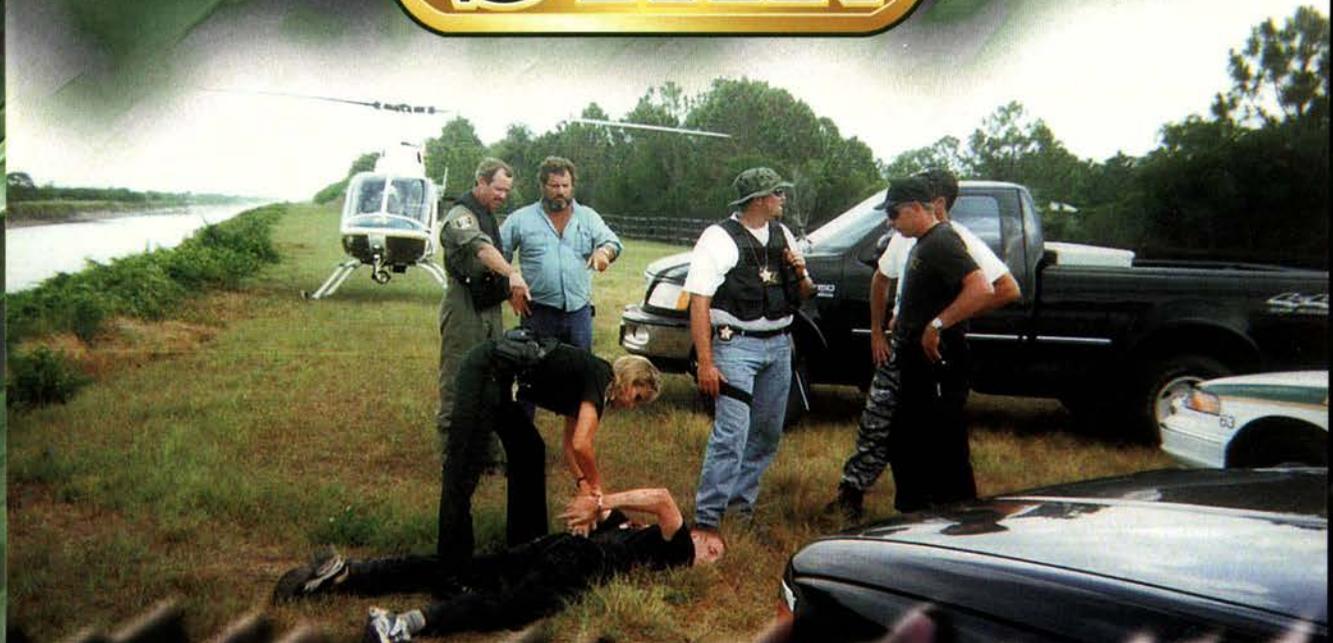


# THE SHERIFF'S STAR



**A dramatic account of  
the helicopter escape in  
Martin County.**

*See page 4*





## From the desk . . .

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

**F**or most of us, the holidays are a time of joy and family gatherings. But for those who have lost a loved one, it can also be a time of great sadness.

This year, your Florida Sheriffs have been reflecting on the losses of their own: the 100-plus men and women who have died while serving the Office of Sheriff. The Board of Directors of the Florida Sheriffs Association have mobilized to create a permanent memorial wall with the names of those officers engraved on it — much like the Vietnam Memorial in Washington.

We found the perfect spot in the shade of a huge Live Oak tree, behind the FSA building in Tallahassee.

It just happens that one of the nation's most talented sculptors resides in the capital city. Sandy Proctor, whose work appears outside the Governor's mansion and in prominent locations throughout the world, has designed a combination of figures to sit facing the memorial. We have included a draft rendering of the sculpture on this page. The final design will consist of a woman and child sitting on a bench with an officer representing her husband's partner, another two officers — one male and one female — standing behind them

and another figure to represent the Sheriff. You'll note that Proctor's proposed design has managed to capture the diversity that makes up today's law-enforcement organizations.

Though the design is done, to make this law-enforcement memorial a reality, we are going to need your help.

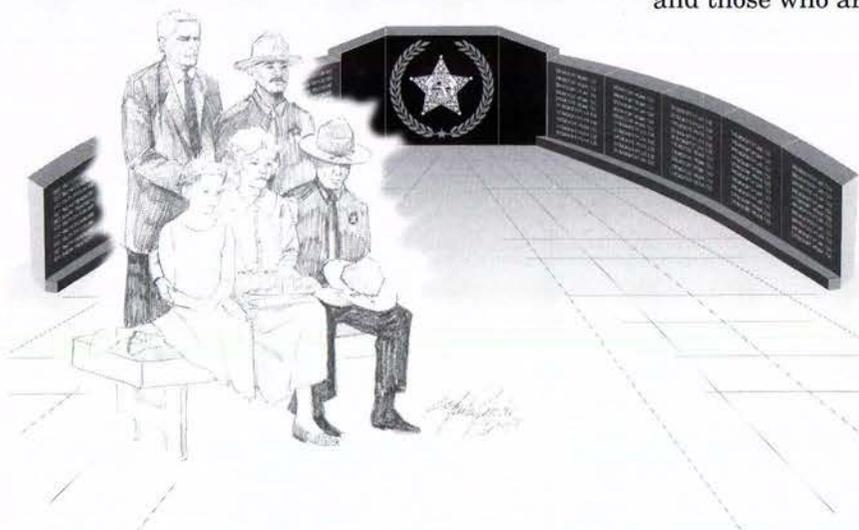
As you know, FSA has a set operating budget that goes right into programs that enhance law enforcement in all counties throughout the state. Any special projects, such as the Florida Sheriffs Law Enforcement Memorial, must be funded separately.

