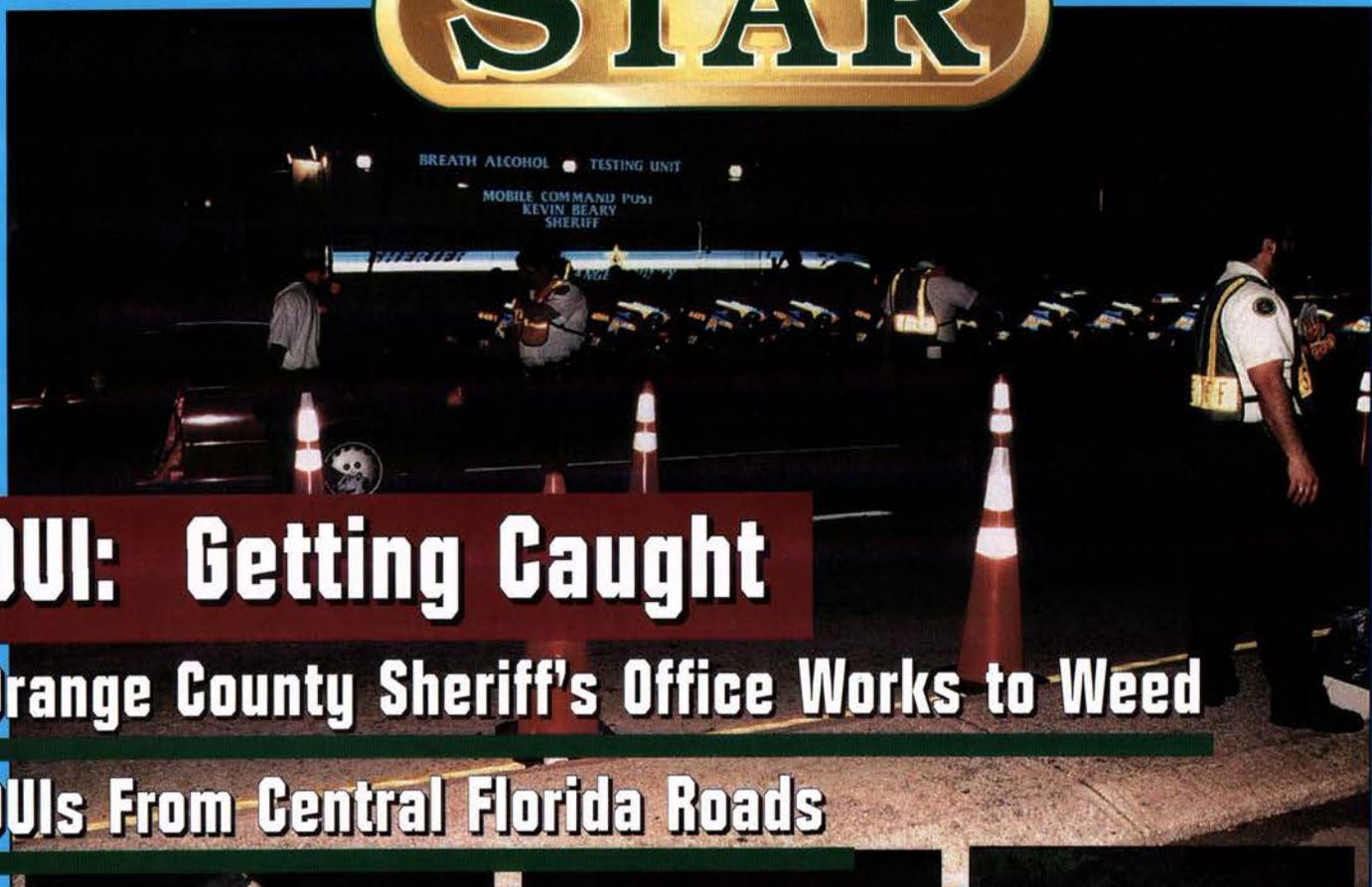
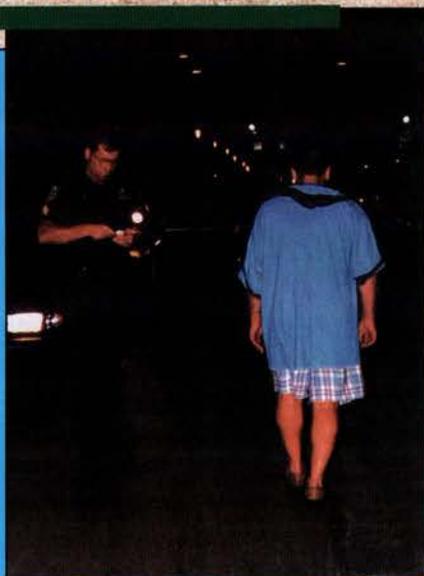


THE SHERIFF'S STAR



DUI: Getting Caught

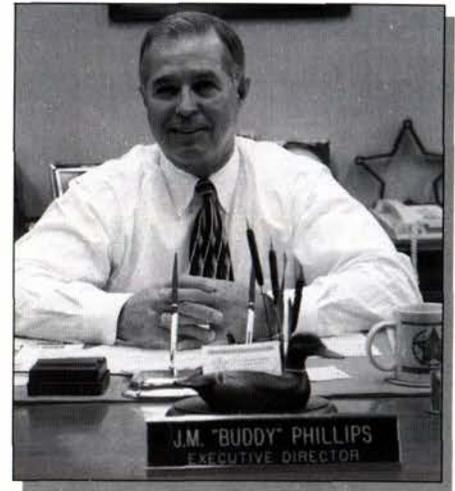
Orange County Sheriff's Office Works to Weed
DUIs From Central Florida Roads



Don't Let Crime
Ruin Your Holidays
See page 3

From the desk of . . .

**J.M. "Buddy" Phillips, Executive Director
Florida Sheriffs Association**



Kids today face an increasingly uphill battle.

With single-parent households, they often bounce between mother and step-father, dad and step-mother or any number of combinations including grandparents, aunts, uncles and foster parents. It's no wonder Florida and other states are faced with large numbers of troubled youths.

The holiday time, though, is not a time to dwell on such negatives. It's a time to be hopeful and search for the positives. With the Florida Youth Ranches, you don't have to look very far.

Scattered throughout Florida, the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches are providing hope for more than 1,500 boys and girls annually.

If you've never visited the Youth Ranches, it just might be what you need for an added boost during the holidays.

There are now six Youth Ranches in our state, thanks to your continued membership in the Florida Sheriffs Association and additional donations made over the years. The original Boys Ranch is located in Live Oak. There's also a Youth Villa in Bartow, Youth Ranches in Safety Harbor and the Bradenton/Sarasota area, a Youth Camp in Barberville and the Caruth Camp in Inglis, Florida.

Numerous other Youth Ranch programs are also reaching out to non-resident youths, including Project Harmony, which you'll read about on page 12 in this magazine.

