheriff's office plans to enroll the irises of all inmates into the system, establishing both an active file of current inmates and an historical record of previous prison residents. "Even aliases can be detected. If an inmate comes through our facility with another name, we'll know about it," Fontana said. The facility estimates that about 18,000 inmates will be processed annually (some are repeats).

In the first "hit" after the unit was installed, a person was admitted to the jail under a false identity. After being photographed by the iris scan unit, the false name was discovered when the iris scan positively identified the subject, who had three additional arrest warrants under his true name.

As of this date, two additional subjects have been caught by the IriScan.

SARASOTA-BASED FUND RAISER UNDER INVESTIGATION

The state attorney's office is investigating the Christian Police Ministries, Inc., of Sarasota for possible misrepresentation and wants its records dating back to 1996, according to the *Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel*.

The charity says donations fund scholarships for the children of slain or injured police officers, and it raises money under a number of different names. The Sarasota organization is the parent and umbrella of the Florida Police Foundation, Florida Police Association, the Florida Police and Firefighters Foundation, Florida



Police Fund and Florida Police Scholarship Fund.

Assistant Attorney General Jody Collins has asked for documentation proving the money goes to help families of deceased or incapacitated officers, and has used her subpoena power to obtain contracts with telemarketers.

"There's a lot of sound-alike names," Collins said, according to the *Sun-Sentinel*. "You don't know what these groups do. There's so many questions people need to ask."

"We don't think we're doing anything unscrupulous or anything illegal," said Estel Senn, 68, who heads up Christian Police Ministries, in the news report.

Senn said he is a retired police officer from Kentucky who formed the

group 10 years ago for law enforcement officers who are not members of associations such as the Police Benevolent Association or the Fraternal Order of Police.

The nonprofit group reported to the state Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services that it raised \$553,000 in 1997 and spent \$208,000 on fund-raising.

Some colleges such as Indian River and North Florida Community said they had received scholarship money from Senn in the name of the Florida Police Foundation.

The news report further stated that companies who use telemarketers generally keep about 20% for the charity and spend about 80% to raise the money.

Courtesy of Crime Control Digest, 6/19/99

MEDIA'S PRESENCE AT HOME SEARCHES VIOLATES RIGHTS

The US Supreme Court unanimously ruled on May 24 that police could be sued for violating individuals' fourth amendment right to privacy when they bring news reporters or camera crews into homes during searches or arrests.

The ruling was based on two civil lawsuits filed against law enforcement agencies in Maryland and Montana.

"The Fourth Amendment embodies this centuries-old principle of respect for the privacy of the home," Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist wrote for the court in both cases.

"It may well be that media ride-alongs further law enforcement objectives of the police in a general sense, but that is not the same as



furthering the purposes of the search," he said. But "the possibility of good public relations for the police is simply not enough, standing alone, to justify the ride-along intrusion into a private home."

Rehnquist added, "Even the need for accurate reporting on police issues in general," does not justify letting reporters accompany police into a home in order to execute an arrest warrant.

In the 1992 Maryland case, law enforcement officers raided the home of Charles and Geraldine Wilson, hoping to catch their fugitive son. A photographer from *The Washington Post* accompanied the officers and took photographs as they pointed their weapons at Charles Wilson.

In the 1996 Montana case, federal agents arrived at Paul and Emma Berger's ranch to search for evidence of eagle poisoning, accompanied by CNN reporters and camera operators.

CNN mounted a video camera on a government vehicle and wired one agent with a hidden microphone, according to the Associated Press. Paul Berger contends that he wasn't shown a search warrant and didn't realize it did not include his home.

The court ruled 8-1 that the officers involved in the two cases could not be sued because it was not clearly established at the time of these searches that media ride-alongs were illegal.

While the decision does not prevent the news media from reporting and filming from outside homes that are being searched, it could severely limit the availability of dramatic footage that has become a staple of true-life cop shows and TV news, according to *The Washington Post*.

Police agencies are respectfully urged to obtain a copy of the court ruling if you have any doubt as to how to proceed in further media events of this nature.

Courtesy of Crime Control Digest

EDITOR'S CORNER

By Tom Berlinger



Sheriffs enjoy another banner year in the legislature

Each year, FSA holds several meetings in which the sheriffs collectively decide what their legislative priorities will be for the coming year.

"The 1999 legislative session was great for FSA and for the law-abiding citizens of Florida," notes Maury Kolchakian, FSA's general counsel and director of legislative affairs.

Our number one priority in this year's FSA legislative package was the legislation coined the "Three Strikes and You're Out" bill. Passed by the legislature and signed by the governor, it creates a new "three time felony offender" enhanced penalty that is in addition to the already existing enhanced penalties for habitual felony offenders, habitual violent

felony offenders, and career criminals.

