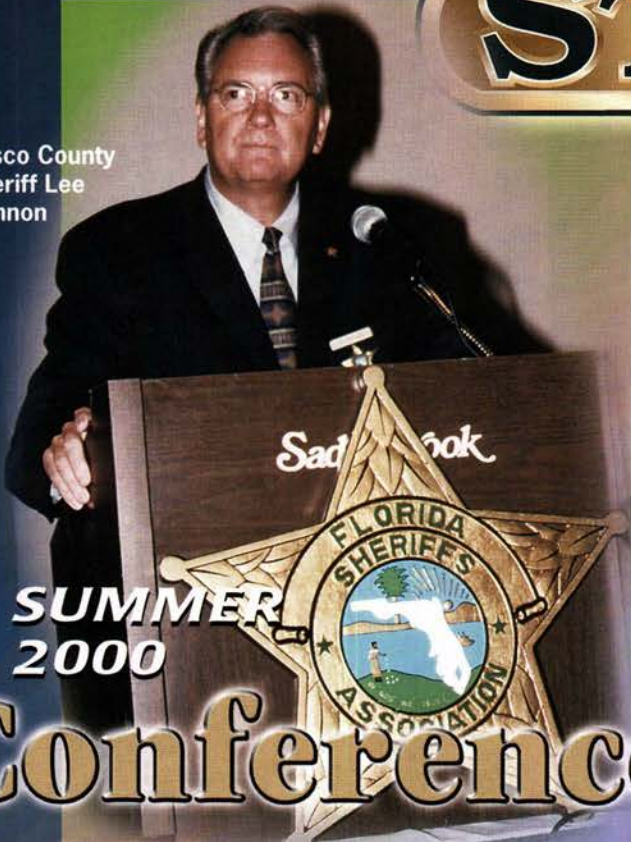


THE SHERIFF'S STAR

Pasco County Sheriff Lee Cannon



Susan Kyzer, Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation, Inc.



Rep. Mike Fasano (R-New Port Richey)

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Jack Levine, Center for Florida's Children



Rep. Victor Crist (R-Temple Terrace), Rep. Sandra Murman (D-Tampa) and Bradford County Sheriff Bob Milner





From the desk of...

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

Every now and then, usually around an election year, we'll start hearing rumor of a campaign to create term limits for Sheriffs and other elected county officials.

And every time it happens, I do my best to educate people about the term limits that seem to occur naturally – as decided by the voters.

In the past six elections, the average turnover for Sheriffs is 23 out of 65 available spots (Duval's election is held in an off year and Miami-Dade is an appointed position). Since I started with the association 12 years ago, we have had 66 new Sheriffs in three elections. Between retirement and voter decision, Florida has averaged a turnover of approximately one third of its Sheriffs in the past two elections.

This year, we know for sure we'll have at least 11 new Sheriffs because of retirement and votes cast during the primary. Several face tough runoffs and many more will be decided in the November general election.

I recalled an article that appeared in this magazine in 1981 and consulted it for a historical perspective. It stated that in 1941, the state lost more than half (36) of its Sheriffs due to attrition – retirement and defeat. In the 1956 elections, 29 new Sheriffs came aboard – the second highest – and 1980 holds the third place slot with 28 new Sheriffs.

A lot of people just do not realize that voters are already setting the limits; the day of the Sheriff serving a lengthy term of office is over.

While we're on the subject of elections, I'd like to shed light on the fact that 13 of our Florida Sheriffs were unopposed. And these were not just in the smaller, more rural counties. They included: Alachua, Bay, Citrus, Clay, Gulf, Highlands, Leon, Manatee, Martin, Orange, Putnam, Union and Washington. I think that says a great deal about the credibility and effectiveness of today's chief law-enforcement officer.

Another phenomenon is the number of former Sheriffs, voted out previously, who are running for new terms. While history has proven it's difficult to make a comeback, this year might prove conventional wisdom wrong. We'll see as eight of them battle for the top post in November.

The changing face of Florida Sheriffs

The office of Sheriff has changed over the years. While it used to be that the Sheriff was almost like an additional deputy, today he (or she) is the CEO of what is now a multi-million dollar operation.

A lot of them still come with experience in law enforcement, but there are those who come to the office – often through political appointment – who are also doing a very good job without direct law enforcement experience. That's because they demonstrate strong administrative skills.

You'll be reading more about our retiring Sheriffs in the following pages. This issue also features a photo section on what has become FSA's biggest event of the year – the Summer Conference. By representing the conference in a photo collage, we feel like we're helping our readers and distinguished members to get an up-close view of the issues affecting the future of law enforcement.

We appreciate our loyal and supportive members of the Florida Sheriffs Association. Please be sure to let us know how we can better serve you in the future.

J. M. "Buddy" Phillips
Executive Director

CRIME TRENDS



CyberTipline helps STOP sexual exploitation of children

It was sick, really. A man was enticing 10-year-old girls to strike seductive-looking poses for him in exchange for cigarettes and money. He had photographed and videotaped them nude on several different occasions.

What was this man thinking? Did he not realize the lifetime impact he was having on these young girls' lives? That he was teaching them a behavior which could be more damaging than physical abuse?

And the girls... what could be going through their minds? Perhaps they were pretending to be their favorite teenage rock star, molding their innocent faces into provocative pouts, not even aware of their admirer's devious intentions.

A growing trend

Corruption of a minor is against the law. But, unfortunately, it is

becoming more and more rampant because of the Internet. People are now able to feed their hideous habits by accessing web sites with images of innocent children being sexually molested and exploited. They are also able to purchase videos of the same to satisfy their corrupt cravings.

The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) created its CyberTipline to report these cases. Earlier this year, a woman reported that her 16-year-old stepchild was modeling nude on a web site operating from Florida. The NCMEC's Exploited Children's Unit investigated and discovered the site was selling pornographic videos. One video featured the teenager being sexually abused. The suspect was identified and arrested.

No excuses for not reporting

Virtually any unlawful act involving a child can be reported anonymously,

which many times helps law enforcement capture the suspect and put an end to the continued corruption of their victims.

Some of the tips that get reported on CyberTipline include:

The possession, manufacture and distribution of child pornography. Many publications using this material have been directly linked to child-prostitution rings. They promote use of youths for sex or sex-tours.

The online enticement of children for sexual acts. This growing phenomenon often involves an adult corresponding with a youth via e-mail and soliciting him or her for sex. It is a serious offense.

Child Prostitution. Children may be sexually exploited by adults — even their parents — who encourage or force them to prostitute themselves. These are serious crimes.

Child-sex tourism. As heinous as it sounds, people travel to foreign countries in search of sex with children. Travel packages include air fare, hotel and directions to local brothels. The sex-tourism industry is especially big in Asia, where a reported one million children are prostitutes.

Child sexual molestation (not in the family). Called extra-familial child sexual abuse, this most frequently occurs when the child is in the care of someone they trust — a neighbor, child care provider or friend of their parents.

To report your suspicions involving corruption or abuse of a child, call: 1-800-843-5678. Or, report it online through NCMEC's web site: www.missingkinds.com. If a child is in immediate danger, call your local Sheriff's office.



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SUMMER 2000

Conference Highlights

Summer Agenda: Children, Accreditation and Legislation were among the hot topics at Saddlebrook

The 87th Annual Summer Conference was held at the Saddlebrook Resort in Pasco County, July 23 - 26. It was a time for Florida Sheriffs to recognize their own as they graduated to retirement and to be recognized by political leaders of our state. In *The Sheriff's Star* tradition, we wanted to bring you highlights of moments captured on camera.