To help illustrate how the Florida Sheriffs Association's support of the Youth Ranches is working, I'd like to share a story I heard from Mrs. Muriel Ferrante of Sarasota who sent in her Honorary Membership renewal recently.

This member from Sarasota said she had stopped to fill her car with gas when another car pulled up behind her. She writes: "A young fellow about 24 or

25 got out of the car and came over to me. He said, 'Miss, do you still have a membership in the Florida Sheriffs Association?' I told him I did. He told me he just wanted to say 'thank you' because he was at the Boys Ranch and Youth Ranches." The young man said, "I just want you to know they really helped me a lot."

Our member said she thanked him for sharing his story.

When you are considering charitable giving this holiday season, I'd like to encourage you to remember our Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches — and people like this young man. Nearly 60 percent of the funding to keep the Ranches operational come from wills and bequests, and the balance comes from individual donations, Sheriffs' fund-raising events and private foundation grants. The Ranches are also able to accept non-cash items which can be sold during auctions.

It may be hard to believe, but it takes an annual operating budget of nearly \$11 million to keep the Youth Ranches working. So please remember them this season, and help keep a long-time tradition — 39 years to be exact — alive for our Florida youths.

Now let's get political

I'd like to change course here for a moment and offer a reminder to our members.

It came to my attention during the height of the political season that one of our presidential candidates was claiming to have received endorsement from a national police fraternal organization. Unfortunately, it was implied that this meant an endorsement from the majority of law-enforcement officers in the United States.

I want to make it clear that the Florida Sheriffs Association was not part of that endorsement and, in fact, is prohibited from making political endorsements as part of our qualifica-

tions as a 501(C)(3) educational and charitable organization.

If you receive telephone calls or direct mail solicitations that in any way suggest such endorsements, please call or fax me so we can put an end to this incorrect and misleading promotion.

For further clarification, we've recently developed a informational brochure which explains the programs and services of the Florida Sheriffs Association. Many people don't realize it, but approximately 98 percent of our membership is made up of citizen and business supporters of law enforcement. And 100 percent of their donations go directly to the Florida Sheriffs Association — not professional fundraisers. Of those contributions, more than 80 percent of the dollars go directly to programs that benefit local Sheriffs' offices in our 67 counties throughout Florida.

If you would like to educate your friends or relatives about the work of the Florida Sheriffs Association, call us and we'll send you copies of our new brochure.

By working together, we can preserve the reputation we've built in more than 85 years.

Sincerely,

J. M. "Buddy" Phillips
Executive Director

Crime Prevention Tip:

Don't Let Crime Ruin Your Holidays

The shopping, the gift-wrapped packages, the travel and parties. Why, even criminals look forward to the holidays.

It's one of the best shopping times of the year. The best time to shop for victims, that is.

Criminals realize that the spirit of the holidays often distracts people — making them prime targets for burglars, muggers and pickpockets. Crooks know that the holidays are an opportune time to commit their crimes.

To keep you and your family safe during the holidays, we've searched the Internet and surveyed the Florida Sheriffs' home pages to collect the best crime-prevention tips to practice during the holidays. Celebrate safely this season by following these tips at home, while shopping and when you're out for the evening:

Secure your home:

- To deter burglars who might be tempted by a Christmas tree decorated with glittering gifts, make sure wrapped packages are not in full view of a window. Use empty boxes wrapped in pretty paper for decora-

tion, and store valuable wrapped items safely in a deadbolt-locked closet or room.

- When you're away, use an automatic timer for your lights.
- If traveling for an extended time, ask your neighbor to watch your home, keep your yard, and park in the driveway from time to time.
- Don't forget to have mail and newspaper delivery stopped. If it piles up, it's a sure sign you're gone.
- If you're going out for the evening, turn on lights and a radio or television so it looks like someone's home.
- Be extra cautious about locking doors and windows, even if it's just for a quick trip to the convenience store.

Shop safely:

- Stay alert and be aware of people and activity around you.
- Park in a well-lighted space and be sure to lock the car, close the windows and hide shopping bags and gifts in the trunk.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash; pay with a check or credit card whenever possible.
- Deter pickpockets and purse-snatchers. Don't overburden yourself with packages. Be extra careful with purses and wallets — carry a purse close to your body, not dangling by the straps. And put a wallet in an inside coat or front pants pocket.
- If you're shopping with kids, teach them

to go to a store clerk or security guard if you get separated.

Beware of strangers at your door:

- Since criminals sometimes pose as couriers delivering gifts, ask for identification. If there's any question, get a phone number to call for verification before opening the door.
- Don't be taken by con artists collecting for bogus charities. Ask how the funds will be used. If you aren't satisfied with the answers, don't give. Help a charitable organization you know, like the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranch, instead.



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Deadbeat Parents Beware!

The Florida Sheriffs Association Task Force and the Department of Revenue have unveiled yet another approach to catching deadbeat parents who refuse to live up to their child support obligations.

Now, whenever any law enforcement officer in the state makes a computer inquiry about any "wants or warrants" on a particular individual, the deadbeat parent's name will surface as a "wanted person" for non-support.

That means when a person is pulled over for a routine traffic stop, and the officer runs a report on the vehicle and their name — if they are a deadbeat parent they will be taken into custody.

These are civil arrests and not criminal arrests, but those individuals will be brought before the courts on these Writs just as in the case of criminal arrest warrants.

As of October 15, this new approach has been successful in locating and arresting over 3,400 individuals on non-support. And the state was able to collect more than \$2 million.



PARTNERS AGAINST CRIME TODAY

PACT

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

Broward Policing Initiative Emphasizes "Community"

Adopt a new approach to law enforcement and you'll barely get noticed by the public. Give it a catchy name, though, and you'll likely capture the attention of the media, gain more widespread support from the public and increase its chance of success.

Broward County Sheriff Ron Cochran learned the value in a name when he unveiled a new approach to community policing and called it "Partners Against Crime Today" or PACT.

PACT is the name given to all of the Broward Sheriff's Office community policing initiatives and represents an effort to join public and private resources in a partnership whose purpose is to

create a safer community.

"PACT is the umbrella to bring this whole new way of doing business to the public and get the organizations and community groups together," says Joe Gerwens, inspector general for the Broward County Sheriff's Office.

But it's not just meetings and committees, it allows for a proactive approach to crime prevention. PACT works to reduce crime because it raises awareness in the community. Its focus is not just being reactive to crime and trying to solve it, but trying to prevent crime in the first place.

"The cornerstone of community policing is the belief that identifying and solving problems before they escalate can affect fundamental, long-term positive change," says Sheriff Cochran. "Solving crimes is an essential part of law enforcement. Preventing crimes in partnership with our residents is the most efficient and effective way to create a safer community for our families, our neighbors and our businesses."

Introduced in April, PACT now has over 4,000 participants. There's a PACT hotline to call 24 hours a day, and members are on the mailing list for forums and the monthly newsletter.