You will soon be receiving a letter giving you more information about this project. We hope you will agree with the Florida Sheriffs that this is a worthy cause. And we hope you will find it in your heart to support it.

### *Saying goodbye*

The elections are always a bittersweet time for the staff at the Florida Sheriffs Association. We know that the will of the voters might mean that we have to say goodbye to some of our longtime Sheriffs. At the same time, of course, we have the opportunity to meet new Sheriffs — and we look forward to getting to know them over the next four years.

We have included a list of the new Sheriffs, and those who are leaving, on page 12.



*Buddy*

J. M. "Buddy" Phillips  
Executive Director



## Stolen Property Information Available on the Internet

**T**hanks to a combined effort between the Florida Sheriffs Association, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Florida Police Chiefs Association and local law-enforcement agencies, anyone with access to the Internet can help law enforcement locate stolen property, wanted persons and missing persons.

And thanks to this new service, called the Florida Crime Information Center Public Access System, people who have had items stolen will have a better chance of recovering them.

The Public Access System, also called "hot files," initially included only records of stolen guns, vehicles, vehicle parts, license plates, boats and boat parts. Records containing stolen appliances, televi-

sions, stereos and other articles with serial numbers were added in November. Wanted and missing person files are expected to be available by year end.

### *Cutting the cost of crime*

The losses suffered by Floridians who were victims of crimes exceeded \$745 million in the first half of the year 2000 alone. Unfortunately, despite the best efforts of law-enforcement officers, less than a third of this property is recovered. The FCIC Public Access System will allow the public to become more actively involved in these recovery efforts.

In the system, a citizen can query the Internet to determine whether an item has been listed as stolen. Citizens can then provide tips to law enforcement and assist them in com-

bating the sale and distribution of stolen property and promote the arrest of criminals.

Persons looking to buy used guns, vehicles or other property will now have a tool to check whether the item is stolen. If an Internet inquiry results in a "hit," FDLE asks the inquirer to send tips to the local law-enforcement agency that entered the stolen item's information. Citizens should not attempt to take the law into their own hands, but rather become more active partners with local law enforcement. It is anticipated that tips from the public will result in stolen items being recovered and returned to their rightful owners and will assist in the arrest of the offenders.

Collectively, all law enforcement agencies in Florida have agreed to allow FDLE to provide these records to the public via the Internet. These are not FDLE records, however, FDLE acts as a central repository for FCIC records. Currently, FCIC contains more than 150,000 records of stolen guns, and approximately 74,000 records of stolen vehicles. These property types represent a significant portion of the property reported stolen in Florida. In the first half of this year, nearly 10 percent of reported crimes involved the theft of a motor vehicle, while stolen firearms accounted for losses in excess of \$2.5 million. These stolen guns are often used to further victimize the citizens of this state.

Florida is the first state in the country to offer this type of information on a statewide basis over the Internet.

Visit the FDLE web site:  
[www.fdle.state.fl.us](http://www.fdle.state.fl.us), for more information. Or access the system directly: <http://pas.fdle.state.fl.us/>.  
You may also send an e-mail to:  
[publicaccess@fdle.state.fl.us](mailto:publicaccess@fdle.state.fl.us)



