Sheriffs "Surf" The Internet... Establish Their Own Home Pages

See page 8

Jail tents in St. Lucie County

See page 4

Sheriff Bobby Knowles
If you’re a regular reader of The Sheriff’s Star, you probably know that one of the ways the Florida Sheriffs Association is making a difference on a local level — in communities throughout the state — is through our Task Forces. By now, it’s likely that you’ve heard about our “Operation Non-Support” which helped spotlight deadbeat parents who aren’t living up to their obligations of child support. Before that, there was also the coordinated statewide effort to crack down on drug users. It netted 30,000 suspects and street-level narcotics valued in the millions.

More recently, of course, was our “Operation Medicine Cabinet,” which you can read more about on page 10. As you’ll note, like other Task Forces that preceded it, Operation Medicine Cabinet was a huge success.

I’d like to tell you about an FSA Task Force that you’re not likely to hear a lot about, but will be vitally important to those communities that might be affected by a hurricane or other disaster.

The FSA Disaster Preparedness Task Force was recently given an official seat at the state’s Division of Emergency Management’s Emergency Operations Center (EOC) because of its superb performance coordinating resources from our 67 Sheriffs’ offices during Hurricane Opal last October.

Because of this recognition, our Task Force will be right there with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, the Highway Patrol and other state law-enforcement agencies. This seat will be manned 24 hours a day during and after the disaster, until order is restored to the community. Sheriffs’ offices have been very generous in offering manpower to keep our Task Force at its best.

The fact that we were given an official spot at the EOC recognizes that local law enforcement can make a difference in an emergency.

To help boost our Task Force efforts, we’re bringing together all parties involved with emergency response for a special Disaster Preparedness conference May 21-23. And although there will be a lot of new information shared, one of the more important functions is to discuss previous work. We’ll talk about how we responded during Hurricane Opal and try to determine how we can improve future efforts.

**Keeping the hot issues in the forefront**

In addition to special Task Forces, something else we do at the Florida Sheriffs Association is make sure important issues are kept in the forefront, especially those that affect the personal safety of Florida citizens.

The “No Casinos” vote is one of these issues that we want to make sure doesn’t get swept under the rug. It’s a topic your Florida Sheriffs feel is critical. So critical, in fact, that at our winter conference this past January, your Sheriffs voted unanimously to support No Casinos, Inc. and to oppose any effort to pass legislation that would help legalize gambling in the state of Florida.

The reason I bring this up at this time is because recent newspaper stories have reported that Bally Corp., a Chicago-based casino company and one of the primary backers of the so-called “Limited Casinos” (pro casinos) effort, has withdrawn financial support.

But we don’t want to run the risk of becoming complacent because of this new development. We know that their effort could pick up steam at a moment’s notice if they felt the public opinion could be swayed.

That’s why your Florida Sheriffs want to make it clear: To allow casinos in this state is to invite crime. As Glenda Hood, mayor of Orlando, noted: “It’s proven that casinos bring unprecedented corruption of city and county officials, cannibalize local businesses, and increase crime.”

What they do not do, which the pro casino effort would like for us to believe, is increase tourism, bring positive commercial development and increase business for local retail and eating establishments.

As for the arguments that casinos would generate needed tax revenue for the state, the reality is that crime and social costs will far outweigh any benefits that money might offer. In fact, Ms. Hood stated that for every $1 generated by casinos, it will cost the taxpayers $10 in additional spending.

You need to know that virtually every credible law-enforcement agency and association in the state opposes casinos in Florida. They recognize that casinos cause more street crimes, more violent crimes and lead to more organized crime. As Sheriff Charlie Wells noted, Gulfport, Mississippi experienced triple-digit increases in crime in years following the casino start-ups.

Casinos also prey on local citizens, creating compulsive gamblers, who — like drug users — admit to committing crime to support their habit.

So let’s keep casinos out of Florida. As other states have shown: It’s not worth the gamble.

J. M. "Buddy" Phillips
Executive Director
Crime Prevention Tip:

‘Stick ‘em up!’

Don’t be a victim of robbery

Personal robbery is a terribly frightening crime. Not only do people get robbed of their money, they are often robbed of their sense of personal safety in public places. And worse: because of recent trends, we have even more reason to fear this type of crime. Even if a victim of robbery complies with the perpetrator’s demands, the victim may be beaten or shot, just for the thrill.

Of all the crimes that can strike communities — including burglaries, car jacking and home invasions — there is one that is gaining more headlines and more victims in many parts of the state.

“The thing that’s hitting us hard is personal robberies,” says Lt. Spencer Mann, spokesman for the Alachua County Sheriff’s Office. “Especially for people checking into motels or walking in parking lots.”