Sheriff Cochran

Not just talk, but results

The result of Sheriff Cochran's new approach to law enforcement through community partnerships has been a significant decrease in crime and a significant increase in the public's positive perception of the Sheriff's office.

Since his adoption of an agency-wide community policing strategy, serious crime within his jurisdiction has gone



At Broward County's PACT Inaugural, citizens and business people lined up to join the community policing effort.

down 10 percent. Serious violent crime has decreased 22 percent. And Broward County has increased its percentage of solved crimes by 22 percent.

"According to the Uniform Crime Reports, the trend appears to be continuing for 1996," adds Sheriff Cochran. Indicators point to a 6 percent decrease in serious crime for the first half of the year.

Internal reorganization comes first

The seed for PACT was actually planted when Sheriff Cochran took office in 1993. He decided early in the game to start taking responsibility for crime and adopted the rate of serious crime as a measurement of their success as an agency. To accomplish this ambitious agenda, he started decentralizing control of the Sheriff's Office.

Sheriff Cochran formed 10 districts within his county and appointed captains to oversee them and act much like a police chief. He made it his job to assure they had the resources to serve their community, but he also held them accountable for that district's success.

He then joined efforts of other organizations working toward change and offered an opportunity for citizens to get involved in the "partnership" by staffing committees and offering resources and ideas.

"We're not trying to develop a master plan, we're purposely trying to create unique kinds of programs in each of the districts according to what (the public says) are the problems," Sheriff Cochran says. "We're admitting that we don't have all the answers and we want (the community's) input to know what they



PACT has received an overwhelming amount of support from the community and now boasts more than 4,000 members.

see are the problems and join us in the decision to address those problems.”

Brochures introducing the PACT partnership explain a few of the programs people can participate in, including: citizen's academy, citizen observer patrol, neighborhood watch, Sheriff's posse, corrections and rehabilitation, TRIAD, community council and youth programs.

Citizens committees called “community councils” meet regularly with their district to determine what their unique crimes are for that area and formulate strategies for preventing those crimes. By involving the public, this approach is also educating citizens about the reality of crime and helping them learn what they can do to avoid becoming a victim.

A steering committee made up of businesses, including representatives of Barnett Banks, BellSouth, *The Miami Herald*, and Motorola, has brought strength and resources to the PACT program as well.

Sheriff Cochran admits that his new approach wasn't without skepticism when it was first unveiled. “(People) were suspicious that it was yet another policing strategy — another program — until they started working with our deputies in the 10 districts.” Now, he says, “They appreciate the legitimacy of what we're trying to do. They've started to get on board.”

Recognizing that “one size fits all” doesn't work

PACT helps recognize that one approach to law enforcement doesn't work for a county of Broward's size,

Sheriff Cochran says. There are 29 municipalities, in addition to the unincorporated areas, the Sheriff's office serves. Broward County SO also provides full (contract) police services to five cities.

“You might have a predominantly inner-city district with a fairly low economic base,” Inspector General Gerwens says. “They have different needs than an area called Weston, an upscale community where (Miami Dolphins football player) Dan Marino lives.” Both have their problems, but they are very different from each other.

For example, he says, street crimes are more of a problem for the inner-city, so deputies spend more time on foot or bicycle patrols. And in the upscale neighborhoods, home and personal security seem to be more of a focus.

In another area, citizen observer patrols (COPs) have been effective in reducing crime. Sheriff Cochran converted patrol cars that were being retired from his fleet and designed them with a special insignia. Retirees dressed in uniform patrol particular parts of the community and educate their neighbors about crime prevention. They use radios and cellular phones that have been donated by business to report suspicious activity.

Dania, another community, has formed a business-watch program which sends fax alerts to all participating businesses asking them to beware of individuals who are passing bad checks or committing robberies. The Sheriff's Office is also meeting with business owners and managers to help them accomplish crime

prevention through environmental design. Business owners are often advised to make minor modifications to their building to discourage break-ins or smash-and-grab crimes.

PACT's purpose

“Communication is really the key,” Gerwens says, “and what PACT provides is not only an identity but a means of communicating with the public — finding out what their concerns are gives us direction to better serve them.”

The Sheriff's Office holds periodic workshops to address key issues of concern. A business seminar held this fall had more than 1,000 people in attendance.

Topics included employee theft, employee substance abuse, building/ground security, bad checks/credit card fraud, visitor safety and computer fraud.

The FBI, Secret Service, Wackenhut Security and Publix Corporation were among the panel of public and private presenters.

Because he was conscientious about the business people's time, Sheriff Cochran decided to have the workshop end at noon, but at the end, he says participants indicated they hoped the next one would go even longer — all day if possible.

Communication encouraged by PACT has also led to stronger support for the law-enforcement officer's job. Sheriff Cochran's office is the first agency in the county to have civilian participation in reviewing complaints against them. Law-enforcement officers are always accused of cover-ups in their internal affairs investigations. The fact that the public is involved in the process adds a lot more credibility.

When asked to explain what PACT means to his community, Sheriff Cochran likes to sum it up using a quote from one of the citizen participants: “The second-best sheriff's office or police department is the one that was able to catch all the bad guys,” the participant told him. “But the best one is the agency that helped prevent crimes from happening in the first place.”

Contract Law Enforcement: A Better Way To Police?

Making tax dollars go farther is the rally cry of many municipalities in Florida. The question is: Can cities realize savings and still get quality protection when it comes to policing?

Through a concept called "Contract Law Enforcement" it's being proven over and over again that the answer is: Yes, they can.

Through Contract Law Enforcement, municipalities hire Sheriffs' Offices to provide enhanced or specialized services at an agreed rate. Because these county law-enforcement agencies are already established with significant resources and technology, the cities find they can very often receive improved services for less money.

Pinellas County Sheriff Everett Rice has perhaps the best example of contract services in the state.

Sheriff Rice's office has eight municipal contracts — believed to be the most of any other agency in the state. He also holds three community contracts for extra routine patrols in parts of the county, including parks.

"The bottom line is they get more police service for less money, and none of the burdens of trying to administer them," Sheriff Rice says. "There are no labor or police issues and they don't have any of the liability. It's also safer. Some police departments only have one or two officers."

With Contract Law Enforcement, he says, officers are backed up by all of the resources of the Sheriff's Office, including all of the deputies in the entire county. Pinellas County Sheriff's Office employs 2,000 — 650 of whom are deputies.

There's more effective criminal intelligence, and since there's no duplication of effort, the city benefits from economies of scale. "Generally speaking, we can do it for 50 to 60 percent less of the costs of police departments," Sheriff Rice says.

Rice's most recent contract with Dunedin helped shine the spotlight on contract services and proved its value to a community.

The Dunedin city commission voted in January 1995 to disband the police department and hire the Sheriff's Office for police protection. Their decision divided the community of 36,000 and led to a citizens' committee that forced it on to the ballot in February.