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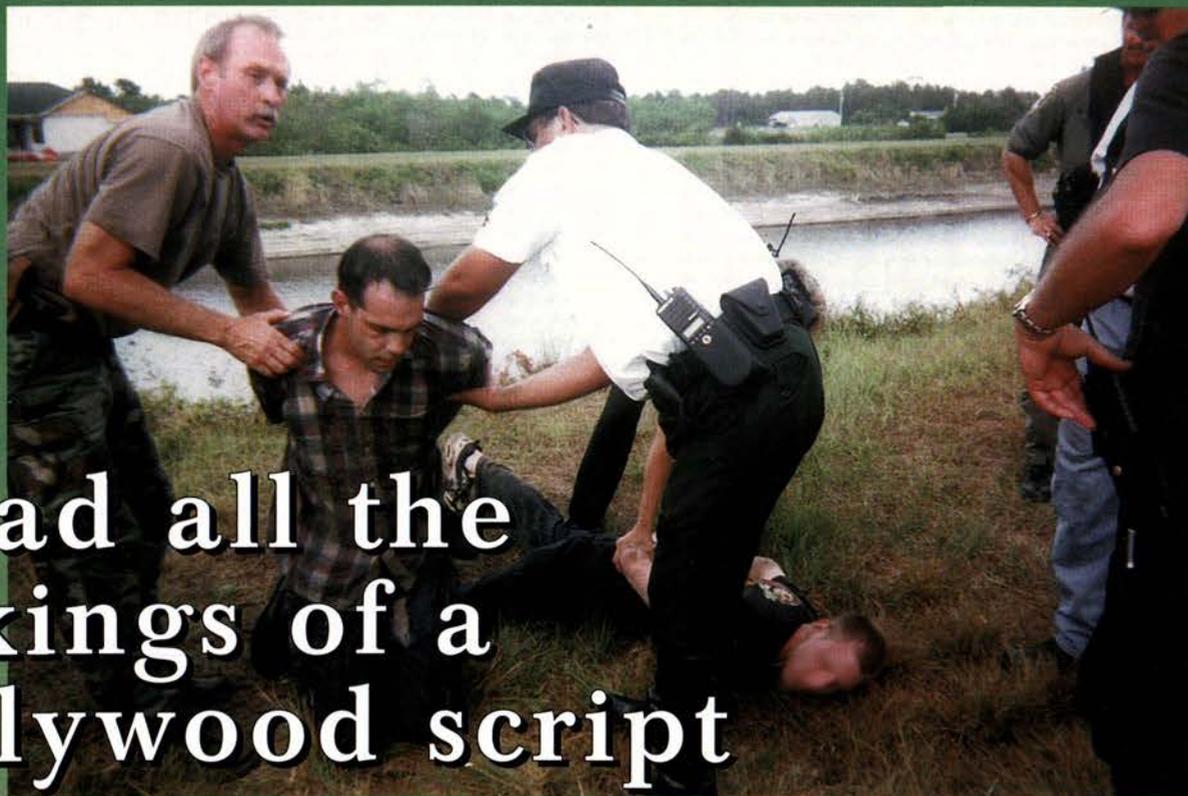
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Martin County Sheriff's Office Detective Bill Pakonis (left) and Deputy Charles Rowe (right) check the cuffs of convicted child molester, Steven Whitsett, following his escape from a sexual offender treatment facility via helicopter. Twenty three year old Clifford Burkhart, pilot of aircraft, lays on the ground. Photo by Jason Nuttle, Stuart News



# It had all the makings of a Hollywood script

By: Martin County Deputy Jenell Atlas,  
Public Information Officer  
Martin County Sheriff's Office

*This is out of a Hollywood script, isn't it? This guy lands a helicopter inside a prison gate in broad daylight. Another guy runs out to meet him. The copter takes off and it looks like they're actually going to get away. Then the helicopter crashes.*

*The world could hardly believe the story was real. But it was, and it happened in Martin County, Florida. This is a true life drama of an escape by a convicted child molester with the assistance of a barely trained helicopter pilot as told by Martin County Deputy Jenell Atlas.*



The author, Deputy Jenell Atlas, Martin County Sheriff's Office Media Relations Officer

**Monday, June 5, 1:00 p.m.** The 9-1-1 call came in as a helicopter crash at the prison. I had just finished an early lunch, which turned out to be a good thing since it would be the last real food I had for 36 hours.

Martin County is a wealthy community of about 135,000 people. At 550 square miles, it is considered a medium-sized county in South Florida. Palm Beach County, bordering our south county line, is 2,386 miles with roughly a million people. St. Lucie County, to our north, is 688 miles with a population of 186,000. Martin County has made national news several times. You might remember the players: the dentist, David Ackerly, who purposefully infected his patients with the AIDS virus; the stranger abduction of 9-year-old Andrea Parsons; or

Krisann Haddad, who threw her 18-month-old baby out of a car window. The television show "COPS" has featured Martin County deputies on seven shows. We have about seven murders a year. Only 12 remain unsolved, dating back to 1925.

My instinct told me to start heading out toward the prison. En route, dispatch was getting more 9-1-1 calls and relaying the information to the responding units: We had a possible escape from the prison. A helicopter crashed inside the prison. One caller said shots had been fired. Yet another caller said we had prisoners running through the open fields. Listening to the continued radio reports, I realized if even half of it was true we had quite a situation on our hands.

## **Remote scene of the crime**

The Martin County Correctional Institute is located on State Road 609 in Indiantown. The closest population center is 20 miles to the west. Next door to the prison is the Martin Treatment Center, a sexual offender treatment facility. About 105 "residents" — they are not considered inmates — reside in the center. Typically, a person ends up at the facility after completing their sentence with the Department of Corrections.

By the time I arrived at the prison, we knew that a small helicopter had touched down inside the Treatment Facility and one resident had jumped on board. The helicopter took off, cleared the 15-foot razor-wire fence, then crashed —

about 100 yards away. We later learned that the crash occurred because the pilot, 23-year-old Clifford Burkhart, had overcompensated when Steven Whitsett, a 28-year-old convicted child molester and resident of the facility, jumped into the helicopter, upsetting the balance. They were now trying to escape on foot.

Our Martin County Sheriff's Office has a long history of tracking and catching people running from us. We are famous for this and have been featured on news stories many times for our "manhunts." Several of our deputies are trained to recognize clues in the woods. Many of them are hunters and love the outdoors. Using signs such as a disturbed ant pile or a broken twig, they can read the terrain like others might read a book. Like all modern agencies, we also have helicopters with the Forward Looking Infrared system, night vision goggles and specially trained dogs. But we still rely on the man trackers.

### **Sizing up the situation**

At the crash site, we found two gun holsters and some of Whitsett's personal papers. The helicopter was badly damaged but there was no blood, so we did not think they were injured. The magnitude of the case was starting to settle on all the deputies. As the public information officer, I realized immediately the pressure we would be under from the public to catch a convicted child molester on the loose. The Sheriff felt the pressure of the enormous task of catching these guys before they hijacked a car or hurt someone in our community or one of the Deputies. We set up a perimeter of about 12 miles in every direction.