Seminole County Sheriff Don Eslinger took over the helm as President of the Florida Sheriffs Association, after being inducted at the Tuesday night banquet. Bay County Sheriff Guy Tunnell, outgoing president, jokingly remarked several times during the conference about his relief to be handing over the gavel.



Pasco County Sheriff Lee Cannon served as host Sheriff at the Year 2000 Summer Conference. Saddlebrook Resort, near Tampa, is world-renowned for its Arnold Palmer designed-championship golf courses, 45 tennis courts and Hopman Tennis Program.



The Florida Sheriffs honored its longest standing active Honorary Member, Melton E. Godwin, Jr. (at center), who joined the association September 30, 1955. At age 15, he said he wanted to be a deputy Sheriff, so his father paid for his membership. He eventually realized his dream, working for the Polk County Sheriff's Office. During his tenure, he worked on cases with Polk County Sheriffs Larry Crow (far left) and Hillsborough County Sheriff Cal Henderson (far right). Bay County Sheriff Guy Tunnell, outgoing president of FSA, hands Godwin a plaque honoring his record and host Sheriff Pasco County's Lee Cannon joins in the congratulations.



Rep. Heather Florentino (R-New Port Richey), above and at right, received an FSA legislative award for supporting the Sheriffs and criminal justice issues this past legislative session.



Rep. Mike Fasano (R-New Port Richey) joined the Sheriffs at lunch on Monday to receive congratulations for assisting in sponsoring important bills this past legislative session.





Jack Levine, president of the Center for Florida's Children, spoke to the Sheriffs about a campaign he is sponsoring to educate children and parents about common lures used by pedophiles to kidnap kids.



Susan Kyzer, executive director of Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation, Inc. told the Sheriffs that 37 of the 67 Sheriffs' offices have received or are actively applying for some sort of accreditation, including the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation or state accreditation. County Sheriffs' offices and municipal and state law enforcement agencies must pass a rigorous review process of their entire operations to receive the designation.

The Sheriffs met Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranch alum Willie Nickerson, who received his undergraduate and master's degree in Criminal Justice from Florida A&M University. Nickerson overcame overwhelming odds and managed to get accepted into the Youth Ranch program. "They taught me success is not a destination, it is a journey," he said of the Youth Ranches. Then he added, "and they taught me how to network," as he held up a copy of his resume. Despite the laughter that followed, several Sheriffs approached the podium following his speech to get a copy of his resume.



Host Sheriff Pasco County's Lee Cannon (left) and Kim Bogart (far right), executive director of the Florida Corrections Commission, honored retiring St. Lucie County Sheriff Bobby Knowles with a plaque for serving as one of the first Sheriffs to pursue accreditation for the state's county jails.



Hillsborough County Sheriff Cal Henderson offered special congratulations to his local legislator, Rep. Sandra Murman, for earning a Florida Sheriffs Association legislative award.



Citrus County Sheriff Jeff Dawsey (center) and other Sheriffs took time during the three day conference to learn about new law-enforcement technologies and other helpful products and services available to boost their crime-fighting efforts. As usual, the summer conference was well supported with exhibits and sponsorships. More than 90 companies and non-profits participated. Sheriff Dawsey is pictured meeting with representatives of The Character Foundation, a management and leadership training program.



Outgoing Chairman of the Board, Bradford County Sheriff Bob Milner (far right), congratulates Rep. Victor Crist (R-Temple Terrace) and Rep. Sandra Murman (D-Tampa) for receiving FSA legislative awards. Both legislators played key roles in boosting legislation supported by the Florida Sheriffs.

Business gives back: Speedway plays a key role in public safety

By: Gary Davidson
Public Information Officer
Volusia County Sheriff's Office

Law enforcement is always most effective when business, civic and education leaders take an active role in the public safety of their community. It is through these partnerships that local neighborhoods and communities are able to join forces with law enforcement to take a united stand in fighting and preventing crime.

In Volusia County, that partnership is strong and vibrant, due in large part to the corporate support and generosity of Daytona International Speedway (DIS). DIS has a long history of support for law enforcement and public safety in Volusia County and has provided assistance in numerous public safety initiatives.

"The Speedway has been a good, corporate friend to law enforcement," said Volusia County Sheriff Bob Vogel. "They help this community in so many ways that the average citizen never hears about. They do it quietly, without fanfare, and they do it out of a sincere desire to give back to their community and its public safety officers."

Recognizing ongoing efforts

Sheriff Vogel recently presented Daytona International Speedway President John Graham with a plaque in recognition of DIS's many contributions to the community.

"The Sheriff's Office wouldn't have the resources to provide all of the programs and services we offer without corporate partners like Daytona International Speedway," Sheriff Vogel said as he presented the plaque to Graham. "They have earned the thanks of an entire community."

The Speedway was one of the charter members of a unique partnership called the Volusia Sheriff's Youth Foundation. Created in 1994, the non-profit Foundation brings the business community and Sheriff's Office together in a common effort to combat juvenile problems and fund crime-prevention programs and wholesome activities for underprivileged youths. The Speedway provided a generous cash contribution to help launch the Foundation and has had a representative serve as an active member of the Board of Directors ever since.

In the past six years, the Foundation has raised funds that have helped send underprivileged youths to sporting events, on ecological tours and supported school-based programs such as DARE and "Character Counts."



Volusia County Sheriff Bob Vogel (right) recognizes Daytona International Speedway President John Graham for his company's many contributions, including sponsoring fundraising activities, making its road course available for motorcycle training, providing radio communications equipment during special events, and offering assistance in emergencies, such as the wildfires in 1998.

The Speedway has answered many calls for help. In 1998, when wildfires ravaged the county and weary public safety officers worked around-the-clock to protect the community, it was the Speedway that helped feed the workers and keep them on the lines. The same year, the Speedway helped sponsor a Florida Sheriffs Association conference in Daytona Beach.

Additionally, items donated by the Speedway have been a big draw for auctions that have raised thousands of dollars for youth programs, including the West Volusia Police Athletic League. The Speedway also answered the call for help last year by providing funding for educational materials for a highly successful program called "Character Counts"

that teaches positive character traits to young school children. The Volusia Sheriff's Youth Foundation has since taken on the project as one of its primary missions. The Speedway and its employees have also actively supported the Sheriff's Office's 100 Deputies/100 Kids program, which provides back-to-school supplies, holiday gifts and other services to underprivileged youths.

Lending resources

The Speedway often makes its road course available for motorcycle training, furnishes a radio communications system to law enforcement for use during special events and also regularly loans out a variety of equipment, such as radio headsets, traffic cones, temporary light fixtures, trash barrels, uniforms and fencing.

The role of benefactor, youth motivator, corporate sponsor and public safety partner is one that the Speedway relishes. After all, the community has shown a great love and support for the sport of racing. And the Speedway has given much back to the area through its corporate generosity and caring spirit that will yield dividends to Volusia County and its public safety community for years to come.

"Daytona International Speedway has a great appreciation for our local law-enforcement agencies," said DIS's Graham. "The law-enforcement community in the Volusia County area is an integral part of the Speedway family. We are proud and privileged to work with such dedicated, hard-working men and women."