Seventy five percent of Dunedin residents voted against bringing back the police department. They also re-elected the commissioners who had hired the Sheriff's Office for the service.

Fortunately for Sheriff Rice, despite the opposition, the community cooperated fully once the deputies began patrolling the area. And both resident and official reports have been glowing.

A recent study conducted after the first seven months of service, proved the Sheriff's Office was arresting more people and clearing more cases than the city's former police depart-



*Sheriff Rice,
Pinellas County*

ment. Arrests were up a full 45 percent compared to the previous year when police were still on the job.

The study also showed reports of crime were down about 8 percent since October 1, 1995, when the Sheriff's deputies began patrolling Dunedin. Violent crime was down about 28 percent, it also stated.

It's not that the police department was doing a bad job, though. Like many municipalities, they were doing what they could on the budget they were given. But quality law enforcement requires quality resources plus manpower — both of which are not easily afforded on property taxes for a community of that size.

Going to battle

Still, it was a tough political battle to win. Bunnie Schultz of Dunedin led the effort to bring the Sheriff's Office in to do city policing services.

Director of her neighborhood crime watch, Schultz started the "Save Our City" committee. Her opponents — mostly friends and families of the officers whose jobs were at stake — formed "Save Our Police."

She explains, "It came up at a city commission meeting that perhaps we could save money contracting with the Sheriff. We decided we needed to look into that because our city was strapped financially — or at least we would have been two years down the road."

The two things they were concerned about were economics and safety, she says. "The (contract) with the Sheriff's Department provided better resources, higher technology, better scheduling and better coverage of our city. The equipment was far superior to what we had, too."

Still, the loss of jobs for the police chief and officers was coloring the perception of the issue. Sheriff Rice's offer to hire all Dunedin police who wanted to join the Sheriff's Office laid that argument to rest.

After that, there was no doubt the monetary savings was worth it.

"All these different municipalities; they're just not equipped," Schultz says. "I don't see how financially they can keep it up."

Another important concern was that a chief of police is appointed, she says. "They're not elected. Your Sheriff is elected. If he's not doing a good job in the county, you can change it. But you can't change it in a city, and I think that is a vital issue."

More for their dollar

Besides the glowing report, as early as July, Dunedin city commissioners were predicting property tax cuts of 5 to 10 percent because the Sheriff contract continues to save them money.

Budget projections from the municipal police department totaled almost \$5 million for the 1996-97 fiscal year. The Sheriff's Office will cost the city just \$2.6 million in the next fiscal year — a difference of more than \$2 million.

With this kind of savings, it's predicted that more municipalities will be turning to Sheriffs' Offices for services.

Through an informal poll, *The Sheriff's Star* learned of other law-enforcement contracts around the state. Alachua County Sheriff's Office has contracts with three municipalities — Hawthorne, Newberry and Archer. Baker County also has contracts, as does Brevard, Broward, Collier, Jackson, Monroe, Okaloosa, Orange and Volusia.

A former chief is pro-contract

Bert Hatcher, coordinator of contract services for Pinellas County Sheriff's Office, was the former chief of police for Madiera Beach before the Sheriff's Office took over their contract.

At the time the Sheriff came in, he says Madiera had 4,500 residents and a police budget of over \$1 million. Pinellas County was able to give expanded service for almost half the cost.

Since starting with the county, Hatcher says he has received numerous calls from other Sheriffs' Offices inquiring about details of contracts, budgets and more. He says the concept is very intriguing, especially for the smaller communities.

Comparing the quality of services, Hatcher says, "The Sheriff has the ability, more training and more versatility to fill the assignments. It's much easier, especially when someone gets sick."

Residents of a municipality usually have two primary concerns: "Will I save money for comparable or better services?" and, "What's going to happen to the chief and the police officers who are now employed?"

Hatcher, who retired from the Tampa Police after 29 years, says Pinellas County gives a positive answer to both questions.

Since he was once the Chief for Madiera Beach, Hatcher says some people are almost apologetic to him when they commend the decision to go with the Sheriff's Office. But they tell him, "These people are really doing a great job. I see patrol cars all the time — six to eight times a day."

He predicts Contract Law Enforcement will continue to grow in the future as communities try to save money.

"Inevitably it's going to happen. Police departments are going to price themselves right out of the market."

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DUI: Getting Caught

Orange County Sheriff's Office Works to Weed DUIs From Central Florida Roads

By: Julie S. Bettinger

It's 5:30 on a Friday afternoon and though he's only 30 minutes into his shift, Sgt. Joe McKenna has just stopped his first DUI suspect.

On the busy East-West Expressway in Orlando, the driver had been straddling the far right and emergency lanes with flashers blinking. McKenna had intended to assist the driver, thinking he had car trouble. But after one look at his bloodshot eyes and detecting a slight scent of alcohol on his breath, McKenna suspects he is a DUI driver.

Maybe it's because of all the tourists. Maybe it's because Orlando is the population center of the state. Whatever the reason, Central Florida is the eye for controversial court decisions for DUI.

Recognizing the growing problem of DUI arrests, Orange County Sheriff Kevin Beary established a committed Traffic Enforcement Unit of 10 men and women to concentrate on reducing the number of DUI drivers on the road. Most agencies don't have a committed unit; they just beef up patrols to target DUI drivers on holidays. Since the unit's establishment, though, Orange County has been helping to set precedent for DUI cases all over the state.

And their numbers are revealing. In the Mothers Against Drunk Driving DUI Arrest List for 1995 — which included all law-enforcement agencies in Florida, including police departments and highway patrol — Orange County had four officers in



Orange County Sheriff
Kevin Beary

the top 40 number of arrests. Deputy Sheriff Casper Johnson had 217 arrests; Deputy Lance Carlson had 175, Deputy Roberta Sargent had 158 and Deputy Don Melville had 136.

Sergeant Joe McKenna is the Motor Unit Supervisor for the Orange County Sheriff's Office. Though their emphasis is on traffic violations, because so many involve alcohol, he says, "If you do traffic enforcement, you're going to find drunks."