A manhunt works based on a few basic principles. Everywhere you go you leave something and take something. A person running hard can last about 24 hours with no food or water. The challenge that we faced with this manhunt was the terrain and the heat. The land surrounding the prison and facility is made up of every kind of topography imaginable: swamp, orange groves, open dusty fields, rows and rows of farmed land, and brush so thick you have to use a machete to get through it.

By June in South Florida we are well into summer and there is no relief from the blinding sun. Because we were in a drought, the

land was very dry and dusty, so any footprints in the dirt would blow away as dust. The bugs — especially at night — were vicious and plentiful. They would fly into your mouth as you were talking.

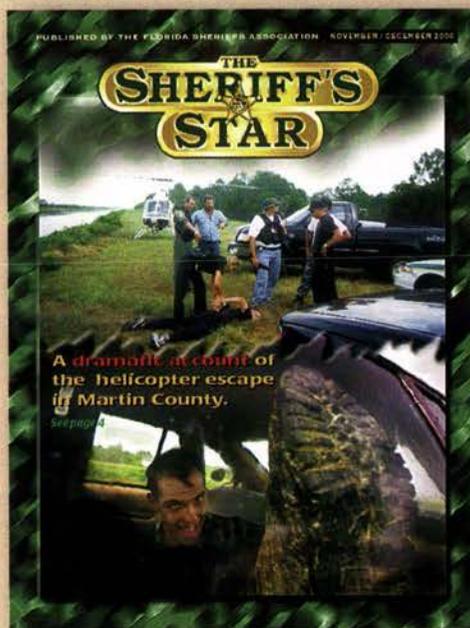
### **Feeding the media's voracious appetite**

By the 5:00 p.m. newscast we had every local news agency on site. We also had CNN, Channel 7 from Miami, the *Miami Herald*, *The Sun-Sentinel*, and the Associated Press. We set up a staging area for the media across the road from the facility. State Road 609 is a main highway used by truckers. Every few minutes a semi-truck would roar by kicking up dirt and sand. Later, while reviewing the television coverage, I noticed how dirty we appeared, with our hair in clumps on our heads. By the 11:00 p.m. newscast there were 25 live trucks and about 40 members of the media. To go live, which I did for the 5:00 p.m., 5:30 p.m., 6:00 p.m. and 11:00pm newscasts, I had the cameras line up next to each other and I would literally step from one camera and reporter to the next.

By mid-afternoon we had a lot of information and had released it to the press. We knew the names and had pictures of Whitsett and Burkhart. We knew that Burkhart had only a temporary flying license and that he told the owners of the helicopter he was going on a long, solo flight. We knew what kind of helicopter had crashed and where it originated. We knew that Whitsett had given away all his personal belongings inside the treatment center to the other residents. We had found a white van, rented by Burkhart, parked on the side of the road a few miles from the center with a note that it was broken down and would be retrieved by the owner. We did not approach the van — instead, several of the deputies laid in the woods and watched. In fact, they watched that van for the entire 26 hours. Some of the local media had also found out about the van. I asked them not to report anything *and* told them why. To their credit, they reported nothing about the van until the capture.

We also knew that Burkhart had a cell phone and it was being used. We got subpoenas and search warrants to get records of the phone usage. The numbers being called were out of Miami — 300 miles to our south. Those of us who knew this

*continued on next page*



#### **Cover photos:**

**TOP:** As Martin County Sheriff's deputy Linda Miller checks the handcuffs of 23-year-old Clifford Burkhart, her fellow officers discuss details of the manhunt and arrest. Standing, from left: Martin County Sheriff's Office helicopter pilot Sgt. George Dempsey, Detective Kenny Ault, Detective Mike Dougherty, Deputy Ronnie Panaro and (behind him) Detective Jeff Townsend. Photo by Deputy Jenell Atlas.

**BOTTOM:** Convicted child molester, Steven Whitsett, following his arrest for escape from a sexual offender treatment facility via helicopter. Photo by: Jason Nuttle, staff photographer, Stuart News.

*continued from page 5*

were worried. How had Burkhart and Whitsett gotten past us? Had they car jacked someone? Did they have a friend or relative waiting with a ride? Our detectives went to Miami and found the address of one of the phone numbers being called. From there, they were able to locate another address where we thought the cell phone was located. So, with Miami Police and federal agents we surrounded the house. We busted down the door and entered, only to find a cabdriver and his family. The cabdriver, scared, immediately confessed about the phone. He had driven a thin, blond male to the airport. The fare left his cell phone in the cab so the cabdriver stole the phone and had been using it

### ***Back to square one: The woods.***

By nightfall we were tired. The deputies had been in the sun all day, trudging through the woods, standing at a fixed spot, searching cars at the checkpoint or directing traffic. We were hot, dirty, hungry and thirsty. But no deputy left. We continued to search.