Mann says their office has seen a noticeable difference in personal robberies since the fall of 1995. But what concerns law-enforcement officers most is seeing people get hurt for no reason.

In many circumstances, Mann says the victims cooperated completely with the demands of the robbers. And still they were beaten, wounded or pistol-whipped.

“One man totally complied, but just for kicks they shot him in the leg,” he says. The Alachua County Sheriff’s Office is hoping the reports in newspaper headlines will help educate would-be victims on ways to avoid becoming another statistic.

“The majority of crimes committed are crimes of opportunity,” Mann says. “Take the opportunity away, and you’ll greatly reduce the threat of becoming another of crime’s victims.”

To increase awareness, Alachua County has compiled tips for travelers and residents that can help reduce their chances of becoming a victim.

If you travel through Florida for business or pleasure, follow these tips. And be sure to share them with family members and co-workers. Let’s take the “opportunity” out of crime.

Ways to avoid robbery:

- Use the “buddy system.” Take a relative or friend with you, whenever possible. The more people, the greater the deterrence.
- Park in well-lit areas.
- Park in high-visibility areas.
- Don’t get out of your car until you survey the area for suspicious people/activity.
- Don’t wear a lot of expensive jewelry when traveling.
- When checking into motels, be aware of your surroundings as you check in and check out.
- When staying in a motel, keep your door locked. Do not open it for unexpected visitors. If you are unsure of who is at the door, call the front desk. Do not leave your door ajar for any reason.
- In general, be aware of your environment. If someone/something looks suspicious, contact your local law-enforcement agency for assistance. Make a mental note of people, cars and license tags. Descriptions are important.
Putting a Dent In Detention Costs:
St. Lucie County Introduces Jail Tents

By: Mark Weinberg
Public Information Officer
St. Lucie County Sheriff’s Office

If people break the law in St. Lucie County, they’ll go to jail, pay for their own meals and medical care and work beside the road in striped uniforms,” says Sheriff R.C. “Bobby” Knowles.

“And they’ll sleep in tents,” he adds.

Tents? Yes, tents.

The tents were acquired at no cost through the U.S. Army surplus depot near Jacksonville. In a few weeks there will be five tents inside the double-fenced secure area of the St. Lucie County Detention Center, housing up to 100 sentenced inmates.

One tent is currently on display in front of the Sheriff’s Office headquarters in central St. Lucie County with a sign that reads: “Vacancy - coming soon, affordable inmate housing.”

It’s a message to criminals showing them what to expect if they’re arrested in St. Lucie County. It’s also intended to show the taxpayers that Sheriff Knowles has found a way to increase the capacity of the jail at about 10 percent of the cost of traditional brick-and-mortar construction.

The 20-by-40-foot drab olive-colored structure is the same type of shelter used by our armed forces in Bosnia, the Middle East and even Vietnam, where Sheriff Knowles served as a Marine reconnaissance sergeant.

Putting inmates in tents is not a new idea for Sheriff Knowles. When he was president of the Florida Sheriffs Association in 1993, he helped persuade the Florida Legislature to change state law to authorize jail tents.

At the St. Lucie County Detention Center, inmate counts have been rising due to state-mandated sentencing guidelines, state probation violators housed at the jail (with no reimbursement from the state), county population growth and other factors. The jail tents are the most cost-effective way to increase jail capacity.

The jail tents are part of a cost-cutting program by Sheriff Knowles that also places greater restrictions on inmates and ends the free ride that criminals used to get at the county jail.

Other innovations include:
- a money-saving laundry system that uses water treated with ozone instead of the traditional soap suds.
- privatized jail food service
- inmates paying for meals and making co-payments for medical care
- a smoke-free environment, with no resulting inmate misbehavior
- restricted inmate misbehavior
- restricted television programs, limited to mostly self-help, religious, motivational and educational subjects
- inmates growing their own food for preparation in jail kitchens
- privatized inmate medical services, saving over a half-million dollars since May 1995.

As costs for incarceration continue to rise, and funding falls, Sheriffs like Bobby Knowles will keep seeking better ways to serve taxpayers, while the criminals serve their time.
Citizen’s Academies Offer Inside Look at Law Enforcement and More

The group of citizens sitting in a training room didn’t know what they were in for when they signed up for the Sheriff’s Office Citizen Police Academy.

After about an hour-long presentation by the SWAT Team Lieutenant, they had settled into their seats. The Lieutenant was telling them about a specific sign he gives his team to start an attack.

To demonstrate, he called out, “We have the green light,” and suddenly there’s a flash of light, a huge bang, and the classroom is flooded with SWAT Team officers in headgear and fatigues, shouting and waving guns.

The place is in chaos.

These Citizen Police Academy students were witness to a full-scale SWAT Team invasion. All at once, they knew what it felt like to be the bad guy facing the strength and force of a dozen highly trained law-enforcement officers.