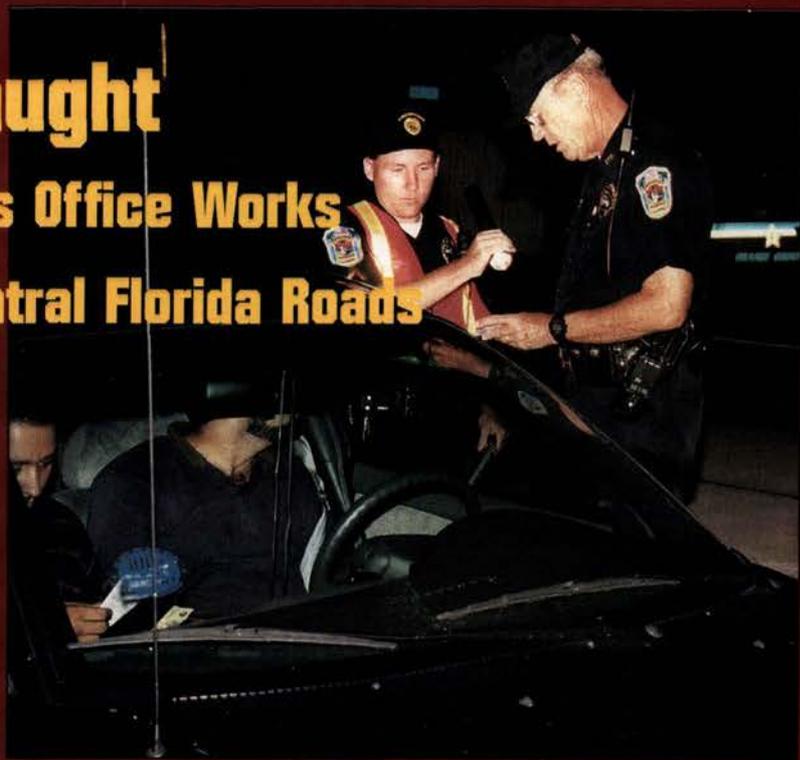
For this reason, all of his deputies are field sobriety certified.

As his unit works the intersections of Orange County's roads from 7:00 p.m. to midnight, he estimates that one out of every five or seven cars on the road is driven by a drunk driver. From midnight on, he says, it's more like one out of every three.

Once an infraction is observed, the law-enforcement officer begins building a case.

McKenna is questioning the driver. What time did you go to sleep last night? Have you been drinking?

The guy says he had one beer at noon with lunch. He works for a landscape company, though, so he's been in the hot



Central Florida sun all day.

As McKenna administers field sobriety exercises, he continues looking for clues. Though his attention seems to be on the driver, his mind is locked in the challenges posed by a defense attorney.

McKenna knows an attorney will have explanations for each of the suspect's behaviors: the stumbling during his heel-to-toe (walk and turn) test; the difficulty he had keeping a horizontal gaze on the pen test; the swaying while trying to balance on one foot.

McKenna's mind turns over statements he's heard attorneys use to plant doubt in a jury's mind: "Of course he has bloodshot eyes, he was going on four hour's sleep." For someone 50 years old, it's going to affect his mental state.

"He was wearing work boots, for chrissakes. You try holding your foot in mid-air with a work boot on.

"C'mon, it was only one beer at lunch, and because my client works in the hot sun, it's going to intensify the effects — but he wasn't drunk."

McKenna's law-enforcement training tells him the guy's Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) is 1.0 or above. But it's too close to call considering the other factors. The guy gets off with a warning. And the defense attorney wins one.

But there will be others.

In the late 1970s, the National Highway Safety Council established a baseline and found that certain tests consistently proved Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) levels. These "field sobriety tests" are used by law-enforcement officers to assess whether or not a person is under the influence. If a person on Florida roads fails the field tests, they are routinely taken in for a breathalyzer test which provides a more scientific method for measuring the alcohol content.

But even before the breathalyzer is administered, most experienced cops can accurately guess the level. Since he's been working traffic enforcement — just over 20 years — Sgt. McKenna estimates he's used the field sobriety tests more than 1,000 times. That's a lot of practice, and he's good. He says from field sobriety tests alone he can almost always predict the test outcome.

Still, attorneys love to dispute field tests, stating that perhaps the suspect failed because of uneven pavement or other environmental factors. All of those questions are eliminated in the controlled breathalyzer tests.

In Central Florida, all DUI suspects, including those from the Orlando and Winter Garden Police Departments, are processed in a DUI testing center on Orange Blossom Trail — a road affectionately named "The Trail." In less than 10 hours, the center routinely processes 25 or 30 DUI suspects. The record is 39.

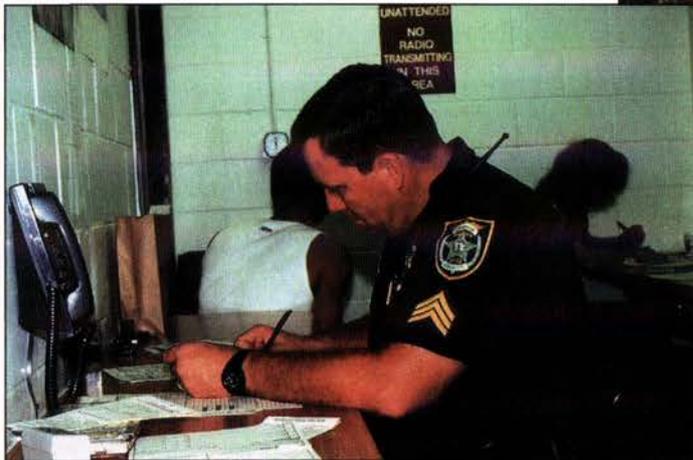
The center, which was named for a deputy, Tom Ingram, killed by a drunk driver, is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. In an adjoining Traffic Enforcement office, a commemorative wall displays photos of law-enforcement officers who were killed by DUI drivers. Unfortunately, the list is growing. This year alone, two deputies were killed by them: John Creegan in May and Chris Hylton in July.

About 9:00 p.m. in the parking lot of the testing center, Sgt. McKenna is sitting behind the wheel of his car talking with members of the Canine Unit. A woman's

voice comes over his radio and McKenna stops midstream in his sentence. He jams the car in reverse, and tells the guy, "Deputy in a Signal 4. Gotta go."

With full lights and sirens, McKenna starts weaving through traffic on The Trail. As he approaches intersections, he flips a switch and a sound like machine-gun fire — staccato-like — interrupts his siren. The alarm seems to work as most cars quickly move out of his way.

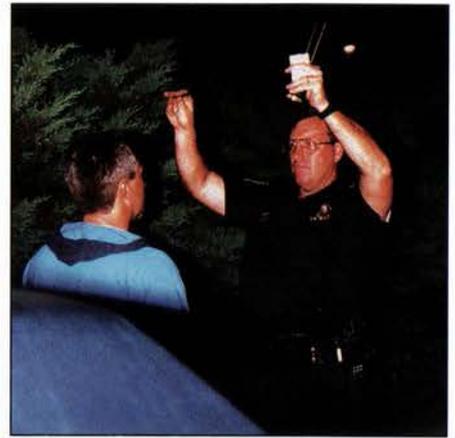
Still, McKenna has to navigate others — probably intoxicated drivers with slowed reaction, he guesses. That's where McKenna's skill behind the wheel comes in. It's practiced as he alternately hits the brakes, swerves, and accelerates much like a roller coaster ride — even though he doesn't know what the next curve is going to bring. But there's an emergency and he's focused.



Orange County Sheriff's Office Sgt. Joe McKenna completes the lengthy paperwork that accompanies every DUI charge. As the Motor Unit Supervisor, he estimates that one out of every five or seven cars on the road from 7:00 p.m. to midnight are driven by an impaired driver. From midnight on, it's more like one out of every three.