Letters to The Editor

Editor:

I have been reading *The Sheriff's Star* magazine for the last couple of years. However, I don't recall ever seeing any articles referring to the Citizens On Patrol (CoP).

I have been a CoP in Seminole County for the last two years and I would like to know which other counties in the State of Florida has this worthwhile group of volunteer citizens.

TG, via e-mail

Editor replies:

Off and on over the years, we have published brief articles on similar programs which organize citizens to assist Sheriffs' Offices using cell phones and specially designated patrol cars. These are usually within retirement communities. If you have information on CoPs and would like to share it with our readers, we welcome it. We only ask that any story idea have some kind of link to a Sheriff's Office in Florida.

For our other readers: If you are a member of CoPs in another county and would like to network with TG and others, please use my contact information at the bottom of this page and I will pass along TG's e-mail address.

The following e-mail was sent to our Executive Director, Buddy Phillips:

Hi, Buddy. Living in Las Vegas for about three years and I'm still supporting the Sheriff's Association in Florida. Why? I lived in Hernando County for 11 years. I was president of the Hernando County Community Coalition for five years. Sheriff (Tom) Mylander attended about seven of our meetings each year. He cares about the community and everyone knows it. He was on our local radio station many

times talking to people who had something to say. He spoke to every person who called. No screening questions. If there is an award you can give him – it would be appreciated by residents in Hernando County. I believe he may retire this year (?). Thank you for all the good work you're doing in Florida.

BN, via e-mail

Editor replies:

You are correct. Hernando County Sheriff Tom Mylander is retiring this year, which might just be one of the best awards he can get after tirelessly serving four terms. He also gave much to the state when he served as FSA president in 1995. We will miss Sheriff Mylander and his fellow retirees. You can read more about them on page 15.

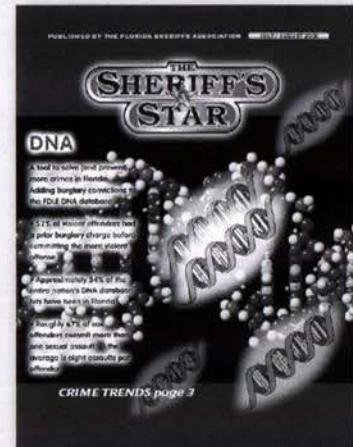
Editor:

I would like to comment on the topic of tobacco. To me, our government is going too far in its involvement in the private lives of the people. The new laws that are put on tobacco should be looked at more and take into consideration people who have used this product for many years.

I will not argue the fact that tobacco is not good for people's health. But there are some exceptions and this is where they should look into what effect this will have on all people – not just on the young people alone.

It is a proven fact that if you tell a kid that they cannot do something, that is when he is going to do it because he or she thinks they are getting away with something.

I have smoked for over 70 years now and have tried to quit smoking, but at this time of my life,



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the stress on my system would do me more harm than good.

I cannot believe so many people have gone along with what the government is doing to the people's freedom. There are so many laws on the books now that on any given day you can not go out of your house and not break the law somewhere.

Most people in this country love it, but our freedom is being jeopardized.

Let the law enforcement be more concerned with other things than tobacco.

GG, Ft. Pierce

HAVE A COMMENT?

If you would like to send a comment, please write:

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P.O. Box 12519, Tallahassee, FL
32317-2519, or e-mail:
jbettinger@flsheriffs.org.

While we are not able to publish every letter, or answer them personally, we will do our best to get your comments represented in these pages. Please write legibly. We reserve the right to edit for space considerations. For privacy reasons, we will only publish the initials and city or county of the writer unless authorization is given.

Deputy Yona Valdez is the FSA Deputy Sheriff of the Year

By Tom Berlinger
Director of Operational Services

Each year for the past decade, we have solicited nominations from each Sheriff across Florida in an effort to find the one person that will be named as the Florida Sheriffs Association Deputy Sheriff of the Year.

As in past years, the field of candidates was wide and varied. We had nominees who worked undercover and made multiple drug arrests, deputies who worked lengthy investigations that came to successful conclusions, and still others who excelled in the areas of DUI and traffic enforcement.

But, there can only be one first-place winner, and this year the screening committee chose Deputy Sheriff Yona Valdez of Manatee County.

A drama begins

The event that earned her the honor began on December 6, at approximately 8:40 a.m. A uniformed Deputy Sheriff had been summoned to a home in the community of Palmetto, located in western Manatee County. Roy Morris, age 39, had shown up unexpectedly at his estranged wife's residence, violating a court order to stay away from her and the home.

Because of the court order, she did not allow him to enter the house. She was forced to call the Sheriff's Office after Morris broke out a window in an attempt to gain forcible entry.

At the time of the call, Morris' wife was extremely afraid. More than once, she had suffered the wrath of her husband's abusive ways. In fact, Morris had been arrested at least three times before for



Manatee County Sheriff Charlie Wells (left) and outgoing FSA President, Bay County Sheriff Guy Tunnel, congratulate Deputy Yona Valdez for her heroic effort saving the life of a fellow deputy. Despite being wounded in her left arm by a suspect who had a gun aimed at the head of Deputy Mike Grimes, she was able to steady her weapon and kill the suspect.

domestic violence, violations of probation and violations of other court injunctions. Each time though, when the deputies arrived, they discovered Morris had fled the scene.

Now armed with probable cause to make an arrest for violation of the domestic violence order, a deputy put out a general call over his radio, notifying other deputies that Morris was now a "wanted" person, and directing them to arrest him on sight.

At about 1:00 in the afternoon the same day, Morris called the Sheriff's office and said he wanted to "discuss the matter" with a deputy. He had returned to the house and discovered that his wife had gone to church and had not returned.

Dangerous territory

Deputies Yona Valdez and Mike Grimes were assigned the call. Each knew before they arrived that they would be taking Morris into custody for both violation of the court order and for the criminal act of breaking out the window.

Upon arrival, the deputies told him he was under arrest. But Morris made it clear that he was not going to be willingly taken into custody.

The suspect began to fight with Deputy Grimes as he tried to handcuff him. As they scuffled on the ground, Morris somehow managed to wrestle Grimes' gun out of his hip holster.

Realizing that Morris had the gun, Deputy Valdez stepped back a few paces.

Seconds later, the suspect pointed the gun directly at Valdez and shot her in the upper left arm.

After the shooting, Morris turned the gun toward Deputy Grimes. Despite Grimes having a tight grip on him, Morris was able to point the gun directly at his head.

Before Morris was able to pull the trigger and shoot Deputy Grimes, Deputy Valdez used her injured left arm and fired her weapon, killing Morris.

There is no doubt that Valdez' courageous act saved the lives of at least two deputies and perhaps other innocent people.

In the months following the incident, Deputy Yona Valdez was named the Manatee County Hundred Club's Law Enforcement Officer of the Year. Last December, she was named Deputy Sheriff of the Year for the Manatee County Sheriff's Office.

And, now, she's the year 2000 Florida Sheriffs Association Deputy Sheriff of the Year.

For her courage, bravery and lifesaving efforts, Deputy Valdez was awarded a handsome plaque, and a check for \$1,000. The presentation was made recently at the annual Florida Sheriffs Association Conference that was held at the Saddlebrook Resort, in south-central Pasco County.

The Runners-up

In addition to the first-place award, the Florida Sheriffs choose runners-up. This year, one of the runners-up awards went to a pair of Lee County Deputy Sheriffs who were involved in a major incident. The other went to a Hillsborough County Deputy Sheriff involved in a third major incident.