**Tuesday, June 6, 2:00 a.m.** I go home to take a shower. I tell the press exactly where I am going and why. Some of the out-of-town reporters are suspicious of my moves and follow me; the rest just keep calling me. In the time it took me to get out of the shower, I had 21 calls on my cell phone. By 4:30 a.m., I started doing the morning TV newscasts and radio news shows. The rest of the country had picked up the story from the Associated Press. I was doing radio shows from all around the country. I was scheduled to go live with the Today Show, MSNBC and CNN around 5:30 a.m.

### ***More for the media***

By mid-morning on the second day, the reporters were bored. And I know that bored reporters are not a good thing. Some reporters will come up with crazy ideas to fill the minute-and-a-half they have six times a day. So I tried to help them fill their air time. By helping them, I helped the Sheriff's Office as well.

The K-9 Sergeant, just in from the search, talked about the harsh conditions and showed off his dog, Tano. One of the trackers on a short break talked about the actual search and what they had found. Both of these deputies are well-spoken, lean, fit and attractive, yet were hot, dirty and sweaty – the perfect image for television. The reporters were requesting to track along with our deputies, including one reporter from Miami, dressed in a suit. Finally, I pointed to a field behind us with swamp land, thick brush and about two miles of open field and told him if he would walk to the end he could track along with the deputies. He declined the offer. I also listened to jokes and comments the reporters were making about our manhunt abilities. Reporters were starting to ask when we were going to call off the search. They just did not believe we would catch the escapees. I insisted we would not quit.

At 3:20 p.m. on Tuesday – 26 hours and 20 minutes into the manhunt – a grove worker called 9-1-1 to report two males dressed in black running through an orange grove. Deputies were in the area and immediately responded. Sgt.

Kevin Gannon and Tano, (the same one interviewed earlier) and our helicopter pilot saw the two men running. We could not tell if it was Whitsett and Burkhart. And, it is not against the law to run in an orange grove dressed in black.

The passenger of our helicopter, Lt. Ron Cucchiara, told the men via the loudspeaker to stop running and lay down on the ground. They didn't.

Meanwhile, back at the press area, the reporters were crowded around me. I had my radio on, and we were all listening to what was happening in the orange grove. I was translating the "cop" talk so everyone could understand what was going on.

With K-9 right on their heels and the helicopter hovering over head, Whitsett and Burkhart jumped into a canal. Our helicopter hovered near by so Lt. Cucchiara could jump out. He ran, rolled down a hill, drew his gun and demanded Whitsett and Burkhart get out of the canal with their hands in the air and lie down on the ground. The pair stopped in the water and began talking quietly to each other. Their hands were under the water and there was some movement. They would not raise their hands, in spite of another request. The Lieutenant fired a shot in the water. He then told Burkhart and Whitsett to put their hands in the air and walk out slowly. They refused. Another shot was fired. Finally, they raised their hands and came out of the water. We took them into custody.

Hearing the radio report of the arrest, everyone at the press area lets out a loud cheer. But there's not time for celebration, as all the cameras start rolling. We are breaking into regularly scheduled programming and going live *right this second*. My cell phone started ringing, but I just let it ring.

It's 3:20 p.m., and I realized I had plenty of time for the 5:00 p.m. newscasts. I took care of CNN, the Associated Press, the radio shows and the newspapers. I also start trying to find Sheriff Crowder. He would need to go live at 5:00, 5:30 and 6:00 p.m.

The media was lined up, side-by-side so that the Sheriff could take a step or two and get to the next camera and crew. He didn't miss a beat. He went right down the line and was flawless in spite of the tremendous pressure of the last 26 hours. It was finally over.

### ***Epilogue***

Burkhart and Whitsett are in separate, local jails awaiting trial and sentencing. They are not allowed to communicate. From Burkhart's family we learn that the two have been friends for many years. Burkhart's family thanked Lt. Cucchiara for not killing him.

At the initial interview after they were captured, we learned that they had planned on landing the helicopter, getting the white van and traveling to a hotel in Okeechobee County. They were going to hide out, dye their hair and board a bus to New York.

They refused to speak to law enforcement. At the time of the arrest both refused to speak to the media, but later Whitsett *did* give an interview to a local reporter. He denied the escape.

# Letters to The Editor

Editor:

The article on "Pennies to Protect Police Dogs" was great. You did a wonderful job. We have gotten some very good donations and connections from that article. Your article has been the best publicity we have had. Not to mention, our new connection with Escambia County S.O. Shortly after the article came out K-9 Erny was shot and killed by a very nasty bad guy. As soon as we heard we called to make arrangements to donate some vests to protect Escambia's police dogs.

We were actually at the United States Police Canine Association field trials in Punta Gorda when we heard about Erny. It was so easy for me to tell the Sheriff's Office contact about Stacey's program. I just told them to read your article. It made things much easier since we were trying to make arrangements to get the vests to them from a cell phone. Your article actually helped to keep a whole new county of K-9's safer.

Thank you for a very nice article. Stacey has now purchased 50 vests.

Jackie Hillman  
(Mother of Stacie Hillman, founder of Pennies to Protect Police Dogs)

Editor:

I have a question about Guarding Against identify Theft (September/October 2000 issue).

How can anyone restrict access to his or her own personal Social Security number? This number is required to get health care. It is on every billing statement, the health insurance card we need to carry with us in case of an emergency. It is the college student's identification and part of it is used for identification by some businesses.

Lt. Paul Phillips wrote an excellent article, and I am going to improve my practices accordingly. But this prob-

lem about guarding my Social Security number seems out of my hands.