As McKenna approaches the intersection of John Young and Oak Ridge Drive, a major intersection of two four-lane roads, it becomes obvious what the emergency is about. An Orange County patrol car is stopped in the left turn lane, its front left fender smashed and glass strewn all around. The driver, a deputy, is standing next to his car door — thankfully — uninjured. Several Highway Patrol cars, seven deputies' vehicles, and a fire truck have swarmed the scene. The law-enforcement response is carried like clockwork, as deputies bound from their car, don orange reflector vests, pull flashlights from their trunk, and take up stations to direct traffic around the scene of the accident.

Strangely, the car that caused the



accident isn't immediately visible. It's more than 100 yards away resting in the median. Several deputies are talking with the passengers and the driver has his head leaning back on his seat, a brace on his neck.

Emergency medical technicians are readying their stretchers. A deputy who is asked about the cause of the accident explains that the

deputy was coming through the intersection, lights flashing and sirens blaring. As he was trying to make a left turn, the other driver was speeding through the intersection with no indication he had even seen or heard the patrol car. The cars careened, and the civilian auto with four occupants was thrown into a tailspin until it came to a stop in the median.

Is it alcohol related? the deputy is asked.

No doubt. When he and other officers opened the doors to assist the passengers, he says, the car just wreaked of liquor and beer. There was also a cellophane bag in the back seat that hinted at crack cocaine.

With clear disgust in his voice, the

continued on page 10



the driver to get out of the car.

Once the man has exited, McKenna steps out of his car and begins questioning the shirtless young man. A female passenger is fidgeting in the suspect's front seat. After directing the driver to stand by his patrol car, McKenna walks over to question the young woman.

McKenna tells her he saw the man throw his arm toward her in a hitting motion. He also saw her arms flailing in a self-protective mode.

It was just a silly argument, she says. Really, it's nothing.

Since alcohol doesn't seem to be a factor, McKenna lets the couple go. Back in the car, he notes the stretch mark on the man's torso and arms.

"He's clearly a crack addict," McKenna says. "Those stripes down his arm are a dead give-away. He's probably lost 50 or 60 pounds."

That's what happens, he says. Once addicted, the crack head will lose weight so fast it leaves scars.

In addition to Orange County's central processing unit, there's also a mobile Breath Alcohol Testing (BAT) unit that is stationed in other high activity areas of the county. There's a holding cage inside and a transport van that also acts as a cage should they have more than one "customer" at a time.

Working the BAT takes a certain skill and patience, admits Armand Mills, who is one of the technicians. "There's a high incidence of people becoming combative," he says. Some are show-offs, many are loud and obnoxious. And mood swings are frequent.

"You've always got to be on your toes because you can't trust a drunk," he says.

He and Patrick Austin, who also works the unit, have come to know the terrain, and almost nothing surprises them anymore.

"There's this one guy who's a Vietnam Veteran with his fourth or fifth DUI," says Austin.

"Yeah," Mills adds. "There's these great people, nice people who just make a mistake one night. Then you've got these real diehards, the ones who are regulars. I have very little tolerance for the guy who's been here so many times before I know him by name."

Barely back in the car from the

Sobriety checkpoints are one of the most effective enforcement tools to combat the impaired driving problems. Throughout Florida, Sheriffs' offices, the Florida Highway Patrol and various Police Departments will be conducting checkpoints during the holidays.

DUI: Getting Caught continued . . .

deputy asks, "Why do people do that stuff?" It's obvious he doesn't really expect an answer.

Part of the process to build a case for DUI in the Central Florida Testing Unit includes a 20-minute observation period and six-minute breathalyzer test for intoxication. Three testing rooms are used, and the average processing time is 58 minutes from the time the suspect arrives until the time he or she is carted off to jail.

Fast processing is an important aspect in DUI convictions, Sgt. McKenna says, as alcohol dissipates an average of .015 per hour. In cities and counties where there are no central processing facilities, a typical DUI arrest can take up to three hours — not good when you're trying to build a case for a solid conviction.

Of all the steps in the process, the observation period is one of the most revealing. As Sgt. McKenna says, most drunks can't stay still when left in a chair virtually unattended for long stretches of time. Video tapes showed one woman making faces at the officer, then flirtatious movements, then accusations when he gave no response.

There are other DUIs that continue to pile up charges while being held for observation. One videotape revealed a woman, hands cuffed behind her back, who had to be restrained by two deputies. She was clearly trying to assault the officers. In a three minute video tape, she repeatedly kicked at the deputies and screamed accusations dotted with vulgar language.

The real clincher was the next day when she called one of the deputies to apologize and had the nerve to ask him for a date. No dice.

McKenna has stopped at the Budget Motel parking lot to back up Deputy Sheriff Lance Carlson, who has pulled over a DUI suspect in a gold Pontiac Sunbird. Carlson is asking the man about any physical defects or medication he's taking.

Suddenly, McKenna's attention is drawn to the highway. Without a word that might interrupt the deputy's work, he quickly gets in his car and crosses four lanes to get behind a silver Toyota Corolla. After a few minutes of tailing the car, he turns on his blue lights and the car veers to a side street. Through an intercom system on his radio, McKenna directs

domestic dispute, McKenna hears another call on his radio. A Sheriff's foot patrol officer had signaled for a suspected DUI driver in a black Cadillac to stop. Instead, the car sped away. It's only one street over, so within minutes McKenna is on the Cadillac's tail.

Once McKenna pulls the car over, a thin, short man with a mustache, cut-off pants, a sleeveless shirt and tennis shoes emerges from the car. He seems nervous and is visibly shaking.

After a few questions, McKenna begins the field sobriety tests. He carefully gives the instructions: Walk away from me nine steps, heel to toe, heel to toe. Turn, then walk nine steps back toward me, heel to toe. Do you understand?

The man nods and begins the exercise. He gets on the ninth step away from McKenna and turns, then saunters back.

Later, McKenna explains, a person under the influence cannot think and do multiple tasks. Give them one task and they're OK. Give them something mental and something physical and they can't do it.

The driver fails other exercises before McKenna asks him to step over to the Cadillac, then turn to face the car. McKenna grabs his right wrist and snaps on handcuffs, and a sheepish look comes over the man's face. He knows he's nailed.

Orange County Sheriff Kevin Beary uses public service announcements to try to discourage DUIs in Central Florida. They've come up with some catchy slogans: "If you drink, that's your business. If you drink and drive, it's our business." And a new one: "If you drink and drive, we'll provide the chaser."

Still — to the officers working the streets at night — it can make you wonder if the public is even listening.

It's just before midnight, and the man in cut-offs is in the DUI processing center. He's started mouthing off to anyone who will listen. "That's what gets me," the suspect says. "I work 70 hours a week, man. I support my family and go out one night and mess around, and I'm the one going to jail. It's the good people in society who are the ones who get bit."

Deputy Lance Carlson walks past the man and pauses for a moment. "You look familiar. Have I stopped you before?" he asks.

The guy drops his eyes, and says, "No."