Here are their stories.

Lee County Sheriff's Office Deputies Traci Estep and Roger Turner

On November 11 of last year, deputies Traci Estep and Roger Turner were on uniformed patrol in Lee County, several miles south of Fort Myers. They received information from the radio dispatcher that there was a possible violation of a restraining order

between a husband and wife at the Terraverde Condominiums.

When the deputies approached the apartment, Turner, a veteran Deputy Sheriff, told Estep that he had "a bad feeling about the situation."

Standing to the side of the doorway of the apartment, the deputies tried to summon the attention of Lori Potter, wife of the suspect, who had called for law-enforcement assistance. The deputies got a verbal response from Lori, but she would not come out. They could tell from her voice that she was distressed, and they suspected her husband would not let her leave. Despite continued coaxing, she would not leave the apartment.

The deputies were standing adjacent to the doorway, speaking to Lori through a window, when several shots rang out. Bullets had passed through the door, and were so close to Deputy Turner that he received a cut on the face from shrapnel.

The deputies were trying to take cover when another volley of shots erupted. Although in imminent danger, both deputies stood their ground and continued their efforts to try to get Lori safely out of harm's way.

Suddenly, the door opened and Lori appeared, bleeding and disoriented — the apparent victim of gunshot wounds.

Deputy Turner could see the silhouette of a man behind her, still in the apartment. Turner fired two shots at Stephen Potter, the suspect. As the suspect retreated, he fired two more shots. The first one was fired at the deputies, and the second at himself; Potter took his own life.

Stephen Potter had a history of domestic violence and had been arrested for another incident just two weeks earlier. The deputies later learned that Potter had purchased a .40 caliber semi-automatic handgun two days before his arrest. That was the gun used to fire at deputies who were trying to rescue his wife.

Thankfully, because of the work of two brave deputies, Lori Potter survived the horrible ordeal.

Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office Cpl. James Stone

Based on the previous two incidents, you can see that this past year was a bad one for Deputy Sheriffs being involved in

shootouts with suspects. The following case was no exception.

The incident that earns Cpl. Stone the runner-up award occurred on January 11, 1999.

While performing his usual duties, Cpl. Stone heard an alert on his police radio that three suspects had just fled two different armed robberies within the city limits of Tampa. The suspects were riding in what was described as a red Toyota van.

Cpl. Stone decided to station himself in an area that the suspect vehicle was known to frequent and, sure enough, he soon saw the vehicle pulling into a nearby apartment complex. Stone was forced to act more quickly than planned, because he didn't want to lose sight of the suspects.

Seeing Cpl. Stone, the driver of the suspect vehicle bailed out of the van and began shooting at the deputy, striking his vehicle. He then began an aggressive assault, running towards Cpl. Stone and continuing to fire his pistol. Three more shots hit Stone's police cruiser. In the meantime, the other two suspects had jumped out of the van and were fleeing by foot through the apartment complex.

During the gunfire, Cpl. Stone was shot in the abdomen from a round that had ricocheted off the car. He leaned toward the passenger side of his front seat, to take cover, when he saw the suspect approaching his drivers' side window. Fearing that the suspect was about to shoot him again, Cpl. Stone fired back. The suspect faltered and fell to the ground about four feet from Stone's car. He was pronounced dead at the scene, still clutching his gun, which was cocked and ready to fire.

The two other suspects were later captured and taken into custody.

As evidenced by these three incidents, it is obvious that the career of a Deputy Sheriff in Florida can be as dangerous as any law-enforcement job anywhere in America.

We need to be glad that almost 15,000 men and women in Florida wear the badge of a Deputy Sheriff with honor and pride.

The next time you come across one of them, why not stop and thank them for what they do for all of us? You'll not only feel good that you did, you'll probably make their day.



Guard against identity theft

*By Lt. Paul Phillips
District Director,
Florida Crime Prevention Council*

It has been called the crime of the millennium, the bank robbery of the future. It is a rapidly growing form of financial fraud netting criminals an estimated \$2 billion annually.

Identity theft, like a modern-day version of the film classic "Invasion of the Body Snatchers," clones the victim's entire identity—Social Security number, date of birth, home address, account numbers, employment information and driver's license information—and then slowly destroys their life.

These identity imposters have been known to buy homes, automobiles and other property, and obtain new credit cards and bank loans—all in their victim's name.

That's not all. If these thieves have successfully obtained photo identification in the victim's name, like a driver's license or passport, they often present the bogus ID when involved in traffic crashes or worse yet, criminal offenses.

But, most frightening of all, there may be very little victims can do to prevent this brand of fraud from happening to them. They may not even discover the problem until months later when it is probably too late. The entire ordeal has been described as a nightmare.

How the bad dream begins

Often, people unknowingly provide confidential personal information

to thieves simply by discarding unshredded personal records like outdated financial or insurance statements, unwanted pre-approved credit applications or credit card slips.

The World Wide Web is a tool for them, too. The internet is an enormous source of information and is the foundation of e-commerce. Many people transmit credit card account numbers and personal information daily over unsecured lines on the web. And, while practically everything else is for sale on the web—why not personal identity information? It's alleged that this is also for sale in back rooms of certain unethical web site operators.

"Skimming" is a new stealth-like technique of identity theft that electronically picks the pocket of victims by copying the entire data track encoded on the magnetic stripe of a credit card. The data is downloaded into a "skimmer," a small device that is available for purchase over the Internet.

Skimmers are sold inexpensively by a criminal to employees at businesses doing high volume credit-card transactions. The corrupt employee simply swipes the customer's credit card twice, once through the skimmer and then through the store's retail card reader. The devices are very user friendly and hold information on about 200 accounts. When the skimmer is fully loaded, it is sold back to the criminal at a sizable profit. Eventually, the personal account data is deposited into other magnetic stripes on counterfeit credit cards, which are then sold overseas and domestically.

Risky business?

People who commit financial crimes generally do not want to get caught. Many weigh their options and settle into carrying out crimes that pose the highest profit and the least risk to them personally.

Law-enforcement statistics reveal the average take in a bank robbery is about \$2,500. But, with the use of exploding dye packets, video cameras, and employee training, the risk of apprehension and detection can be high. Factor in long prison terms if the suspect is convicted of the crime, and you see that while bank robbery equals a potentially high reward, it also carries a high degree of risk for the bad guy.

Financial fraud, on the other hand, could be considered a low-profile crime. The chances of detection and apprehension is much lower than bank robbery. Many credit card granters write off huge losses annually and do not pursue small fraud cases. For those crooks who are apprehended and convicted of financial crimes, prison sentences tend to be less severe; probably due to the non-violent nature of the crime. The average loss to victims of financial crimes is estimated at \$3,000. So, as far as the bad guy is concerned, financial crime adds up to a potentially high profit prospect with significantly low-risk.

And the loser is...

Victims of identity theft do not know where to go for help. And yet, too often the burden of proof falls squarely on them. They must prove it was not really them who broke the law.

Many victims describe the identity theft nightmare as overwhelming—one involving out-of-pocket expenses totaling thousands of dollars. They tell of hundreds of hours of personal time spent compiling documents and writing multiple letters in a seemingly endless attempt

continued on page 19

E-Commerce and Internet Crime: The Major Issues

Economic Crime Moving @ Internet Speed Conference Review

By: Jon Huntress
www.Year2000.com

Brick and mortar businesses have spent decades identifying and reducing their vulnerabilities to theft. They have in-store cameras and security personnel and they know what kind of person to watch when they come in the store. In the eighties the systems used to mitigate risk were the three G's: gates, guns and guards. In the nineties it was risk avoidance, and for now and the next century it will be risk management. There is a whole new set of rules when businesses go online, and the old systems don't work at all because there is a new breed of criminal out there; he is a virtual criminal, and he could be living anywhere in the world.