The SWAT Team presentation is one of the more effective sessions in several Citizen Academies taught throughout the state.

Standing in a Deputy’s shoes

Though Citizen Police Academies have been around for years, the trend is to redesign or start fresh with more drama — as with the SWAT Team demo — and include as much hands-on experience as possible.

Jerry Girvin, Bay County Sheriff’s Office public affairs officer and “chancellor” of what he calls “the state’s absolutely finest Citizen Police Academy,” says students in their program are allowed to shoot a gun using the Firearms Automated Training System in a “shoot, don’t shoot” scenario. They also drive patrol cars through a rather complicated course.

With lights flashing and sirens blaring, the driver tries to follow instructions given over the radio.

“It’s a demonstration in good, safe and defensive driving techniques,” says Girvin, “but more important, it gets across — very graphically — how difficult the job is.”

When the academy participants go back to the community and these type of issues come up, Girvin says, “They can say ‘Hey, folks, it’s not as easy as it looks.’”

Sgt. Paul Phillips, a crime prevention supervisor for the Leon County Sheriff's Office agrees.

“Most of the impression the average citizen gets of law enforcement, unfortunately, comes from television and the movies.” After starting a Citizen’s Academy under the direction of Sheriff Eddie Boone, Phillips says, “We hope that people won’t really draw a conclusion or form an opinion about local law enforcement until they take advantage of an academy. It’s a good eye opener.”

Designed for results

Hands-on experience is what Pasco County Sheriff Lee Cannon wanted for his Citizen Academy when they redesigned it four years ago.

Sgt. Kipper Connell, director of training for the Pasco County Sheriff’s Office, says theirs is a 12-week program, with students meeting once a week for three hours. Students also participate in two eight-hour days, usually Saturdays.

One of the eight-hour days is spent touring the county and various facilities operated by the Sheriff’s Office. A second full day is spent on the firing range, where students shoot a total of 100 rounds of ammunition.

On crime-scene night, they receive an hour lecture and are then given a mock crime scene and told to process the evidence.

On defensive tactics night, students bring in floor mats and are shown how to defend themselves or avoid injury.

“We also spend an hour on forensic art,” Connell says. “We talk about the benefit of forensic art to investigations.” The students actually try to draw suspects. “The key to forensic art is your ability to get information from the witness,” he says. “It teaches people to be better observers.”

One of the instructions is for students, without looking, to raise their hands if the person next to them wears glasses.

Inevitably, the students are clueless.

“It shows how we in society look past people, not at them,” Connell says. “After this session, they come away much more informed.”

Entertainment is also a big part of most Citizen Academies today. During the Concealed Weapons presentation of the Pasco Academy, retired Tampa police captain and Pasco County community liaison, John Brannigan, walks in wearing a suit. Before the night is over, he has peeled off articles of clothing to reveal over 45 weapons carried into the classroom in disguise. Included are ink pens, guns and knives.

At the end of the presentation, when Brannigan has discarded his suit coat, rolled up sleeves, and even held up his pants leg, he asks the class if they are satisfied he has no more

continued on next page
Continued from page 5

The use of single-edge razor blades in certain dangerous weapons. When they are convinced, he takes a single-edge razor blade out of his mouth. The weapon had been there the entire time, even while he drank coffee and talked for two hours.

Creating Law Enforcement Ambassadors, of sorts

Though most academies weren't created for this specific purpose, Sheriffs' offices are finding they help create ambassadors in the community.

Bay County's CPA alumni have formed their own independent group that meets monthly. They volunteer at the Sheriff's office and distribute material at parades and other public events. Another smaller group has also emerged, and they are being trained to speak to neighborhood watch groups, make security checks and do other tasks that don't require a full-fledged deputy to accomplish.

"They just don't want it to end," says Girvin.

And Pasco County is finding they're creating a more informed citizenry by graduating as many as 122 people from their Academy four times a year. During a recent Pasco County budget process, in which the Sheriff's Office budget was being reviewed by the commission, more people spoke in support of the Sheriff's office than ever before.

Connell says "The first words out of their mouths were, "After attending the Citizen Academy . . .""

If there is any problem that Citizen Academies across the state have in common, it's too many students for too few slots.

While most agencies expand class size to accommodate demand, when Leon County started their 13-week program this past March, they decided to use a lottery approach to select the class. They had 82 initial applicants and selected 30 by drawing names.

And so far, there haven't been any complaints, according to organizer Paul Phillips.

"With Florida being a lottery-literate state, everybody accepted it," he says.

Briefly noted...

Mother Nature a drug dealer?

Yes, it's true.

Mother Nature is offering free, but potent, drugs to Florida's children, and warnings are being issued by anti-drug programs.