CBC, Boca Raton

*Lt. Phillips responds:*

*Let's answer this nagging question...*

*According to the Social Security Administration, specific laws require people to have and use a social security number. A comprehensive list of all the times when the law applies is too lengthy for this publication. But here are a few general guidelines:*

*Federal law, code and regulation "require an individual to get and use a SSN on tax documents and to furnish the number to any person or institution - such as an employer or bank - that is required to provide the IRS information about payments to the individual. There are penalties for failure to do so."*

*The Social Security Administration also tells us "If a business or other enterprise asks you for your SSN, you can refuse to give it to them. However, that may mean doing without the purchase or service for which your number is requested." Generally speaking, if the organization does not need to report payments made to you to the federal government for tax purposes, you are not required to disclose it. A company wishing to do a credit check, for example, can do so by other means.*

*Giving your number is voluntary... If requested, you should ask why your number is needed, how your number will be used, what law requires you to give your number and what the consequences are if you refuse. The answers to these questions can help you decide if you want to give your SSN. The decision is yours.*

*Report problems to the Social Security Administration by calling 1-800-772-1213, or visit their web site <http://www.ssa.gov/>.*



September / October 2000 issue

Editor:

I am a law respecting citizen and long time supporter of law enforcement. There are also several law enforcement officers in my immediate family. However, I must strongly disagree with HIJ of Ft. Lauderdale who wrote about the need for more road blocks in an effort to catch drinking and drugged drivers in order to "save lives."

Recently in Palm Beach County, a late evening roadblock was set up on a major artery for five hours, manned by 20-30 police officers represented by city, county and state police officers. The results were that out of

*Continued on page 15*

## HAVE A COMMENT?

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

Editor, *The Sheriff's Star Magazine*,  
P.O. Box 12519, Tallahassee, FL  
32317-2519, or e-mail:  
[jbettinger@flsheriffs.org](mailto: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.

# CHILD LURES

**What every parent and child should know about preventing sexual abuse and abduction**

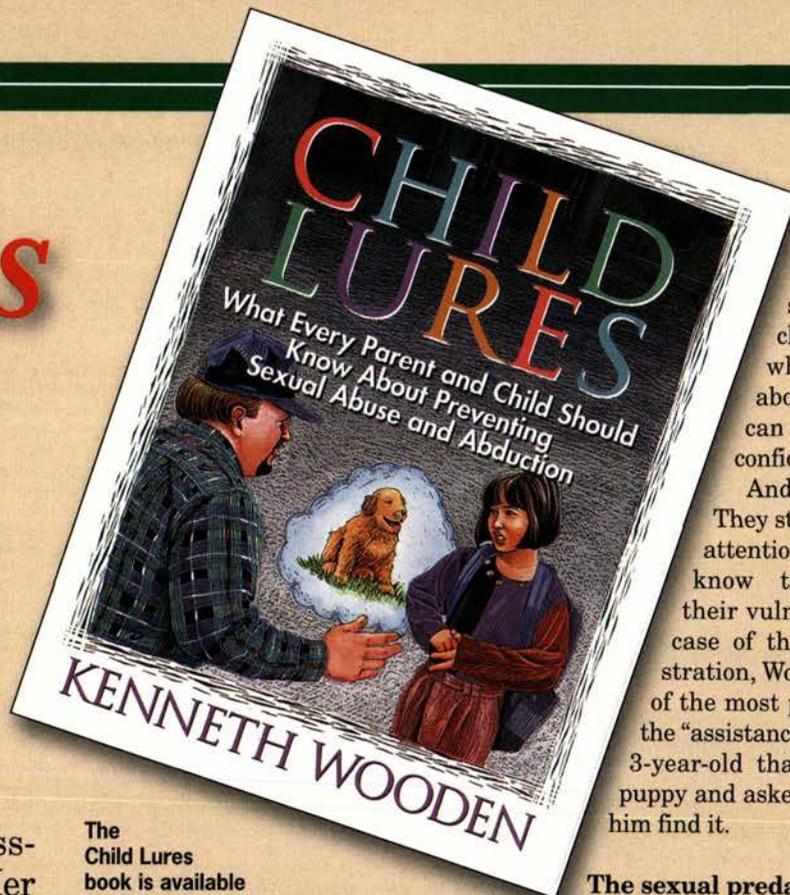
A woman is sitting cross-legged on a park bench. Her 3-year-old daughter is visible in the background, playing on a swingset. An interviewer has just asked the woman if she thought her daughter would ever be vulnerable to abduction. Would she cooperate with a stranger?

The woman was adamant. No way, she says. Her daughter is shy — she'll barely talk to family members. A child abductor would have a tough time ever convincing her child of going anywhere with him.

While the woman is speaking, a thin, gray-haired man with a beard has walked up to her daughter and is leaning down talking with her. He's motioning with one hand and has a dog leash in the other.

Although the little girl is hesitant at first, the television camera follows her as she walks away with the man, across the playground, and outside the fence, within just a few feet of his waiting van.

The interviewer stops the woman and points. Oh, no, I can't believe it, she



The **Child Lures** book is available from online booksellers, including Amazon and Barnes & Noble or by special order through your favorite bookstore.

says. She keeps looking at the scene and back at the camera. Speechless.