Right now most of the crime on the net breaks down into four categories. The most common is fraud and it is happening mostly on the auction sites and retail sales. The next most common category are investment schemes using securities, work at home "opportunities" and Ponzi schemes, where the first investors get a high rate of return on their investment very quickly because they are paid with the money from investors who come in later. Everyone who comes in later loses. The next category is software piracy with present losses estimated at \$11 billion. Experts estimate that 90 percent of the software for sale on auction sites is pirated. The last category is extortion. ("Pay me money or I will take down your web site!") Hackers can mess up a site and embarrass the company or agency. "Hackers" are people who just try to get into another computer for the challenge. A "cracker" does the same thing but for financial gain.

Same crime, new medium – the Internet

All the old scams and schemes work on the Internet and new ways to take advantage of businesses are discovered everyday. One recent example was when someone in a travel office found that you could continue to book tickets on an airplane for a few minutes

after the plane left the gate. Because the airplane had gone, the tickets did not have to be paid for and were cancelled. So what is the profit here? The person who booked the flight got to keep the frequent flyer miles!

Perpetrator and victim identification are both more difficult on the Internet. Subjects appear and disappear at will. For the cybercriminal, the net offers a fast and inexpensive way of making money. With a

little work, the crooks can have as impressive a facade as a major institution, in fact, they can borrow large pieces of other web sites. One guy created a very realistic copy of a Bloomberg news page with a bogus article praising a company in order to inflate the price of the stock. He was caught, but the anonymity, speed and volume of transactions on the

net make detection difficult. At the present time, even the victims want to stay anonymous because most businesses which have been attacked are afraid to report the crime. They think if word got out about their computer vulnerabilities it would hurt their business, and they are probably right.

For businesses, the old systems don't work, because there is a new breed of criminal out there: The virtual criminal

Crime fighting goes high tech

There are many challenges for law enforcement in the area of Internet crime. The first is that crimes can be committed from any location in the world, which means nations must agree on venue, enforcement and extradition to a greater degree than ever before. The second is that problems here are highly technical and to even stay on the playing field, law enforcement agencies must become early adopters of technology at the local, county, state, federal and international levels. We need some new cyber cops from the precinct level on up and we need them now.

Policy changes are needed. Some police departments require rotation of officers from burglary to homicide and so on in order to be promoted. Under this policy the computer cop would have to quit working on cybercrime cases in order to get a raise. It is hard enough for any level of government to keep their technical people anyway because the computer jobs are in demand. They know they can get a new job in ten minutes just by posting their resume on the web.

For more on this topic and other technology-related issues, you may subscribe to the free weekly newsletter, "Beyond Year 2000" by visiting the web site: <http://www.year2000.com/>.

Her pennies (and nickels and dimes and dollars) are protecting our four-legged friends in law enforcement

By: Julie S. Bettinger

This year, Stacey Hillman has been one busy 10-year-old. As president of her own non-profit corporation, she managed to raise more than \$16,000 — and it's all going to the dogs. The police and Sheriffs' office K-9 officers, that is.

This home-schooled youngster has two German Shepherds of her own, and was roused into action after reading about another young girl in California who was raising money to buy bullet proof vests for law enforcement K-9 units.

Determined to do something about the plight of police dogs closer to home, she visited the Casselberry Police Department (near Orlando) and met with Chief Marty LaBrusciano. She confidently handed him her business card with the new business name, "Pennies to Protect Police Dogs," and asked him to be her vice president.

This youngster means business

Spend one minute in her presence and you'll quickly learn that it's difficult to resist the bespectacled eyes and toothy smile of Stacey Hillman. So, not only did the police chief accept her offer, he called a lawyer friend and helped her become incorporated.

Stacey was soon ready to crack the county. She called Seminole County

Sheriff Don Eslinger and told him about her plan to raise money to buy bullet proof vests for K-9s. Sheriff Eslinger introduced Stacey to K-9 handler, Deputy Chris Fannin, whom she managed to recruit as her other vice president.

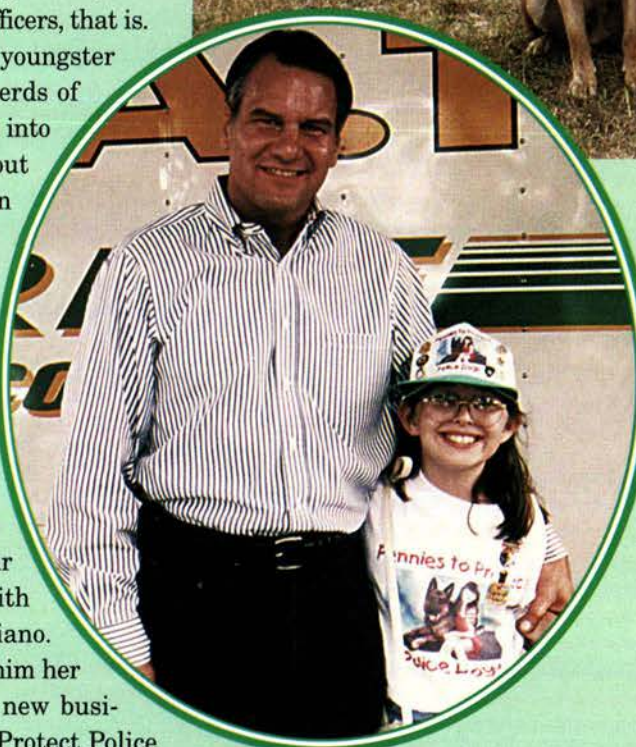
Once she had everything in place, it was time to learn more about the business, so Stacey started asking about the best protection for police dogs. Seminole County Deputy Kevin Wilkinson told her about the Second

Stacey Hillman, founder and president of Pennies to Protect Police Dogs, has two German Shepherds of her own and seems to make friends easily with the K-9s in law enforcement. She recently visited with Brevard County Sheriff Phil Williams and posed for a photo with K-9 officer Bence.

Between home school assignments, Stacey Hillman travels the state to visit with Sheriffs and their K-9 units. Though the project just got off the ground in March, she has already managed to raise enough money to buy 23 vests at an approximate cost of \$700 each. She recently visited with Seminole County Sheriff Don Eslinger.

Chance K-9 vest. Stacey and her mother, Jackie Moore, inquired about the vests through the Law Enforcement Supply Company in Panama City. Once they had determined that this was the best vest on the market, they convinced the company to give them a reduced price on the Level IIA bullet-proof, cut proof and stab resistant K-9 body armor. The vest is said to be lighter and more flexible, while still being effective.

It's pricey — about \$700, but Stacey says, "That's the best, and police dogs deserve only the best."



Collection points

Stacey started decorating milk bottles with her company's name and distributed them first to veterinarian offices and pet shops, then to other businesses. The bottles feature a picture of Stacey with Deputy Fannin's K-9, *Ciro*. As she learned more about the job of K-9 officers in her written correspondence, phone calls and visits, the word began to spread. She soon started getting requests from agencies seeking help in purchasing vests for their K-9s.