Mandatory penalties will be five years for a third degree felony, 15 years for a second degree felony, 30 years for a first degree felony, and life in prison for a life felony.

Of particular interest to law enforcement officers are new minimum mandatory sentences that are now on the books when certain violent crimes are committed against a law enforcement officer, or against an elderly person 65 years of age or older.

In addition, Section 775.087, F.S., was amended to increase the minimum mandatory sentences for specific serious felonies that are committed with a firearm. Thus, a person convicted of committing crimes such as burglary, arson, robbery, aggravated assault, aggravated battery, kidnapping, etc. while possessing a firearm, must serve a mandatory sentence of 10 years.

If the person discharges the firearm during the commission of one of those same crimes, the mandatory sentence is 20 years. And, if the person is convicted of one of the listed crimes and actu-

ally shoots someone, inflicting great bodily harm, the minimum mandatory sentence to be imposed is 25 years to life.

To aid and assist correctional officers and administrators, FSA successfully fought for a bill that would make it a second-degree misdemeanor to violate jail regulations on 2 or more occasions.

Before now, the only recourse a jail administrator would have with an unruly inmate would be some type of administrative sanction.

"I give all credit to the dozens of sheriffs that are willing to come

to Tallahassee and lobby for strong anti-crime legislation each year," Kolchakian said, "Without their personal dedication to public safety issues, my job would be difficult, if not impossible."

Each year, Mr. Kolchakian prepares and distributes a legislative summary highlighting the changes that affect local law enforcement and jail operations. The 1999 summary is some 35 pages in length, and a copy has been distributed to all sheriffs. They're a great aid for roll-call or other short training sessions.



Maury Kolchakian

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Volume 9, No. 3, 1999

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The ALL POINTS BULLETIN is published quarterly, in Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter, by the Florida Sheriffs Association, a non-profit corporation.

The Florida Sheriffs Association intends to convey various opinions of law enforcement individuals and organizations in the state of Florida, and national entities which affect the state. Therefore, articles published in APB do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Florida Sheriffs Association. The FSA by-laws prohibit our endorsement or guarantee of any product, service or company represented in the articles or advertisements.

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YEAR 2000 IMPACT ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY

By Walt Turner, Mutual Aid Planner, FDLE

In the fall of 1997, the Florida Legislature created a Year 2000 Task Force to coordinate the threat assessment and remediation of mission-critical information systems throughout state government. Nationally, there are eight critical infrastructures impacted by Y2K: (1) electrical power systems, (2) water supply systems, (3) gas/oil production/distribution, (4) banking/finance, (5) transportation, (6) government services, (7) emergency services, and (8) information/communications.

The Y2K Task Force provides guidance to all state government as each agency identifies essential information systems supporting these critical areas, assesses their systems for Year 2000 compliance, and undertakes the remediation of nonconforming systems. While much of this activity at the state agency level was initially directed at main-frame-based applications, each state agency has also addressed updating PC's and LAN's throughout Florida, and identifying systems and services utilizing embedded micro-chips which may be effected by date calculation errors during the 1999-2000 roll-over.

FDLE's Compliance Efforts

As an executive agency of state government, FDLE is privileged to coordinate many investigative, forensic and support activities throughout the state including automated systems that support the flow of law enforcement information and intelligence. Five primary mission-critical systems are identified by FDLE as essential to support Florida's law enforcement community at all levels: the Florida Crime Information Center (FCIC-II); the Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS); the Computerized Criminal History System (CCH); the Evidence Manage-

ment System (EMS); and the Automated Training Management System (ATMS). In addition, one other mission-critical system, the Automated Investigative Management System (AIMS), is essential for the department's own management of statewide criminal investigations. All necessary remediation of these systems should have been completed by mid 1999 to ensure Year 2000 compliance and the continuing integrity of these systems throughout the millennium rollover as they provide critical information to Florida's law enforcement community.

While the disruption of some community infrastructure, like utilities or finance, may be only a temporary inconvenience to Florida's citizens, other failures, particularly within governmental or emergency services, may significantly jeopardize lives and property and require direct action by local law enforcement agencies. In addition, even such minor inconveniences, like utility or banking disruptions, over time may evolve into response situations addressing civil disorder.