Martin County Deputy Sheriff Brian McCandless, a School Resource Officer, recently told the Stuart News that angel's trumpet flowers, mushrooms and bufotoxin (a secretion from a "bufo marinus" toad) are the drugs of choice. He warned that children can get severe, and sometimes fatal, reactions from these "found in nature" drugs.

Two El Paso, Texas, boys died after drinking tea made from angel's trumpet flowers, according to a news article.

Ah, Sun, Sand and . . . .

Teenagers

School Resource Deputies went to the beach for Spring Break, but it wasn't to relax and enjoy the Florida Sunshine. Instead, it was part of a cooperative effort between neighboring county Sheriffs' offices to lend a hand to high-schoolers in trouble.

Realizing that teenagers heading for the 26 miles of St. Augustine and Crescent beaches might find themselves in compromising or dangerous situations, St. Johns County Sheriff Neil Perry invited School Resource Officers from Putnam and Clay counties to be part of their patrol during 1996 Spring Break. The Sheriff believed that students might be more likely to confide in a deputy they knew over one they didn't know, if there was a problem.

A pilot project tested in 1994 had been such a success, they decided to continue it and even improve it by circulating a cellular telephone number for high-schoolers to call if they needed help.

The program once again proved a success and organizers say they plan to make it an annual event.

Florida Sen. Charlie Bronson (second from right) received a 1995 legislative award for his work on behalf of issues supporting law enforcement. He's pictured with Osceola County Sheriff Charlie Croft (far right) Brevard County Sheriff Jake Miller (second from left) and FSA's Legislative Director, Maury Kolchakian.

While jail garden flourishes, so does the Sheriff's fame

SANFORD - While growing vegetables hydroponically in a former recreation yard outside the Seminole County Jail, inmates are learning gardening skills, providing fresh, nutritious food for their meals; and saving a bundle in county tax funds.

Meanwhile, Sheriff Don Eslinger's innovation is drawing widespread attention. He told the Sanford Herald he had learned from the American Corrections Society and the American Corrections Food Service Association that "there is nothing like this in the country."

An article in Sheriff, a magazine published by the National Sheriffs Association, said growing a substantial portion of the jail's vegetables will represent annual savings in excess of $100,000.
**Briefly noted...**

**Court upholds charging for inmate’s medical care**

TAMPA - A federal court judge ruled that Pasco County didn’t violate federal law by charging an inmate for medical care while he was incarcerated in the county jail. The inmate had claimed his civil rights had been violated and he sought an award of $1 million.

According to the *Tampa Tribune*, Sheriff Lee Cannon charged jail inmates for medical care not ordered by a Sheriff’s Office employee. Anyone who couldn’t pay received free medical attention, the *Tribune* reported, but any inmate with money in an account kept by the jail bookkeeper, was charged a fee.

Many Sheriffs have established similar regulations and will welcome this federal court ruling.

**If you need to be rescued, pray that Lockwood’s near**

The next time you’re trapped inside a burning building, pray that Charles Lockwood is in the vicinity. Nothing stops this Volusia County Deputy Sheriff – not locked doors, not smoke, not flames – when he’s on a rescue mission, and he has a Sheriff’s Medal of Valor to prove it.

The medal was awarded to him after he rescued Sharon Shaver from her burning dwelling.

Off duty at the time, Lockwood battered a locked door down with his shoulder, went from room to room crouching under a blanket of smoke; found Miss Shaver unconscious on a bed; and carried her to safety.

Later, when Sheriff Bob Vogel presented the Medal of Valor to Lockwood, he said Miss Shaver would certainly have perished in the fire if the deputy had not rescued her. A news article reported she was treated at a hospital for smoke inhalation and released.

**2,262 SO employees are making payday gifts to Youth Ranches**

Although it only began in October 1995, by the end of February, 2,262 Sheriffs’ employees had already signed up for a new Payroll Deduction Plan (PDP) that is expected to produce well over $100,000 in voluntary gifts for the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches during its first year.

By the end of February, 38 Sheriffs’ offices were participating, and 18 more were in the process of coming aboard. One donor signed up to give $50 a month. Hillsborough County became the pacesetter with 822 employees participating.

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**LA Dodgers players presented bicycle helmets and riding gloves to the Indian River Sheriff’s Office Community Oriented Police Enforcement unit.** From left, Deputy Teddy Floyd, Deputy Mark Buffington, Deputy Donald Hart, Sheriff Gary Wheeler, Sgt. Carson Coakley, Vero Beach Dodgers Assistant General Manager Jeff Maultsby, Deputy Ladell Young, Deputy Gary Chambliss and Deputy Rob Foress.