Stacey added several more law-enforcement officers to her board, including: Apopka Police Department Commander Rock Galloway, K-9 handler Officer Paul Rehn and Casselberry's K-9 handler, Officer Jim Goodman. Seminole County Sheriff's Office webmaster Pete Robinson offered to set up a web site for her (www.penniestoprotectpolicedogs.org) and arranged for services to be donated.

Stacey, with the help of her mother, visits the collection points about once a week. She sorts and rolls the coins and wraps the bills before depositing the money into her SunTrust corporate account. Stacey says she averages about \$200 a week, but special events "bring a whole lot more."

A sophisticated young business executive, Stacey has managed to make donating to her cause easier than seeking out a milk bottle in her town. She takes donations through Visa or Mastercard from her web site.

Businesses have been a big help, she says. Her largest corporate donor to date is Charles Schwab in Maitland, which has given her \$5,000 and continues to collect for her cause.



Though the vests are pricey – about \$700 each — Stacey says, "That's the best, and police dogs deserve only the best."

Seminole County Deputy Chris Fannin volunteered to serve as vice president of Pennies to Protect Police Dogs. He's pictured here with his partner, K-9 officer *Ciro*, and the company's founder, Stacey Hillman.

Stacey has purchased 23 K-9 vests for law enforcement agencies from Okaloosa to Orange County and beyond. Her goal is to put every police dog in Florida in a protective vest and eventually every police dog in the U.S.

Lessons along the way

Over the past seven months since she started, Stacey says one of the most important lessons she's learned has nothing to do with reading, writing or arithmetic. It's the art of persuasion while public speaking.

She has spoken at several Rotary Club meetings, the Maitland's Men's Club and even the state Fraternal Order of Police conference in Tampa. And she always manages to leave with a bottle full of dollars and coins, along with verbal commitments of support.

If you live in Florida, chances are you've seen an article or two about Stacey Hillman and possibly a picture.

She has carried out a very sophisticated promotional campaign and holds press conferences whenever she helps a K-9 to get a new vest. Her letterhead is fittingly designed in a long-hand style typeface and usually features a color photograph of Stacey with a K-9.

Though the dogs can look ferocious, Stacey seems totally at ease standing next to them. "I've always loved animals and especially dogs," she says.

With the publicity has come a large wave of requests from agencies – so how does Stacey decide who gets priority?

"I talk to my board of directors, and they decide," she says.

To contact Pennies to Protect Police Dogs, write to Stacey Hillman, president, 508 Zinnia Drive, Casselberry, FL 32707, or e-mail: jrs7@aol.com, or phone 407-834-9668.

Markers a lifesaver for beachcombers

By: *Damian Housman*
Publications Coordinator
Collier County Sheriff's Office

Things have just become a little safer along the beaches of Collier County, thanks to a Community Oriented Policing project. On August 10, the first of 41 beach marker signs was dedicated in a ceremony on the beach off Vanderbilt Beach Road near the Ritz Carlton resort. Now, visitors with a problem are able to give their exact location to dispatchers when they need help in an emergency.

The beach marker project has its genesis in an unfortunate incident that occurred about two years ago. A regular beach jogger was running through a rural area of Pelican Bay where he collapsed. A citizen happened to find the victim and called for help. The helpful citizen tried his best to give directions, but he wasn't clear about his exact location. He knew he was north of Clam Pass and south of the Ritz Carlton. Unfortunately, that encompasses about four miles of territory. Emergency Medical Services located the man after driving to a beach area and traveling on foot about three-quarters of a mile while carrying heavy equipment. It was too late.

An impetus for change

To North Naples COPS deputies Cpl. Ernie Gangl and Dep. Scott Propper, this incident pointed out the potential for tragedy anywhere along Collier County beaches. Not only could it happen again, it likely would – and probably more than once. Not even long-time residents know where on the beach they are at all times. Getting help to someone quickly is hit or miss without easily identifiable landmarks.

Corporal Gangl and Deputy Propper devised a plan to allow people to have a reference point they could give to the dispatcher when calling for help. Using a series of numbered markers, clearly visible on the beach, dispatchers would be able to send law enforcement, fire, or ambulance assistance to the precise place it was needed. An experimental project in 1998 was set up in Pelican Bay, and the



At the dedication ceremony to introduce the beach markers are (from left): Sheriff's Corporal Ernie Gangl, COPS Deputy for North Naples and the leader for the beach marker program in North Naples; Collier County Sheriff Don Hunter; North Naples Fire Chief James Tobin; and Collier County Emergency Services Administrator Tom Storrar. Until this year, Storrar was a Sheriff's captain in charge of the Community Services Division.

Pelican Bay community paid for the original markers. The beach markers were successful and help was indeed sent to where it was needed. But Collier County has a lot of beach, and only a small percentage of it is in Pelican Bay.

Once the results of the initial test were in, Sheriff Don Hunter directed that new signs be placed along beaches from the Lee County line, south to the Naples city limit. It had become obvious that the markers were not just a good idea, they were a matter of public safety. The markers would bring help more quickly to those suffering medical emergencies and provide a marker for lost children or distressed boaters.

On August 10, Sheriff Hunter was joined by North Naples Fire Chief James Tobin and Collier County Emergency Services administrator (and former Sheriff's captain) Tom Storrar at the beach turnaround at the end of Vanderbilt Beach Road. Together they dedicated the first marker. Soon all the markers were in place.

"The project was a combined effort, paid for by the Sheriff's Office and the North Naples Fire Department," said Corporal Gangl. The total cost of the project was \$3,772 – split evenly between the Sheriff's Office and Fire Department, he said.

The new markers are different from the original experimental markers, which were small – about the size of a piece of writing paper. The new markers are much larger – two feet on each side – and can be seen from much farther away. They are also reflective. That way, if a

boater finds himself in need of assistance, he can shine a light toward shore and easily pick out the beach marker, to call in his location. Searching for a missing boater at night can be time consuming, difficult and resource intensive. If a boater can call in his exact location to dispatchers, the time lost waiting to be found is vastly reduced.

Spurring greater change

On the dispatch end, when a caller gives the code number of a beach marker, the Computer Aided Dispatch system displays the location. It even gives the global positioning system coordinates. There are 41 signs at 1,000-foot intervals along North Naples beaches, numbered R1 to R41. That code number is all the dispatcher needs.

The city of Naples will soon place the markers along their beaches, using the same spacing and numbering system that was used through North Naples.

On Marco Island, COPS Cpl. Dave Donzanti took on the beach marker project for District 6. As of today, all 21 markers have been placed, running from Hideaway Beach to the southern end of South Beach, near Cape Marco.

"We invited the city of Marco to go in as partners with us," Corporal Donzanti said. "They shared the cost." A total of \$1,500 was spent on the markers for Marco Island.

Now that the new markers are in place, deputies are looking for other sites where they might be useful. In coordination with the Sheriff's Marine Patrol, the Everglades City area is now being looked at for additional markers.



Sheriff Charlie Croft
Osceola County



Sheriff Geoff Monge
Sarasota County
FSA president 1996



Sheriff Dewey Hatcher
Dixie County

A salute to our retiring Sheriffs

It was a bittersweet moment at the FSA Year 2000 Annual Summer Conference. A distinguished group of nine retiring Sheriffs, accompanied by their wives, gathered in front of a room full of banquet attendees and received a standing ovation from the audience honoring their service.