The woman was fortunate that the man luring her daughter away from the playground was one of the good guys. Ken Wooden is a self-taught expert in child abductions, and he was luring the child to demonstrate on the "Oprah" television show how easy it is for a "stranger" to pick up a child. And how totally unrealistic their parents can be.

Wooden is blunt in his assessment of our progress in protecting children from abduction. "Our whole education has been centered around 'stranger danger,'" he says. "But the problem is child molesters don't look like strangers to chil-

dren." They're usually friendly, many times handsome — not scary the way a child imagines it when adults talk about strangers — and can quickly win the confidence of the child.

And, they're good. They study ways to get the attention of children. They know their weaknesses; their vulnerabilities. In the case of the "Oprah" demonstration, Wooden had used one of the most popular methods — the "assistance" lure. He told the 3-year-old that he had lost his puppy and asked if she would help him find it.

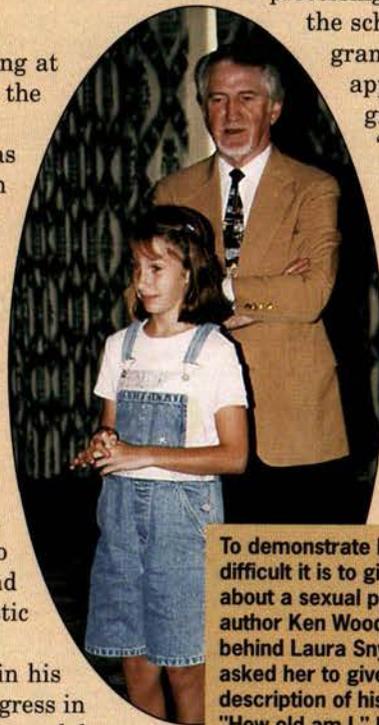
## The sexual predator's way

Ken Wooden's interest in the methods sexual predators use to lure children started when he was working for the CIA processing fingerprints. At one point, the school systems started a program to fingerprint bus driver applicants and run a background check before hiring.

"We found two to three dozen child molesters a month wanting to drive the children of our state to school," Wooden says.

A former broadcast journalist, Wooden went on to conduct in-depth interviews with molesters and sexual predators who were in prison to learn their story. As he

delved ever deeper into their twisted world, he was astounded. They were calculating, persistent, driven. They were even learning new methods of child abduc-



To demonstrate how difficult it is to give details about a sexual predator, author Ken Wooden stood behind Laura Snyder and asked her to give a description of his features. "How old am I," he asked her. "Really old," she answered. Wooden may need to re-think this part of his presentation.

## Kids:

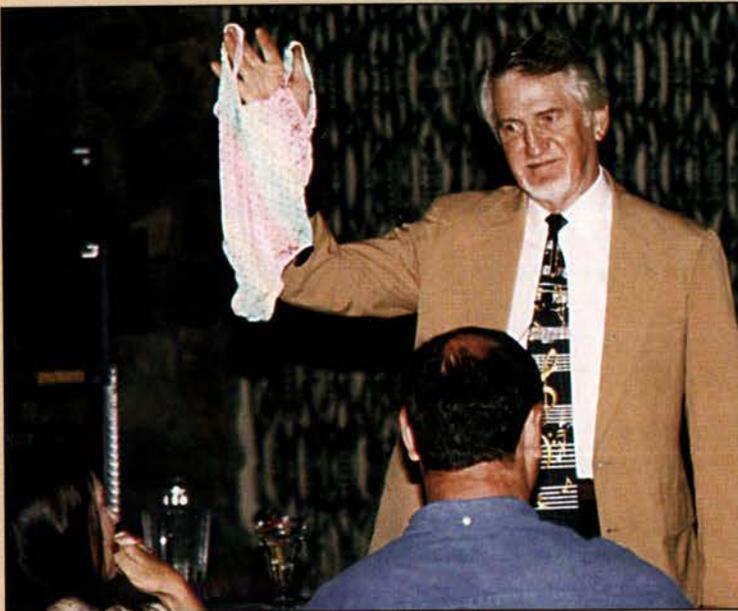
### What is a "lure?"

Have you ever gone fishing? To catch a fish, you need: a line, a hook and bait.

Bait is what goes on the hook at the end of the line. It gets the fish's attention so it will bite your hook. Another word for bait is "lure." Just what does a lure do? It brings the fish to the hook, which the fish bites, and then the fish is reeled in. The same thing can happen with people – you, if you're not careful.

There are people out there who, like fishermen going after fish, will try to catch children with lures. The idea is to trick or force a child into going with someone or doing something. These criminals will try to lure you in one of many ways. They might promise you a gift, ask you for your help, tell you there is an emergency, or even threaten you. They use these methods to get you to go willingly or to get you to do something you really don't want to do. You and your parents need to be able to recognize these lures when you see or hear them. Then you have to be ready to take action and protect yourself.

Learning about these lures is a lot like having a fire drill at school. You need to know what to do – just in case.



Parents often have difficulty helping children distinguish between what is appropriate touching (as in hugging) and what is inappropriate. Sexual predators know how to gain the confidence of youngsters before crossing the line. To help illustrate an easy way for children to remember, author Ken Wooden held up a bathing suit and said, "Kids know what's under a bathing suit. Tell them, 'No one crosses this boundary line.' If they do, it is against the law." Photo by: Pasco County Sheriff's Office.

tion from people like themselves through underground newsletters.