Mutual Aid for Florida's 1st Electronic Hurricane

To provide additional assistance to local law enforcement addressing these issues, in January 1999, FDLE's mutual aid office coordinated the House Committee on Community Affairs survey of local law enforcement agencies for Y2K Compliance and then participated in the Department of Emergency Management's Y2K Exercises. Building on these projections of possible consequences, and to further focus on the larger public safety issues which may be precipitated by local or regional Y2K failures, FDLE's mutual aid office incorporated a Y2K aware-

ness component into its regionalized training which was provided throughout Florida during February, March and April. Directed at both county/municipal law enforcement and regional state law enforcement resources, this training focused on the importance of Y2K compliance within each law enforcement agency and the importance of being prepared for any public safety incident which may evolve from interruptions to critical infrastructure.

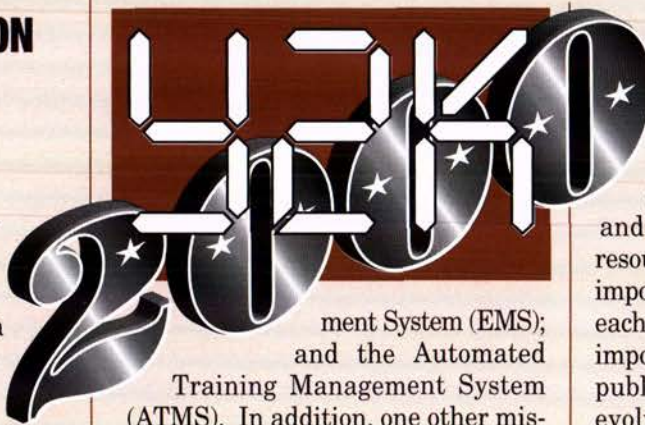
In addition, this training reemphasized the need for local law enforcement to prepare for Y2K impact both within their communities and within each agency. However all planned law enforcement responses must be preceded by each agency's critical self-examination to identify their own potential Y2K failures. This risk assessment will permit each agency to plan appropriate repair, replacement, or remediation prior to year's end so that law enforcement and public safety services will remain available.

Preparing for Impact: Regional Focus for Local Support

To emphasize the importance of local efforts, Governor Bush's Team Florida 2000 (TF2K) initiative provides clear public objectives necessary to defend Florida's "critical infrastructure" at the local level. In response to this mandate, FDLE as the coordinating agency for state law enforcement resources, developed a Y2K Compliance and Preparedness Strategy for Florida Law Enforcement.

This strategy ensures that both county and municipal law enforcement is practically assessed for Y2K impact to both their internal administration/operations and their response capabilities. To obtain this information firsthand, from mid-April through the end of May, regional state agency law enforcement commanders and Florida Sheriffs Association members visited more than 210 county and municipal agencies. Following this assessment, FDLE regional mutual aid coordinators met with regional state resources

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YEAR 2000 IMPACT... *continued from page 4*

and local agencies to assess findings and develop regional law enforcement response plans. These efforts will ensure appropriate law enforcement responses during actual incidents resulting from Y2K failures.

Landfall: January 1, 2000

In preparation for anticipated Y2K events, the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) will be activated at Level II from Monday, December 27th through Tuesday, January 4th. During this time the SEOC and its Emergency Support Function for law enforcement and security (ESF-16) will stand ready to coordinate state law enforcement resources as necessary to support impacted local agencies. To provide for the availability and deployment of these resources, FDLE and other state law enforcement agencies have already enacted procurement orders to meet anticipated deployment needs for food, water, fuel and other supplies, as well as administrative procedures to limit year-end vacations and days off. In addition, many agencies have developed and distributed family plans, much like those for hurricanes, which clearly identifies what officers and their families can do to appropriately prepare for the inconvenience of Y2K failures.

In summary, it is clear that Y2K failures will occur, and to some degree, impact communities throughout Florida. With this in mind, law enforcement agencies should recognize that December 31, 1999, will not be just another Friday night, or just another New Year's Eve.

Year 2000 failures will undoubtedly inconvenience some and may precipitate community incidents or events requiring a law enforcement response. However, if local law enforcement take steps now to recognize their own vulnerability and develop plans to respond to Y2K incidents that may impact their communities, at year's end, agencies will be prepared to continue basic law enforcement services as well as address Y2K failures impacting public safety.

JUDGE: MAN HAD RIGHT NOT TO GIVE NAME

A judge rules that a man was within his rights not to incriminate himself by withholding his name from a deputy

By Geoff Dougherty
St. Petersburg Times

When a Pasco sheriff's deputy asked Mark Hovik for his name last year, the reply was anything but cooperative.

"Well, I guess I'm Cinderella's wife," said Hovik, who has mental troubles and was suspected of shoplifting.

The deputy arrested Hovik and charged him with obstructing a police officer by disguise. The ensuing legal argument raised a constitutional issue that scholars say is critical and so far unresolved by the U.S. Supreme Court: Does a citizen ever have to identify himself to the police?