**VERO BEACH** - The Los Angeles Dodgers say they are committed to the Indian River County Sheriff's Offices' Community Oriented Police Enforcement (COPE) Unit. They proved it recently by providing COPE officers with free admission tickets to Dodgers' spring training games, which are distributed to the community's youth as encouragement for good behavior. The COPE and LA Dodgers, along with assistance from community leaders, helped establish a youth baseball league. And recently, the Dodgers donated new bicycle helmets and gloves to the COPE officers.
Hungry for information about your local Sheriff’s Office? Interested in some good tips on crime prevention? Or just curious about law enforcement in general? Go surfing... on the Internet, that is.

At least 17 Florida Sheriffs now have a presence on the Information Superhighway through Attorney General Bob Butterworth’s “Project Electronic Substation.”

While some offices had designed their own home pages prior to the substation project, the Attorney General’s office provided design and technical assistance to those who had not yet taken advantage of the Internet’s free promotion.

With new home pages being added daily, the result is loads of helpful information that is available to citizens 24 hours a day via their computers.

Anyone with a computer, modem and Internet access can reach the home pages using the following URL address:

http://legal.firm.edu/sheriff.html

This address will take you to the Florida Citizen Safety Page where you’ll find a list of Sheriffs’ offices that have home pages.

Click on Broward County, for instance, and you’ll see a picture of Sheriff Ron Cochran, along with links to information about the office, with sections on crime prevention, tips, auto theft, and a link to the Children’s Safety Center.

Marion County features Sheriff Ken Ergle below a colorful striped banner. Viewers will find an organizational chart of the office and FAQs (that’s ‘Net talk for “Frequently Asked Questions”).

Metro-Dade offers a highly attractive format with a gray wallpaper background design using embossed shields. A colorful emblem and badge are on the overlay, and links include the Florida Department of Law Enforcement’s Missing Children Information Clearinghouse and Metro-Dade’s Crime Bytes electronic bulletin board.

Link, links and more links

Seamless transition from one home page to another is an important feature of any Internet site, and the Sheriffs’ Offices have done a superb job in choosing logical links to beef up their content.

Taylor County Sheriff John Wesley Walker linked his office’s home page to the county’s home page that highlights the area as “The Tree Capital of the South,” and “An Outdoorsman’s Paradise.”

His host page — and many of the screens that follow — promote the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches with its green and white logo.

Volusia County used its home page as an opportunity to educate viewers on disaster preparedness. There’s also an update on the county’s Juvenile Boot Camp.

Metro-Dade’s Home Page links include the Florida Department of Law Enforcement’s Missing Children Information Clearinghouse and Metro-Dade’s very own Crime Bytes electronic bulletin board.
**Wanted by the Polk County Sheriff**

**Albert Leon Fletcher**

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**Narrative**

Fletcher has a history of armed robberies, vehicle thefts, armed burglaries, and escapes.

Want to know who the "bad guys" are? Many Sheriff’s offices feature “Wanted” sections, like this one at Polk County's Internet site. Though no statistics are available to date, law-enforcement officers expect that the Internet will play a key role in apprehending suspects and convicted criminals in the future.

Sheriff Don Eslinger’s office in Seminole County decided to use the home page as an opportunity to collect information. They feature an “E-Tips” link that works like an electronic crimeline. Citizens can report suspicious activity and are assured complete confidentiality.

By far, the most entertaining graphics discovered when this reporter reviewed the Sheriff home pages, was Pinellas County’s “Surf the Net with Pinellas County Sheriff’s Deputies.”

The screen lights up with an unidentified, uniformed man on a surfboard, his arms out to the side surf-style. Look a little further on Pinellas’ links and you’ll find more colorful photographs highlighting their Marine Unit and Flight Section. In the “Did You Know?” section, there are also fast facts such as:

- The Sheriff’s Office is one of the top-10 employers in Pinellas County.
- Pinellas, covering 280 square miles, is the second-smallest county in Florida, but it has the fifth-largest population.

The Sheriffs’ office home pages are sure to be big demand items in the coming months as election time nears. If you’re wondering about the office of Sheriff in your own county, or want to learn more from other counties, go surfing. It won’t be long before you’re also caught in the 'Net.

Seamless transition from one home page to another is an important feature of any Internet site. Collier County offers a variety of choices, including a “hot link” to the Attorney General’s Children’s Safety Page.

**Collier County Sheriff’s Office**

The Collier County Sheriff's Office is located on the southwest coast of Florida. It is one of the faster growing counties in the state. Collier County is widely known for its extraordinary natural beauty, warm climate, agriculture, and diverse growth. As the county’s population has grown, so have the needs of the people. In response, the Sheriff’s Office has established innovative programs and services to meet those needs.