Curious, Deputy Carlson runs a report on him. He pulls McKenna aside to share the results: Two concealed weapons convictions, one burglary, a grand larceny and two grand theft autos.

Yeah, right. It's the good people in society who get burned.

By now, the man has refused to submit to a breathalyzer test. He is informed that refusal means he'll lose his license for one year. He acknowledges it, then admits: "I've been through this already."

After refusing to sign all paperwork — including the traffic citation, charging affidavit and vehicle disposition paper — the guy is read his Miranda rights.

Later, he tells McKenna, "Don't make my bond too high. I'm a poor man. I work for a living."

Working DUIs means learning the drivers' tricks of the trade. If someone tells you they've had two beers, you can almost bet it's more like four or five.

There are also sides of town that are almost certain to be filled with more intoxicated drivers than others.

"South Orange Blossom Trail is like our combat zone," McKenna says. He compares it to a roach-infested house. When you turn out the lights, the roaches come out. When the sun goes down on "The Trail," a much seedier side is revealed in drunks, druggies and street criminals.

There are few signs of them during the day, though.

The next stop for the guy in cut-offs is the Orange County Jail. He's led through the tightly secured double doors, and his eyes take in the scene. A woman is holding a man's thumb, rolling it across a fingerprint identification sheet. Deputies, police and highway patrol officers are lined up near a table with each of their prisoner's belongings. Two holding cells — one for women, and one for men — are overflowing with prisoners about to be processed. Some are sitting on the floor. Several are passed out in the men's cell.

A handful of provocatively dressed women are lounging around their cell. A young woman, she probably isn't 30, is closest to the doorway. Her eyes, blood-shot from crying and the late hour, search the faces in the room: But it's all business,

as the officers continue trading prisoner's possessions for paperwork, retrieving handcuffs, then hitting the streets again for yet another DUI.

Sobriety checkpoints are one of the most effective enforcement tools to combat the impaired driving problem, according to studies by Mothers Against Drunk Driving. People are less likely to drive after drinking when they know checkpoints are being conducted in their area. Checkpoints are also an effective way to check for and promote safety belt and child safety seat use.

But the true benefit of sobriety checkpoints cannot be measured solely by the number of arrests. A major part of their value is deterring drunk drivers and promoting safety belt use because it's the best protection against injury in an alcohol-related crash.

The fact is that nearly half of all fatal crashes nationally are alcohol-related. That means at least one of the drivers or pedestrians involved in the crash had alcohol in his or her body. And if you think drunken driving is someone else's problem — think again. Two out of five Americans are likely to be involved in an alcohol-related crash at some point in their lives, whether or not they are the one at fault.

Through the Orange County Community Safety Program, sobriety checkpoints were stationed during the Labor Day weekend this year. Special DUI patrols are also expected during the holiday season.

Throughout Florida, Sheriffs' Offices, the Florida Highway Patrol and various police departments will be conducting their own checkpoints. All would like for Floridians to heed one message: If you're going to drink, don't drive. It's not worth the costs.

The Sheriff's Star Editor Julie S. Bettinger would like to thank Lt. Richard C. Klawe from the Orange County Sheriff's Office for arranging her all-night ride with the DUI patrol. Special thanks also to Sheriff Kevin Beary and his DUI unit, including Sgt. Joe McKenna, for their generous contributions of time and information.

Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches'

Project Harmony:

It's Working for Florida

Middle-Schoolers

Educators and law-enforcement officers will tell you there are positive leaders and there are negative leaders in almost every sector of society. And if those leadership skills can be channeled in the right direction, great things can be accomplished.

But these same people will also tell you that it's nearly impossible to channel those skills when the leaders are in their everyday environments. Now, thanks to a new leadership retreat program called "Project Harmony," young leaders are able to come together on neutral ground to learn how to use their natural abilities more productively.

Sponsored by the Youth Ranches of Florida, Project Harmony brings together middle-school students from throughout Florida for five days and four nights in a camp-like setting. The experience helps to build a better understanding and acceptance of individual differences based on race, cultural and social status within the community.

Through intensive training in conflict resolution, cultural diversity, environmental awareness and group-building exercises, the students create a spirit of teamwork among them. The idea is to promote a feeling of solidarity among student participants to help reduce conflicts at each middle school.

Because the program is held at Youth Ranch facilities, the students also participate in camp activities such as challenge course, canoeing, arts and crafts, recreation, nature hikes and swimming.



Volusia County was the site for a pilot "Project Harmony" project. After bringing middle-school leaders together to build a better understanding and acceptance of racial, cultural and social status — discipline referrals in the participating school dropped significantly.

Deputy gives it a head start with big results

The result of a brainstorm by Volusia County Sheriff's Deputy Bob Lambert, Project Harmony was started at the Florida Sheriffs Youth Camp in Barberville. As the School Resource Officer for DeLand Middle School and volunteer for the Police Athletic League, Lambert was well aware of the growing need to help boys and girls learn to get along better. The strife, fighting and occasional violence had been escalating, and he saw the need for a concentrated effort to diffuse the tensions.

Lambert helped organize a pilot project — an effort made possible by participation of the School Board, the Sheriff's Office, the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches, Stetson University and the Police Athletic League.

Project Harmony asked school staffers to pick students who were leaders — pupils who influence the behavior of their classmates — for the pilot project. It was specified that the group needed to be culturally diverse — and a balance of both positive and negative leaders.

The goal was to teach problem-solving skills while addressing racial tension

and conflict in the schools. Positive leaders, negative leaders and a mix of youth from different schools and ethnic backgrounds would be taught how to build on their natural leadership abilities and learn to work together.

Project Harmony was piloted by DeLand Middle School in the 1993 - 1994 school year. During the previous year, DeLand had 13 racial incidents. Following Project Harmony participation, though, it had no incidents.

Discipline referrals also fell. In the first quarter of 1994, they had 1,397 — 90 included fighting and 87 resulted in out-of-school suspensions. By the first quarter of 1995, the number had fallen to 873 — 34 of which were fighting and 33 that resulted in out-of-school suspensions.

Because of its success, Project Harmony received additional funding in Volusia County and this past school year served more than 1,200 students from the district's 10 middle schools.

This year the program is expanding to reach other communities. Palm Beach County is considering a Project Harmony pilot program. Levy, Citrus and Marion counties are also negotiating to bring Project Harmony to their middle schools by 1997. The Youth Ranches' Caruth

Camp will likely be the facility used for mid-Florida counties. Other Youth Ranch facilities are also being considered, but officials say the demand far exceeds the available sites.

How it works

Project Harmony is divided into two components: school and camp. Each morning, before breakfast, the students participate in a flag-raising ceremony with story or song. After breakfast, they are given one hour to complete any work that has been assigned by teachers from their school. After a 15-minute break, their camp activities begin.