Last month, a Pasco-Pinellas circuit judge weighed in on the issue, turning away an appeal by prosecutors that would have allowed the case against Hovik to go forward.

The decision by Judge Wayne Cobb affirmed an earlier one in county court dismissing the state's case on constitutional grounds.

"There was never any question in my mind that...this person never should have been charged," said Robert Attridge, Hovik's attorney. "There's no question in my mind he had a constitutional right not to give his name."

Hovik, 50, has an arrest record for offenses ranging from shoplifting to domestic violence. The case Cobb ruled upon began in May 1998, when Hovik was asked to leave a Winn-Dixie supermarket because a store worker thought Hovik had previously shoplifted there. Hovik refused and lay down in one of the aisles until a sheriff's deputy

arrived.

In the January article, Assistant State Attorney Mike Halkitis said deputies will never be able to issue warnings to trespassers or effectively arrest lawbreakers if they can't find out the name of the person they're trying to arrest.

Because of that, Halkitis said, dismissing Hovik's case posed a threat to the police and the public. The State Attorney's Office appealed the case, Halkitis said, because deputies knew about the court's decision and might feel

obligated to let suspects off unless they provided a name.

But Attridge said the federal and state constitutions clearly say that people cannot be forced to speak up and give police incriminating information about themselves.

As the argument goes, determining a suspect's name is the first step police take in completing a criminal investigation of the person. So forcing someone to identify himself is, in effect asking him to testify against himself.

Courts have looked favorable on that argument in the past. The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled the arrest of a suspect for failing to give his name was unconstitutional. But in that case, the justices limited their decision to the defendant's arrest, however, and did not consider the statute that police arrested him under.

In Florida, appellate judges hearing a Seminole County case ruled that an order forcing a defendant to give his name was unconstitutional.

"You do not have to cooperate with the police," Attridge said. "It's ludicrous to think that you could be charged with a crime while asserting a constitutional right."



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FAHN 1999 CONFERENCE

June 12th, 1999 marked the closing of Florida Association of Hostage Negotiators (FAHN) second annual conference and training seminar. The association continued to increase its membership and bring together many of the states' law enforcement officers along with some out-of-state guests from the FBI and Pennsylvania State Police. The conference provided attendees with a chance to participate in individual class sessions, high-risk incident reviews, and a banquet. All attendees took advantage of the time to network with each other and meet with several vendors.

The association honored the Negotiator of the Year Detective Mike Marcurio of the Sarasota County S.O. Detective Marcurio had been assisting the department's air unit conduct a routine operation when they began to assist deputies who encountered four suspects wanted for a home invasion/homicide in Indiana. The detective was in the helicopter when it was fired upon by one of the suspects. The incident continued with one of the suspects taking several different hostages during his attempt to elude deputies. The incident was resolved when Detective Marcurio negotiated the suspect's surrender from a house where he was barricaded and holding a hostage.

The Negotiations Team Award was given to the Hernando County S.O. for their handling of Hank Earl Carr, the person responsible for the murder of the two Tampa police officers, an FHP trooper, and a small child. The Hernando team was tasked with working through a highly emotional incident. The team coordinated the services of several agency negotiators and secured the release of Carr's hostage prior to Carr's suicide.

FAHN has set an aggressive

agenda for 1999-2000, which includes:

- The completion of a state certification for crisis negotiators, the first of its kind in the United States.
- The debut of FAHN's internet web site.
- Continued membership growth.
- Increased regional and state-wide training classes.

For additional information please contact the association officer or region director near you.

FAHN President - Sgt. Terry Converse,
Gainesville PD, 352-334-0304

Vice-President - Inv. Chris Summers,
Tallahassee PD, 850-891-4552

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Secretary - Helga Cantu, Lee County
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Region 4 Dep. Ron Kramer, Indian
River County SO, 561-569-6700

Region 5 Dep. Sharon C. Diaz,
Charlotte County SO, 941-639-2101

Region 6 Sgt. Bob Artola, Palm
Beach Gardens PD, 561-775-8229

CORRECTION NOTICE

Up-to-date Florida traffic law summaries available free on internet, but in the last edition of APB, we gave the wrong address.

To find the information, simply click on:
<http://www.hsmv.state.fl.us/bulletins/>

These summaries are prepared by the Florida DHSMV, Office of the General Counsel, to alert law enforcement officers about legal issues and analysis.

*Courtesy of Carla Oglo, Staff Attorney
Florida Prosecuting Attorney's Association*

RIGGED CARS TRAP AUTO THIEVES



Lee County's joint auto theft squad has arrested a dozen people in the last eight months using a bait car that they can track.