Bay County Sheriff Guy Tunnell, past president of FSA, and his wife, Patty, spoke to each Sheriff individually and gave out roses to their wives as FSA executive director Buddy Phillips read their biographies of service.

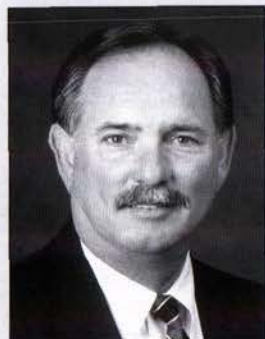
And what service it has been. This year's retiring group of Sheriffs represent 217 years of law-enforcement experience.

Included in the group are three men who not only positively affected the lives of the citizens in their respective counties, but managed to influence the direction of law enforcement statewide by serving as the Florida Sheriffs Association president. Many also served multiple terms on the FSA board of directors.

One of our two "Dean of Sheriffs" – those who have held the office longest – was also among the retirees.

To our retiring Sheriffs: We will surely miss you. Thank you for what you have done for the citizens of your county and for helping to make Florida a safer state.

And to your wives: Thank you for providing the behind-the-scenes support and being, as the song goes, "the wind beneath their wings."



Sheriff Bobby Knowles
St. Lucie County
FSA president, 1992



Sheriff Tom Mylander
Hernando County
FSA president, 1995



Sheriff Joe Peavy
Madison County
Dean of Sheriffs



Sheriff Ed Miller
Okeechobee County



Sheriff Bob Vogel
Volusia County

FLORIDA SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION

HONOR ROLL



Ernesto Triay



This honor roll gives special recognition to individuals who have demonstrated their commitment to progressive law enforcement by supporting the Florida Sheriffs Association as honorary members for 25 years or more. Many progressive business leaders are supporting the Florida Sheriffs Association and its anti-crime activities by enrolling as Business Members of the Association and becoming "partners against crime." The Florida Sheriffs recognizes those businesses that are making a difference in their communities. Gold members commit \$500 annually, Silver members \$250 and Bronze members \$50 annually.



Capt. and Mrs. C.W. West

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY - 30-year certificate presented by Hillsborough County Sheriff Cal Henderson to Ernesto Triay, Capt. and Mrs. C.W. West and Richard Stickie.



Richard Stickie



HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY - 25-year certificate presented by Hillsborough County Sheriff Cal Henderson to Benjamin Frazier.



MARION COUNTY - 25-year certificate presented by Marion County Sheriff Ed Dean to Mr. & Mrs. John Brezee.



BAY COUNTY - 25-year certificate presented by Bay County Sheriff Guy M. Tunnell to James P. Rider.

Drowsy driving: the facts

While many of us understand the dangers of drinking and driving, how many stop to consider the risks associated with driving after not getting enough rest?

According to the U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), approximately 100,000 police-reported crashes each year involve drowsiness or fatigue as a principal cause.

Often times, crashes occur on the highways because people have a tendency to fall asleep on high-speed, long and boring drives. These people are often times frequent travelers who are sleep-deprived or fatigued. They drive long distances without rest breaks, drive through the night or early afternoon when people tend to be the sleepest, and they are alone.

A recent report compiled by the National Center on Sleep Disorders Research (NCSDR) and NHTSA shows that there are three population groups at the highest risk for drowsy driving:

- Young people (ages 16 to 29), especially males
- Shift workers whose sleep is disrupted by night work or long, irregular work hours
- People with untreated sleep apnea syndrome or narcolepsy

Young adolescents have developed social lifestyles and employment practices that deprive them of enough sleep - thus putting themselves at greater

risk. Sleep deprivation leads to sleep "debt," and unfortunately many of us never fully pay off the debt.

While some people are minimally affected by sleep deprivation, others are profoundly affected. It is often difficult to maintain alertness when driving sleepy because we actually may fluctuate in and out of a sleep state.

You may think you're awake - but you're not.

Driving with the window down, playing and singing music loudly, consuming caffeine and talking with a friend are all useless methods when the body's biological batteries are running low.

You should know you're in danger when 1) your eyes close or go out of focus, 2) you have trouble keeping your head up, 3) you can't stop yawning, 4) you don't remember driving the last few miles, and 5) you keep jerking the car back into the lane.

Taking 15 to 20 minute naps while traveling may be helpful. However, the only way to prevent drowsy driving is to get enough sleep on a regular basis.

Reprinted with permission from the Partners for Highway Safety Foundation, www.trafficsafety.net. Information provided by Dr. David Huang of Tallahassee Pulmonary Clinic.

FLORIDA SHERIFFS YOUTH RANCHES

HONOR ROLL



Honorary Member receives a plaque, a lifetime identification card and lifetime subscriptions to *The Sheriff's Star* and *The Rancher*. Those whose gifts total over \$5,000 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.



HERNANDO COUNTY – Presented by Hernando County Sheriff Tom Mylander to Mabel W. McAfee in memory of her husband, Ellsworth J. McAfee, II.

New Lifetime Honorary Members

American Legion Post #284 –
Bellevue

Mr. Thomas A. Ames
Mr. James W. Andrews
Anich Industries, Inc.
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Armstrong
Mr. and Mrs. Richard L. Bates
Mrs. John H. Beggs
Mr. and Mrs. William J. Bendle
Mr. and Mrs. John Bond, Jr.
Mr. Richard E. Brasington
Mr. and Mrs. John R. Brooks
Mr. and Mrs. Wesley T. Buck
Mrs. Velma Burke
Mr. Phillip H. Caspary
Mrs. Janet Cospier
Daniell Family Foundation, Inc.
Mr. and Mrs. Dennis J. Deery
Mr. R. P. Dortch, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Joe Fallenstein
Mr. Tim Fitzgerald
Capt. and Mrs. James Frankum
Mr. and Mrs. Jerome D. Freedman
Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Fresh
Mr. William C. Furst, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Armand M. Haas
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur J. Hailfinger
Harcourt School Publishers
Mr. and Mrs. Randy J. Harrison
Ms. Katherine B. Hilburn
Mrs. Margaret Hosie
Mr. and Mrs. Albert M. Johnson
Mr. Amis W. Kelly, Jr.
Mrs. Margaret N. King
Mr. Larry R. Lancaster
Mr. C. E. Langston
Mr. and Mrs. Lee R. Ledbetter
Mr. Ronald G. Logan
Mr. and Mrs. Robert P. Marler
Mr. Ben Martin
Mr. and Mrs. John E. Meakins
Miller's Boating Center
Mills Well Drilling

Mr. Joseph V. Montoro, Sr.
Mr. and Mrs. Graham Murray, Jr.
Oakley, Inc.
Mrs. Sadie Passi
Mr. and Mrs. Perry A. Perkes
Mr. and Mrs. Donald E. Piersol
Mr. and Mrs. Donald G. Pratt
Mrs. Beverly Richardson
Mrs. Wanda Rondy
Mr. Thomas F. Ryan
Mr. and Mrs. Harry Shuler
Mr. Arnold Smith
Ms. Charlotte R. Smith
Mr. and Mrs. Morris L. Smith
Sprint Southern Operations – Ocala
State of Florida Dept. of Labor –
Tallahassee
T. R. & R. Partnership
Mr. and Mrs. Harry Taylor
Mr. Charles E. Thornhill
Mrs. Aida Vascimini
Vera Cash Foundation, Inc.
Volunteers of New Port Richey
Hospital, Inc.
Mr. Karl Wacker
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Wafendowski
Mrs. Mildred B. Whitman
Mr. and Mrs. John V. Wilson
Mrs. Ruth B. Wilson
Mr. and Mrs. John Wines



DUVAL COUNTY – Presented by Youth Ranches' President Emeritus, Harry K. Weaver, to Mr. & Mrs. Ira Blue.