The Collier County Sheriff’s Office may be contacted by calling (850) 368-4471, or by clicking on the following URL:

**www.colliersheriff.org**

The Sheriffs' office home pages are a great way to get informed about the office of Sheriff as the November elections near. At least 17 Florida Sheriffs, including Palm Beach pictured above, now have a presence on the Information Superhighway. Anyone with a computer, modem and Internet access can reach the home page index using the following URL address:

http://legal.firm.edu/sheriff.html
Over-the-counter prescriptions and schedule medications, if outdated or placed in the wrong hands, can spell trouble.

That was the basis for a statewide Task Force dubbed, “Operation Medicine Cabinet,” which was conducted March 18-24.

Working in conjunction with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and HRS Division of Pharmacy, this special Task Force netted some exceptional recoveries from over 232 disposal sites that were operated by Sheriff’s offices statewide.

Citizens brought a total of 264,973 over-the-counter medications and 721,183 prescription medications for disposal. An additional 4,339 unknown medications were also recovered, for a total of 990,495.

It has been estimated that the street value of the medication ranges from $1.1 to $1.5 million.

An idea sparks a Task Force

Operation Medicine Cabinet was a result of a meeting between the Orange County Sheriff’s office, the Florida Sheriffs Association Task Force, the Federal Drug Enforcement Administration, the state HRS Division of Pharmacy and the National Association of Drug Diversion Investigators.

Discussion had centered around the misuse and illegal trafficking of pharmaceutical drugs. While there had always been a large focus on the trafficking of illicit drugs — including cocaine, marijuana and crack — there was little emphasis placed on the illegal use and illegal distribution of legally manufactured medications, which can be diverted to the streets.

The definition for misuse includes:

- unintentional or accidental ingestion of these types of drugs
- use of medication beyond its expiration date
- the self-administration of these drugs for ailments other than those for which they were originally prescribed
- medication that is stolen from homes through burglary/theft and sold illegally on the streets in our communities.

Operation Medicine Cabinet was organized by the group to encourage citizens to clean out their medicine cabinets. With help from the media, citizens were encouraged to locate unused or expired over-the-counter or prescription medications and deliver them to one of the 232 disposal sites set up across the state.

The event was scheduled during Florida Poison Prevention Week and was organized in conjunction with Florida’s Poison Information Centers.

Of course, it was particularly important that we assure participants strict confidentiality. Organizers agreed to a “no questions asked” policy and assured complete anonymity to all persons who participated in the program.

Because of this Task Force and the willingness of citizens to get involved, we have as much as $1.5 million less in drugs available for misuse in the state. Part of the collection included some of the most abused legal drugs which are diverted to the illegal market, including: Valium, percocan, morphine, xanax, vicodan, lortab and loracet.

A great deal of thanks is owed to
the Eckerd Corporation, the Florida Narcotic Officers Association, The Florida DARE Association, the National Association of Drug Division Investigators and a large number of community, civic and neighborhood associations that volunteered to provide free transportation to the elderly at local disposal sites.

Operation Medicine Cabinet was the first of its type in the U.S., and since its conclusion, we have received an invitation to conduct a similar operation nationally. Once again, the Florida Sheriffs Association is setting the standard in innovative law-enforcement projects.

We must not forget

DADE - Each year a great deal of attention is given during Police Memorial week to the law-enforcement officers killed in the line of duty. Unfortunately, almost every jurisdiction in the U.S. has officers who were killed in the line of duty in the 1800s or early 1900s who are not on the "official" list of slain officers. These are our forgotten heroes.

Every year the National Law Enforcement Memorial in Washington, D.C., adds the names of several officers who have only recently been "discovered" and certified as line-of-duty deaths. These forgotten heroes are usually known to historians but unknown to local law-enforcement officials in charge of submitting names to the National Memorial.

Many of the "lost" officers and deputies were members of Sheriff’s posses, early town marshals or constables who preceded the establishment of modern police departments.

Dr. William Wilbanks, in his study of law-enforcement officers killed in Dade County, discovered 10 "lost" officers among the 108 officers killed from 1895-1995. Three were members of a Sheriff’s posse, one was a town marshal, two were constables, two were officers killed in the 1930s in traffic accidents (not counted at that time as "line-of-duty" deaths) and two were members of the Miami Police Department in the 1920s who had accidentally been left off the "official" list, though they had been on a list in the 1930s.

Wilbanks, who authored "Forgotten Heroes: Police Officers Killed in Dade County, FL 1895-1995" (copyright Turner Publications, 1996) also discovered "lost" officers killed in Broward, Monroe and Charlotte counties in Florida; Bell County, Texas; and Greenville, South Carolina who are now considered among the first officers killed in those counties.

As Wilbanks proved, once a name and date of death is found, historians can usually find local newspaper articles on the murder and can even locate current descendants of the forgotten heroes through the location of grave markers, obituaries, etc.