Law enforcement officials said using the special bait vehicles helped the squad cut auto thefts in the county. Since January, thefts have declined 34 percent, said Lee County Sheriff John McDougall.

"The auto thieves always have to ask themselves, 'Is this a bait vehicle I'm stealing?'" McDougall said.

Bait vehicles are sprinkled throughout the county, especially in areas with an auto theft problem, said Lee County Sheriff's Agent Greg Chiappetta.

The system - called Satellite Tracking and Recovery (START) - alerts the OnGuard Response Center in San Antonio, Texas, when anyone opens the door of the bait vehicle. The center then notifies the theft squad and it tracks the vehicle's movement using a Global Positioning Satellite, said Lt. Quinton Lashbrook of OnGuard and of the San Antonio Police Department.

Lee County dispatchers relay the direction of travel and speed of the vehicle from the response center to the theft squad. Officers follow the directions and then have the engine shut off. The doors on the vehicle lock and officers often can have the people arrested before they know what happened, Chiappetta said.

Any conversation in the START car is recorded and can be used as evidence in court.

The system helps make arresting auto thieves safer, Lashbrook said, "It eliminates the necessity for high speed

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RIGGED CARS TRAP AUTO THIEVES*continued from page 7*

chase," he said.

Lee County's bait-car program is part of the national program by ATX Technologies Inc., which developed and monitors OnGuard. Sixty law enforcement agencies in 20 states currently participate in the program. Lee County was the first in the eastern United States, Lashbrook said.

Dennis Bueno, of the National Insurance Crime Bureau, said 2,700 cars were stolen in 1998 in Lee County and 108,000 were stolen statewide.

He said the auto theft squad, which includes officers from the Fort Myers Police Department and the Lee County Sheriff's Office, is doing a good job tackling the problem. Bueno and representatives of the State Attorney's office also are part of the auto theft squad.

Bueno said auto theft is a problem that doesn't just affect the person whose car is stolen. "They are impacting you and I with our insurance premium," he said.

REMEMBERING OUR FALLEN HEROES

By Deputy
Nancy Burns,
Leon County
Sheriff's
Office



National Police Week was May 9-15. This week commemorated official recognition of those dedicated law enforcement officers who have been killed in the line of duty. National Police Week dates back to 1962 when President John F. Kennedy first declared May 15 as National Peace Officers Day.

The National Peace Officers Memorial Service is sponsored by the

Fraternal Order of Police National Auxiliary and the Fraternal Order of Police. It is held in Washington, D.C. The memorial honors all law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty throughout the U.S. In 1998 there were 167 law enforcement officers killed.

The State of Florida holds its annual law enforcement memorial at the Capitol Complex in Tallahassee. This year the ceremony was held May 3, 1999, and was again sponsored by the Fraternal Order of Police. The ceremony honors the officers killed in the previous year. This year they honored the 14 State of Florida officers who were killed in 1998. The public is always invited to attend.

Law enforcement officers deserve the support of ALL law abiding citizens. For those of you who continue to honor us, stand up for us, maintain your pride in us and pray for the safety of those of us who serve, WE THANK YOU!

SHERIFF WRITES HIMSELF A TICKET



Indian River County Sheriff Gary Wheeler recently issued himself an \$83 traffic citation for a February accident in which his county-owned sport utility vehicle hit the rear end of another motorist's truck, according to the *Vero Beach Press Journal*.

Wheeler told the *Journal* he had no plans to give himself the ticket, which is for "following too closely," until he discovered another deputy had issued a moving violation to a motorist after a similar accident.

"When I found that out I decided I just did this so I'll feel better about the whole thing," Wheeler said. "I was too close, or I wouldn't have hit her."

Steve Brady, a legal adviser with the FDLE told the *Journal* that though it is "very different" for a law enforcement officer to write himself a ticket, Wheeler was not out-of-line with his action.

Courtesy of Crime Control Digest

FIRST WOMAN DEPUTY IN HOLMES COUNTY

Lynn Lee has been sworn in as a deputy in Holmes County and is believed to be the first woman to hold the position in the history of the county.



Born in Pensacola, Lee moved with her family to Ponce de Leon when she was seven. After graduation from high school, Lee attended Okaloosa-Walton Community College and took courses in criminal justice and some paralegal training.

After being a homemaker for several years she began employment with the Holmes County S.O. in June 1994, as a dispatcher. After a few months with the sheriff's office, she decided to take the course as a correctional officer at Washington-Holmes Technical Center in Chipley and graduated in January 1995. With a desire to cross over into law enforcement, she enrolled in a class at Chipola Junior College, and completed the law enforcement course in December 1995. In November 1998, she became certified as a state law enforcement officer and was deputized the following month.