Among those activities are the Challenge Course, where students must work together to overcome group obstacles placed before them. In any of the Challenge Course activities, it is almost impossible for a single person to succeed, creating an environment where students must work together. In "Harmony" class, students learn that diversity within a group is good and that we must learn to accept peer differences.

In compass class, students develop skills used for reading a compass. This not only enhances students' math skills, but it also teaches that in life we need direction to accomplish our goals.

A class in group-building takes on a discussion from choices the students have to make in their everyday lives. Students learn that they can accept a different point of view, even though they do not agree with it. Project Harmony students also participate in law enforcement presentations given by school resource officers.

Putting the concept to practice

Students who attend Project Harmony are expected to take what they have learned and put it into practice in their schools and communities. They are encouraged to participate in community service projects and extracurricular school activities and to share their Harmony message with other students.

As Volusia County has shown, the concept is working. In fact, The Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches were recently recognized for the program by the National Association of Counties and Multi-Cultural Diversity. Project Harmony received their top honor.



Volusia County Sheriff Bob Vogel is surrounded by Project Harmony students. One of his deputies, Bob Lambert, initiated the effort that has led to school districts throughout Florida adopting the program.

Amy E., a student who attended one of the pilot Project Harmony programs, wrote a revealing letter following her five days at camp.

She starts: "I would just like to tell you how much I appreciate everything you have done for me. I admit that at first I was kind of reluctant to go . . . but now I realize that my week at Project Harmony was the best week of my life. I walk with my head high now, and I also have more respect for myself and others.

"There was a lot of conflict that week, and right off the bat when DeLand got on the bus, everybody wanted to fight the people from the other school. Even when it came time for us to choose our tents, everybody in my group stuck with the people from our schools. As the week moved on and we all started to get to know each other better . . . everybody started to recognize each others' talents and respect those talents. I can't even begin to describe the way I felt when my group went to the Challenge Course and we all worked together.

"(One night) at our pow-wow, I noticed that we were all sitting there with our arms around each other and there wasn't any of the DeLand on one log and Galaxy on the other log stuff that was pretty obvious the first night.

"I will gladly admit that I have not exactly been the best kid in the world or the easiest to deal with. I've had my problems, but now I know that I can overcome those problems and any obstacle that gets in my way.

"On the bus ride home, everybody was singing and crying. I've never cried in public before, so it was kind of embarrassing for me because I thought they would laugh at me.

"Thanks again for giving me the best week of my life; a week I will never forget as long as I live.

If you are interested in learning more about Project Harmony, or would like to see the program implemented in your school district, contact the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches, (904) 842-5501.



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.

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Mr. and Mrs. William W. Yarick
Mr. Robert E. Zeiher



ORANGE COUNTY - Presented by Orange County Sheriff Kevin Beary to (left photo) Mr. John Rougeux, Sr. and sister-in-law, Annette Rougeux; and Mr. Steven Brady (right photo).



CHARLOTTE COUNTY - Presented by Charlotte County Sheriff Richard Worch, to Point Charles Town Center General Manager K.J. Hatfield and Assistant Manager, Jeff Eldot.



GADSDEN COUNTY - Presented by Gadsden County Sheriff William Woodham (center) and Youth Ranches Development Officer Linda Crews (r) to Seminole Valley Golf Course, accepted by Danny and Dennis Carpenter (left), former Ranchers and co-owners, and Darryl Carpenter (second from right), manager.



FLAGLER COUNTY - Presented by Flagler County Sheriff Robert McCarthy to Mr. & Mrs. Monte Kromberg.



BROWARD COUNTY - Presented by Broward County Sheriff's Office Commander, Mike Robinson, to Marie Rusch.

YOUTH RANCHES HONOR ROLL CONTINUED . . .



LAKE COUNTY - 30-Year Membership Award presented by Lake County Sheriff George E. Knupp (right) Jr. to Mr. & Mrs. Warren Fleming.



ESCAMBIA COUNTY - Presented by Escambia County Sheriff Jim Lowman (left) to Mr. & Mrs. William Blank.



ST. LUCIE COUNTY - Presented by St. Lucie County Sheriff Robert C. Knowles (right) to Gary Murphy, WAVW, 101.7.



SUWANNEE COUNTY - Presented to Mr. & Mrs. Roger David.



ST. JOHNS COUNTY - Presented by St. Johns County Sheriff Neil Perry (right) to (left photo) representatives of Northrup/Grumman, St. Augustine, including Doug Hunsworth, Wendell Powell, Pat DiMarzo and Paul Hagey; and (right photo) Lt. & Mrs. Frank Mathis.



Presented by Youth Ranch Development Officer Bill Brown to Mrs. Elsie Mayer.



BAY COUNTY - Presented by Polk County Sheriff Lawrence Crow (left) to Bay County Sheriff Guy Tunnell.



PINELLAS COUNTY - Presented by Pinellas County Sheriff Everett Rice (left) to Mrs. Maurice A. Rothman, Kanes Furniture.



VOLUSIA COUNTY - Presented by Volusia County Sheriff Bob Vogel (right) and Dave Kritzmacher (left) to Pat Teehan (left photo); and The Honorable William C. Johnson.



HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY - Presented by Hillsborough County Sheriff Cal Henderson (center) to (from left) Mr. & Mrs. Robert Suydam, Constance Falkner, Bernice Crabtree, and Mr. & Mrs. William Gormin.



SUWANNEE COUNTY - Presented by Youth Ranch Development Officer Linda Crews (left) to Laramie Starling, Shirley Starling, Barbara Peaden and Miles Peaden, on behalf of Suwannee Graphics Co.



PINELLAS COUNTY - Presented by Pinellas County Sheriff Everett Rice (right) and Youth Ranch Development Officer Terry Gregg to Deputy Darryl P. Cooperrider.



Bill Zimmerman



Mr. & Mrs. Richard Thwaites



Mr. & Mrs. Salvatore J. Melilli



Mr. & Mrs. Laurance Gleason

VARIOUS COUNTIES - Presented by Youth Ranch Development Officer Terry Gregg to Bill Zimmerman, Free & Accepted Masons Nitram Lodge # 188; Mr. & Mrs. Richard Thwaites; Mr. & Mrs. Salvatore J. Melilli; and Mr. & Mrs. Laurance Gleason.



CAPS - WHITE OR GREEN - with multi-colored embroidery including metallic gold thread, adjustable band



GOLF SHIRTS - green or white with multi-colored embroidered logo



LAPEL PIN 7/8" die cast metal with 4 color enameled finish



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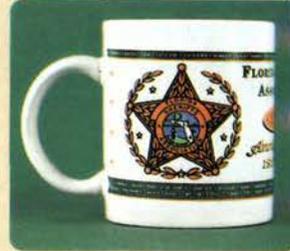
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Public safety is a concern to all citizens, and one way you can support public safety in your community is to show your pride in local law enforcement.

To help you demonstrate your pride in crime-fighting efforts, the Florida Sheriffs Association has designed several items displaying the Sheriff's Star, and made them available to the general public.

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