In fact, Miami-Dade Homicide Supervisor David W. Rivers researched the death of his great-grandfather, George Lasnro Bryant, Marshal of High Springs, and is working to have Bryant’s name added to the Washington Law Enforcement Memorial. He published the results of his search and eventual pursuit of recognition for his great-grandfather in PBA Heat.

If you are interested in pursuing certification for names to be added to the National Law Enforcement Memorial, call the Memorial at (202) 737-3400.
By: Gary Davidson  
Public Information Officer  
Volusia County Sheriff's Office

Chanting “Up with hope, down with dope,” and “Hi-de-hi-de-ho, drug dealers gotta go,” more than 100 concerned grandparents, mothers, fathers and children marched through the Spring Hill section of DeLand in Volusia County. Led by national crusader Herman Wrice, they were taking the drug dealers head-on to reclaim the neighborhood and run the dope peddlers out of town.

The anti-drug street march, held February 16, was the first in a weekly series of marches that were organized by the Volusia County Sheriff's office and DeLand Police Department. The two agencies joined forces to introduce the “Wrice Process” model — pioneered by Herman Wrice in Philadelphia in 1988 — into the drug-ridden community.

The “Wrice Process” is a forceful tool in the crime-fighting arsenal because it empowers residents to stand united and send a loud message that drug dealing won’t be tolerated. The nonviolent, confrontational tactic applies social pressure to hit the dealer where it hurts most — in the pocketbook. Marchers occupy areas where drug sales take place, which discourages buyers. Eventually, the dealers move out.

Volusia County Sheriff Bob Vogel and DeLand Police Chief Richard Slaughter were among the first marchers. With the help of Wrice’s model march, Vogel said, “The citizens here in Spring Hill are taking back their streets one at a time.”

Wrice and veterans of the “Wrice Process” traveled from as far as St. Petersburg and Jacksonville to help kick off the effort in Volusia County. They focused on selected areas of Spring Hill, where law-enforcement officers accompanying the march identified suspected dealers’ homes. The houses targeted were those that police have made arrests related to drug trafficking, or where search warrants have been served.
A civic activist of national renown and former high-school football coach, Wrice has organized more than 387 marches since he began eight years ago. He plans to march in 21 cities in Florida.

Approximately 110 participants turned out for the first two marches in Spring Hill. The February 22 march coincided with similar crusade-type events held in other Florida cities and nine other states across the country. The events were coordinated through the U.S. Attorney's Office, Middle Districts of Florida and the federal Weed & Seed program. Spring Hill was designated a Weed & Seed site in 1994.

Organizing for a cause
Wrice and co-founder Andy Garr put out a powerful call to action during a training session in DeLand just prior to Spring Hill's inaugural march.

"This isn't about discussion. It's about doing something," Wrice told the group. "You have to go into this just like you're going to war — to win it."

Garr added: "This is for those who are angry enough to have (the) heart and guts to put your feet into the street."

Armed with bullhorns and people power, marchers paraded through the streets chanting slogans and confronting suspected drug dealers to make them feel unwelcome. "If you keep selling crack, we will be back," went one chant. "Up with hope, down with dope," went another. And still another: "Hi-de-hi-de-ho, drug dealers gotta go."

The chants elicited a wide range of responses. Some taunted the marchers with obscene gestures. Others expressed support and even joined in.

In a second march, the group showed up in a big green-and-white Sheriff's office bus flanked by sirensounding patrol cars in parade-like fashion. The group descended on the neighborhood, shouting, dressed in bright yellow T-shirts and wearing hard hats.

So far, the marches clearly have had the desired effect. The drug dealers have been sent a message, residents have learned how to fight back and children are learning that drug dealing isn't cool.

At one suspected drug house, marchers shouted down the occupants — including a juvenile wanted on an open warrant — for nearly an hour. Finally, the occupants agreed to send out the juvenile if marchers would leave the area. The juvenile was led out in handcuffs as the marchers serenaded on their way out: "Na na na na, na na na na, hey hey hey, goodbye."

Proven performance
A guiding force behind the Volusia County marches was Maj. Connie Locke, commander of the Volusia County Sheriff's Community Services Division.

"This program has been successful in many places around the country," said Locke. "It has a ripple effect of benefits not realized in the beginning. In areas where there have been marches, school attendance is up, domestic violence is down and neighbors are cleaning up yards."

He said he hopes they can continue developing a feeling of camaraderie between the community and law enforcement.

After the initial marches, it's up to the community to keep the marches going. "I think it's a very good start," said Chief Slaughter. "We're willing to try anything, but we can't do any of it without the help of the community."

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It's Your Business: Support Local Law Enforcement With Business Membership in FSA

More and more, business owners are relying on the increased presence of local law enforcement to protect their investment and livelihoods. They count on the training, the patrols and the special crime prevention programs to make sure their places of business are safe and secure.