"I am proud and honored to have Lynn as a deputy. The duties she performs here are essential in the day to day operation of the Holmes County Sheriff's Department. As the population grows and times change we deal with more and more females as defendants rather than victims," commented Sheriff Dennis Lee. He said although Deputy Lee (no relation to the sheriff) is assigned to the jail, she has the same arresting power and authority as any other deputy in the department.

Deputy Lee resides in Bonifay with her husband and two children. *Courtesy Holmes County Advertiser*

PUTTING INMATE ARTWORK TO GOOD USE

By Sgt. Erich Overhultz,
Broward County Sheriff's Office

Artwork created by inmates has always intrigued and impressed me. Throughout my career I have routinely discovered astonishing depictions of celebrities, family members, nature scenes, animals, and more. Few people outside corrections know just how good some of this gallery-quality work really can be.

Then one day the thought came to me. Even though the inmate artists were incarcerated, maybe there really was something they could do with their talent. So, this past April, I formally proposed my idea of sponsoring an exhibit and sale featuring inmate art to the administrators of the Broward Sheriffs' Office (BSO). Proceeds of the sale would benefit two worthwhile local charities, Kids in Distress, Inc. and the Humane Society of Broward County.

Sponsoring such an exhibit would be a first-time experience for the department, so I was a bit uncertain and had more than a few "what if" questions.

For instance, where could this exhibit be held? If the exhibit was to be held in an area not under the direct control of the sheriff's office, would there be all kinds of red tape? Would there be a sufficient level of support coming from the community? When should the exhibit be held? What would be the best way to generate interest from inmates to contribute art to the exhibit? What kind of costs would be involved in putting the artwork up for display? What about the legal concerns? Aside from the obvious benefit to the inmates and charities, the exhibit had the



potential to turn into a political hot potato.

One day around this time I was visiting the City of Plantation Historical Museum, and was given a tour by museum curator Shirley Schuler. I explained to her that I worked at the county jail, and shared with her my plan for staging an inmate art exhibit. Schuler was interested in my idea and generously offered not only to showcase the event at the museum, but also to hold a special reception with free food and beverages, courtesy of the Plantation Historical Society. After I obtained approval from the City of Plantation and the Sheriff, I gladly accepted her offer.

I then wanted to gauge inmate interest in the project. One day I visited the small room in the jail where Mary Wolff, a talented art teacher provided by the Broward County School Board's Whiddon-Rogers Adult Center, taught inmates how to draw. I spoke with Wolff and the ten inmates in the class about my plan, and about the particular charities that would benefit through their artistic contributions. Each inmate was informed that if they contributed to the exhibit, they would receive a certificate of appreciation for their efforts. Most inmates indicated interest in participating. I handed each

one a registration/release form I had designed, had the inmates sign the forms, and let them go back to working on their projects. I also set a deadline for submitting artwork, giving me a week to make final preparations for the exhibit.

On October 13, the matted works were placed on display at the museum, and the exhibit generated substantial public attention almost overnight. At least three television stations aired features on the exhibit during their evening newscasts, and the *Miami Herald*, *Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel*, and *Community News* all printed articles as well.

A special reception was held on October 25. The exhibit attracted a large number of people, including employees, teachers, inmates' family members, and even Ms. Wolff, who was pleased to see just how well her students' works had turned out. By the exhibit's end, 25 works of art were sold, generating over \$1,200 for Kids in Distress, Inc. and the Humane Society of Broward County.

We sometimes forget that when a person commits a crime, the direct targets of the crime are not the only victims. The inmates' family are also victims, dealing with the shame, embarrassment, and the financial and emotional hardships associated with the crime. Watching the inmate families take some satisfaction and pride in seeing their loved ones actually contribute something positive to these charities was an uplifting experience, and it undoubtedly had a positive therapeutic effect upon families.

Many of the family members had no idea that their incarcerated relatives had artistic talent, but as I had discovered through talking with the artists and Wolff, I found that many of the inmates never dabbled in art until after they were incarcerated.

By all accounts the art exhibit

Continued on page 10

PUTTING INMATE ARTWORK TO GOOD USE continued from page 9

was quite successful, and plans are in the works for sponsoring another exhibit. The mayor from another city in our county has expressed interest in having the exhibit in his town next year. I have had offers to speak to various civic organizations throughout the county about the exhibit, and I am in the process of putting together a slide presentation for such events.