Ruth Livezey



Maceo Howell

HAMILTON COUNTY – Presented by Hamilton County Sheriff Harrell Reid to Ruth Livezey and Maceo Howell.



DESOTO COUNTY – Presented by DeSoto County Sheriff Vernon Keen to Robert L. Summerall, Jr. vice president of Louis R. & Gertrude Morgan Foundation.



LEE COUNTY – Presented by Youth Ranches' staff to John Naylor (left), manager, and John R. Van Duyn, chairman of the board district III director of Best Western Pink Shell Resort.



MARION COUNTY – Presented by Marion County Sheriff Ed Dean to Mr. & Mrs. John Kostnik and Mrs. Roman L. Eyerman.



COLUMBIA COUNTY – Presented by Columbia County Sheriff Frank Owens to John Firolli.



BROWARD COUNTY – Presented by Youth Ranches' staff to Audrey Howell.



Mr. & Mrs. Bryce Stiller



Mr. & Mrs. Norman G. Clothier



Mrs. Charles Leppla



Vivian Shaw



Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Clark

MARTIN COUNTY - Presented by Martin County Sheriff Bob Crowder to Mr. & Mrs. Bryce Stiller, Mr. & Mrs. Norman G. Clothier, Mrs. Charles Leppla, Vivian Shaw, Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Clark, Mr. & Mrs. William Gentzlinger and Ed Outgalt of the BPOE Elks Lodge #1870



Mr. & Mrs. William Gentzlinger



Ed Outgalt



James A. Hibbard



Luzona M. Barnett



Grace Martin

SUWANNEE COUNTY - Presented by Suwannee County Sheriff Al Williams to James A. Hibbard, Luzona M. Barnett, Grace Martin (on behalf of her husband, Curtis), Kim Hammock, Luther Butler, Sr., Nancy D. Janovsek, Clara Taylor, Bill and Bernice Fife, Dena Parker, Johnny L. Read, Cheryl Riley, Mr. & Mrs. Jack L. Gaylord and Tami Robinson of Crystal's Consignment Shop.



Kim Hammock



Luther Butler, Sr.



Nancy D. Janovsek



Clara Taylor



Bill and Bernice Fife



Dena Parker



Johnny L. Read



Cheryl Riley



Mr. & Mrs. Jack L. Gaylord



Tami Robinson



CLAY COUNTY - Presented by Clay County Sheriff Scott Lancaster (far right) and Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches development officer David Kritzmacher to Rose Jarosz, in memory of her husband, Clay County Sheriff's Office Sgt. Paul Jarosz who died of cancer in January.



Jim Sewell



Michael Boland

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY - Presented by Hillsborough County Sheriff Cal Henderson to Jim Sewell, Regional Director on behalf of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement Tampa office, Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office Sgt. Michael Boland, and Ronald A. Ouellette.



Ronald A. Ouellette

Attention Members:

Are you moving south for the winter? Please send us . . .

. . . your new address so that you'll continued to receive *The Sheriff's Star*. And please remember to let us know again when moving out of Florida.

We don't want to lose you as a valuable member, but if your address has been changed, you may not be receiving your FSA mailings.

Please take a moment to check the mailing label on the back cover of this magazine. If your address is different in any way, let us know. Just cut out the current

label, paste it on the outline below, then write your new address next to it and return it to:

The Florida Sheriffs Association
P.O. Box 12519
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Guard against Identity Theft

continued from page 10

to rectify ruined reputations and credit ratings.

A pound of prevention...

Awareness is the key to prevention. Investigators of financial crimes, fraud victims and crime prevention practitioners suggest the following preventative measures to guard against credit card fraud and identity theft:

Protect Personal Identification Numbers, or PINs, from unauthorized access. A PIN is a confidential code that allows access to your account. Memorize it, secure it and do not give it to anyone—not even family members or bank employees.

Treat your debit or ATM access card as though it were cash. Never provide confidential access codes to anyone—especially over the telephone.

Invest in a cross-cut type paper shredder. Shred all outdated or unwanted documents such as expired vehicle registration slips, tax records, pre-approved credit applications, statements of investments, invoices, receipts, etc., prior to disposal.

Mail theft is common. Have new checks delivered to your bank, not to your home address. Do not put payments by personal check in your home mailbox. Drop them off at a mail drop or the U.S. Post Office. It's easy to change the name of the recipient and the amount payable on the check with an acid wash.

Don't have your telephone number or Social Security number printed on personal bank checks. They are not required identifiers.

Don't write account numbers on the outside of envelopes.

Do not needlessly carry identifiers, such as a birth certificate, Social Security card, or passport. Keep such documents in secure storage.

Never give personal information over the telephone unless you are absolutely sure that you know the person you are dealing with is reliable.

Do not put a credit card account number on the Internet, unless it is encrypted on a secured site.

Monitor bank statements, loan invoices and credit card bills monthly. Validate each transaction and credit card pur-

chase. Question unknown transactions immediately.

Order a credit report at least twice a year. Review it carefully. If you see anything that appears fraudulent, immediately put a fraud alert on your report.

Check the Internet for other sources providing credit card fraud prevention tips by typing "credit card fraud" into the search engine.

Guard your finances and good credit reputation carefully. Having a plan of action when using electronic transaction cards will increase the odds of keeping control of your identity and your money.

Lt. Paul Phillips is a Florida Crime Prevention Practitioner with the Leon County Sheriff's Office in Tallahassee, Florida. Visit the LCSO web site at: <http://lcs.leonfl.org> and the Florida Crime Prevention Association site at: <http://www.floridacrimeprevention.org>

FSA photo clips



Florida Senate President Toni Jennings proved in her two-year term that she is a friend of law enforcement and public safety. To recognize her contributions and leadership, the Florida Sheriffs Association presented her with the Distinguished Service Medal – one of the highest honors that can be given to a civilian.

Brevard County Sheriff Phil Williams (left) and Orange County Sheriff Kevin Beary presented the award to Jennings at the end of the 2000 legislative session. (Photo by Robert Hartley Photography Winter Park).



Each spring, the Fraternal Order of Police hold a somber and formal ceremony at the state Capitol to honor the fallen heroes of the previous year: The men and women who have lost their lives while serving as law-enforcement officers. Up until now, there has been no permanent memorial to the more than 100 Florida law-enforcement officers killed in the line of duty while protecting our public safety. The Florida Sheriffs Association has dedicated part of its property to build such a memorial. While the artwork and designs are in their early stages, we hope to be proposing a plan to begin constructing the memorial in the coming year.



This hot looking DARE car sizzled the competition and brought home the gold for the Seminole County Sheriff's Office. Deputy Carl Tipton took top honors at the International Police Olympics for his DARE car entry in the Car and Patch competition. The car is a Chevy Camaro convertible that has been customized with DARE logos. Bill Heard Chevrolet donated it earlier this year to the Seminole County Sheriff's Office for use in area schools. DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) is a 17-week elementary school program which educates students about the dangers of drugs and alcohol abuse. Deputy Tipton plans on using the vehicle to impress upon students that they can have nice things by working hard and not turning to illegal activities.