That's why Business Membership in the Florida Sheriffs Association is growing. If you've noticed a bronze, silver or gold FSA plaque in a local business, be sure to commend the owner for his or her support of local law enforcement. And if you own an interest in a business, why not consider adding it to our distinguished list of retail, service and other types of businesses with memberships?

Contact the Florida Sheriffs Association office for more information, toll free: 1-800-677-2168. Or fill out and return the order form on the back cover of this issue of The Sheriff's Star. You'll be surprised how many people you do business with who are active supporters of local law enforcement and training through the Florida Sheriffs Association.
FLORIDA SHERIFFS YOUTH RANCHES
HONOR ROLL

On these pages we give special recognition to generous supporters of the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches who have qualified for Lifetime Honorary Memberships in the Florida Sheriffs Association by giving $2,500 or more in cash or $5,000 or more in non-cash gifts to the Youth Ranches. Each Lifetime Honorary Member receives a plaque, a lifetime identification card and lifetime subscriptions to The Sheriff's Star and The Rancher. Under a regulation which became effective in 1984, those whose gifts total over $5,000 will receive additional gold stars on their plaques – one for $5,000, two for $10,000, and so on, up to a maximum of five stars for gifts totaling over $25,000.

New Lifetime Honorary Members

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Mr. Delmas A. Swafford
Sweet Life Desserts
Mr. and Mrs. Karl Van Vorno
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph L. Varnadore
Undersheriff Dennis M. Williams

PINELLAS COUNTY - Presented by Pinellas County Sheriff Everett Rice and Safety Harbor development officer, Terry Gregg, to Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Miller; Mrs. Beverly Gramkowski on behalf of the Palm Harbor Newcomers Club; and Sally Parks, on behalf of the Pinellas County Board of Commissioners.

MANATEE COUNTY - Presented by Manatee County Sheriff Charlie Wells to Tim Vining; Gerald Anthony, on behalf of American Bank; and Kathleen Shaffer, on behalf of C&H Baseball.

OKALOOSA - Presented by Okaloosa County Sheriff Larry Gilbert to Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Weatherford.
YOUTH RANCHES HONOR ROLL CONTINUED...

PINELAS COUNTY - Presented by Terry Gregg, Safety Harbor development officer, to Ray Cooper and Edward Dantini on behalf of the Point Brittany Men's Round Table Club; Jeanne Pisano; Mr. Gene R. Hellemrs; James Gecoma and Larry Sipe.

LEE COUNTY - Presented by Lee County Sheriff John McDougall (not shown) to Mrs. & Mrs. Everett Henkel, Sr.

LEVY COUNTY - Presented by Sheriff Ted Glass (left) to Mr. & Mrs. Carl Klots of Crystal River.

CITRUS COUNTY - Presented by Youth Ranches development officer Doug Medlin to Mr. Douglas Cotney; Mr. & Mrs. Stewart Schlachter; and Mr. Gary Miller, Suncoast Furniture.

Middleburg - Presented by Youth Ranches development officer Linda Crews to Mr. & Mrs. Jim Prohaska; and Mr. John Rose, representing Heilig-Meyers Furniture Company.

Mr. & Mrs. Vernet A. Steinmann
Ms. Patricia Palazzi
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Prohaska
Mr. John Rose
Businesses Are Proud to Support Their Florida Sheriffs

It's no secret that crime affects a business' ability to make a profit. If you own a business, it's likely that you live with the threat of crime every day.

It may be the idea of employees being accosted or robbed. Or the thought of getting a call in the middle of the night because a stolen car driven by juveniles crashed through the company's front doors. Perhaps it's computer theft.

Criminals are not only robbing business owners of their ability to make a profit, they're robbing people of their self assurance and security.

That's why so many businesses have joined the Florida Sheriffs Association (FSA) through a special Business Membership.

Through FSA, business owners are taking an active role in convincing state law makers to make tough decisions and bring about positive changes in our criminal justice system.

And membership in FSA is especially rewarding. A tax deductible business membership in the Florida Sheriffs Association gives you six issues of the Sheriff's Star Magazine, including the Annual Guide to Florida Government. Membership also includes a window decal to be displayed at the business location or on an automobile to show support for local law enforcement. Each business owner also receives an identification card and a handsome wall plaque.

Joining the Florida Sheriffs Association assures the continued development of progressive techniques and new resources that will be used by your local agency to fight crime.

If you don't already have a membership in your business' name, please accept this invitation to join your Florida Sheriffs and make our state safer and more secure for businesses and families. Just fill out and return the attached form with your membership.

We truly appreciate your support.

☐ YES, I want to become a Business Member of Florida Sheriffs Association

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Enclosed are our Company's annual dues for:
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Your Business Membership is tax deductible.