Some cynics may feel that sponsoring exhibits such as this runs contrary to what jails should be about. From my perspective, though, I would certainly rather work with inmates who are trying to learn and create something positive to give back to the community than deal exclusively with inmates who spend their days in jail watching mindless television shows, playing cards, wandering around aimlessly and aggravating staff. Participating in art programs is an excellent way for inmates to reduce stress, idleness, violent tendencies, and contribute to a safer correctional environment for all.

The Second Annual Inmate Art Exhibit & Sale will be held from October 6-23, 1999, at the Plantation Historical Museum. For information, contact Sgt. Erich Overhultz at (954) 831-6355, or via e-mail at: Eoverhultz@aol.com

Sgt. Erich Overhultz, B.A., M.P.A., has been working as a corrections officer with the Broward County Sheriff's Office for eleven years. Currently he supervises maximum security inmates at their Main Jail complex in Ft. Lauderdale. A graduate of Florida Atlantic University, he has earned a Master's Degree in Public Administration and a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science.

FDOC's Contraband Interdiction Unit

by FDOC Inspector Chuck Wynn

The Florida Department of Corrections (FDOC) Contraband Interdiction Unit was established in 1993 with the goal of providing a safer environment for staff, inmates and visitors by preventing the introduction of contraband into state prison facilities. The team is under the auspices of their Inspector General and is composed of nine Senior Inspectors and one Inspector Supervisor. Interdiction operations are carried out around the states major correctional facilities, work camps and road prisons. Regional Correctional Officer Search Teams, FDOC canines and FHP Felony Teams assist the unit. Interdiction operations are unannounced and in many cases, more than one interdiction operation may be occurring simultaneously around the state.

The unit utilizes a drug detection system (Itemizer) that incorporates a technology known as mobility spectrometry, which analyzes molecular particles. A particle sample is obtained from a surface (person, clothing, vehicle etc.) using a remote sampling unit that vacuums the particles into a filter. The filter is analyzed for the presence of illicit drugs.

During an interdiction operation of a major institution all staff and visitors are inspected using the Itemizer, followed by a pat search. FDOC and FHP canines are used to check vehicles in the parking lots for the presence of illegal drugs. No visitors' vehicles are searched until a consent form has been signed. The team also works with the administration of the institution to conduct building and

area searches which, the administration feels, may be conducive to the concealment of contraband.

To date the program has resulted in over 150 arrests. The majority of arrests are for possession of illegal drugs and introduction of contraband.

Although most of the team's arrests are for narcotics related charges, the team also searches for other targeted contraband including weapons, alcohol, escape paraphernalia and contraband cash.

Per Florida statute, FDOC Inspectors may detain a person(s) who have committed a crime on FDOC property but they do not have arrest authority. Detained persons must be turned over to the sheriff of the county in which crime occurred. To lighten the load for the sheriff, arrests are normally completed by FHP. But, because of the great demand for their Felony Teams they are sometimes unavailable or called away to handle other matters. During those times that FHP is unavailable, the unit depends on the local sheriff's office for assistance in making the arrest.

FDOC Senior Inspectors are trained to provide whatever assistance a deputy might require in completing an arrest for example; witness statements, evidence, chain of custody etc. In fact, several of the team members are former law enforcement officers and have a good understanding of the arrest process. Assistance from a sheriff's office is always greatly appreciated.

Any sheriff or deputy wishing further information on the interdiction program or Itemizer detection system should feel free to contact Insp. Supervisor Chuck Wynn at FDOC (850) 487-4012.



FRF seeks nominations for LEO of the Year

The Florida Retail Federation (FRF), continuing a program they've had since 1974, is seeking nominations for their annual Law Enforcement Officer of the Year award.

The winner of this prestigious award is given a handsome plaque and a check in the amount of a whopping \$3,000, probably the largest monetary award of its kind anywhere in the state.

Nomination forms must be completed and back in the hands of the FRF by August 31. The award will be presented at their annual conference in early November.

Sheriffs or other supervisors who wish to obtain a copy of the nomination forms or find out more about the program are encouraged to call Ms. Lori Elliott at the FRF headquarters in Tallahassee at (850) 222-4082.

FSA Jail Administrator's Workshop dates set



Each year for over a decade, the Florida Sheriffs Association has sponsored our annual Jail Administrator's Training Workshop. This training opportunity is 20-hours in length, and Sheriffs who attend the course can use it to meet their annual Sheriff's Salary Supplement requirement. In turn, correctional personnel who attend can use this course to satisfy their mandatory retraining requirements.

This year, the program will be held December 7-9, 1999. By popular demand, we will be again hosting this course at the beautiful HILTON Sandestin Beach & Golf Resort in Destin, a stunning waterfront community in the northwest panhandle of

Job Opportunity

Are you ready to move to a quiet, slow-paced lifestyle? Advent Christian Village, a retirement community located on the banks of the Suwannee River, provides a variety of housing options from independent home ownership and apartment living to skilled nursing care.

General Responsibilities

Development and coordination of security for the campus
Serve as liaison between the Village and Suwannee County S.O.
Coordination of existing volunteer security efforts

Qualifications

Must be able to qualify as reserve deputy with Suwannee S.O.
Must have minimum of 10 yrs, law enforcement experience
Should have exceptional ability to relate to residents, other employees & guests
Must pass strict background check

Salary Negotiable, Full Benefit Package

Apply by sending or faxing resume to:

Advent Christian Village
ATTN: Jim Schenck, VP
Post Office Box 4329
Dowling Park, FL 32064
Phone: (904) 658-5319
FAX: (904) 658-5160



Drug Free Workplace

Equal Opportunity Employee

Florida.

Plan to arrive on the afternoon of Monday, December 6, as there is an early registration/reception sponsored at 6 PM (Central Time Zone) that evening.

Hotel information and course registration materials will be sent to all sheriffs and all jail administrators in late September or early October.

But, please mark your calendars now and plan to be with us!

If you have any questions about this course, please feel free to contact Mr. Tom Berlinger at the FSA headquarters in Tallahassee at (850) 877-2165, or via e-mail at: <Tom@FLsheriffs.org>

Florida Sheriffs Association
& the Hillsborough County
Sheriff's Office presents the

Eighth Annual Car Evaluation & Fleet Management Training Program

October 6 - 8, 1999

Radisson Hotel, Sabal Park,
Tampa, Florida

Registration Fee: \$150

Contact the
Florida Sheriffs Association
for registration (Lynn Meek).
Phone 850-877-2165

Weird...but true!

HONOLULU - Police here were called to an apartment after a 911 call, and were greeted by Denny Usui, age 28. They asked to see his grandmother, who lived with him, but Usui told them she was not home. After insisting they needed to talk to her, he changed his story. "Oh, I think she's dead," he told the police, "She's in the shower." Officers found her "neatly covered" by a blanket.

Usui then told police, "I don't want to say anything else until I speak with my attorney because this is a felony and I never committed a murder before." (*Honolulu Star Banner*)

OLATHE, KS - Inmate Joshua Williams, 38, was released by correctional officers here recently after he sent them a fake fax announcing that a warrant against him had been dismissed. Among the fax's misspellings that failed to draw anyone's attention: "Govenor."

DETROIT, MI - Inmate Waukeen Spraggins escaped when, impersonating a police official, he called jailers and ordered them to transport him to his girlfriend's house. Said Police Chief Benny Napoleon, "His request was so bizarre that people thought it had to be true..."

WINSTON-SALEM, NC - Two 15 year-old boys on a break from community service duty in a courthouse as a part of a sentence for vandalizing a telephone booth were captured on a surveillance videotape urinating in a coffee pot used in a local lawyers break room. Said a lawyer who often uses the coffee room, "These boys are going to have to get an out-of-state lawyer to defend them on this one..."

Mutual Aid Communications - interoperability

TALLAHASSEE - In a recent communication, Dwayne Cooper, an electrical engineer with the Florida Department of Management Services noted the following information.

The FCC has reallocated a set of radio frequencies to public safety as part of the Digital Television (DTV) transition and tasked a National Coordination Committee (NCC) to develop a national interoperability plan. The first meeting was held in late April.

According to their data, too many instances occur over the years where public safety agencies need to talk to each other, but lack appropriate radio technology and equipment. They cite recent cases like the murder and kidnapping of Polly Klass in California;



the bombing of the federal building in Oklahoma City; Hurricane Andrew; the Florida wildfires; and recently the Columbine High School incident in Littleton, Colorado.

In the Polly Klass incident, two Sonoma County deputies helped the kidnapper free his car from a ditch, because due to a lack of communications, the officers had no knowledge of the kidnapping, and let the suspect go free. The final outcome was the death of Polly Klass.

At the Oklahoma City Federal Building, a second bomb-threat came in, but only the fire department received the evacuation order initially. Police, EMS, and other responders remained in and around the building while firefighters retreated. Fortunately, the second bomb threat turned out to be false.

The NCC is expected to develop a solution to these interoperability problems permanently.

Navarro wins \$1 Million

LAS VEGAS - Former Broward County Sheriff Nick Navarro won \$1 Million in early June after paying the tidy sum of \$25,000 to enter a slot machine tournament. He told the *Fort Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel*, "I rarely gamble. Usually, I spend only a few dollars in Las Vegas, but I decided to take a chance, and God was looking out for me. (*Hey Nick....just which prayer did you use?*)"



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