And what were their potential victims being taught to avoid becoming their next prey? "Don't talk to strangers."

What exactly does a stranger look like, anyway? Ask a child to draw this person's face and he will draw a mean, threatening looking guy – perhaps with a knitted brow and grimace. Not the face of Wooden, as he was charming the little girl in the park.

That's the problem. "We continue to use a fundamentally flawed program – don't talk to strangers – to protect our children," Wooden says. "We don't give them the tools they need for real-life situations."

Until now, that is. Wooden authored a book titled *Child Lures* to help educate children and their parents.

Even though they are the most common crimes against children today, child molestation and criminal abduction are the most preventable, Wooden says.

Wooden's *Child Lures* book teaches realistic, effective prevention methods. It includes the 15 most common lures used

by child molesters and sexual predators. Wooden names the lures, provides prevention tips, practice scenarios and offers individual messages for both the parents and their children.

According to Wooden the lures used by child molesters and abductors generally fall into the following categories:

- Affection
- Assistance
- Authority
- Bribery
- Ego/Fame
- Emergency
- Fun and games
- Heroes
- Jobs
- Name recognition
- Playmate
- Threats and weapons
- Pornography
- Drugs
- Computer/online

#### Hidden dangers

If you think sexual abuse couldn't be happening to any child you know – think again. Most of us are unaware of the day-in and day-out sexual abuse suffered

by thousands of children.

There are about 200 to 300 stranger abductions each year, Wooden says. That's an average of at least four children per state annually. But this does not include the large number of children who are abducted by someone they know, detained for a short period of time, abused, and then released.

As horrible as the idea is, Wooden says that as many as 20 percent of girls and 7 percent of boys will experience some type of sexual abuse by age 18.

In a 1994 National Institute of Health survey conducted by an Emory University psychiatrist, 453 pedophiles interviewed claimed collective responsibility for the molestation of 67,000 children. That averages out to 148 victims each.

Pedophiles are unable to resist the powerful urge to initiate sexual contact with children. As a result, molesters often make efforts to gain access to – or assert authority over – children. They take jobs where children are easily approached, or they actively pursue youngsters by befriending single parents, coaching children's sports, chaper-

*continued on page 19*



# Investigate charities before signing that check

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

**T**his time of year, the average person is bombarded by countless heart-wrenching appeals for money from a wide variety of charitable organizations. Solicitations are delivered to your mailbox, sent via computer e-mail or transmitted into your living room through the television. Telemarketers representing charities call on the telephone, solicitors stand on street corners, and they may even show up on your doorstep. Charitable solicitations are as finely crafted as Madison Avenue advertisements and are emotionally appealing to almost everyone.

The trouble is: How can we tell if we are being asked to contribute hard-earned cash to a truly worthy cause or if we're about to become a victim of another slick, unscrupulous scam? With more than half a million federally recognized charities soliciting for contributions, it pays to be careful when selecting an organization to support.

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) estimates \$143 billion is raised annually by charities. Many of the legitimate organizations hire professional fund-raisers to handle their operation. Others rely on volunteers or paid staff to conduct mailings, telephone drives and other solicitations.

### If you give, do it wisely

Every organization will have administrative and fund-raising costs, because they must spend money to raise money. Most cannot function on volunteer help alone. Professional fund-raisers are in business to make money and they keep a portion of the money they collect. If you're solicited for a donation, and the caller is from a professional group, ask what percentage of your money will actually make it to the charitable organization. Before contributing, examine the percentage of total revenue that goes for administrative costs, such as salaries and fund-raising efforts. Compare that amount with the percentage of revenue that goes for the organization's programs. Do the administration costs seem too high? Does the amount going toward the organization's programs seem appropriate? You should feel comfortable with the amounts.

While you're asking questions, ask for written information, including the charity's name, address and telephone number. Legitimate groups will be glad to oblige by sending materials detailing all aspects of the group, including how your donation will be used and proof that your contribution is tax deductible. Ask about the nature of the organization, and the activities they are involved in, to make sure you are sending money to a truly worthy cause. Ask why they are seeking donations. What purpose will it serve? If you don't receive satisfactory answers, don't donate to that group.

Ask the solicitor or review writ-

ten materials to determine if the organization is registered to solicit in your state. In Florida, you are entitled to obtain a copy of registration documents and a financial statement from the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services in Tallahassee. You may also want to contact the National Charities Information Bureau at (212) 929-6300, as well as other state and local consumer agencies, to determine if the charity you are donating to has any outstanding complaints.

### Is your donation tax deductible?

The FTC warns, "Know the difference between 'tax exempt' and 'tax deductible.' Tax exempt means the organization doesn't have to pay taxes. Tax deductible means you can deduct your contribution on your federal income tax return. Just because the organization is tax exempt doesn't necessarily mean your contribution is tax deductible. If your gift is tax deductible, don't forget to ask for a receipt showing the amount of your contribution and stating that it is tax deductible. "Get it in writing!"

Unscrupulous organizations sometime imply they are tax exempt by displaying a tax I.D. number, or by telling you to "keep this receipt for your records." Having a tax I.D. number doesn't mean the group is a charity. All nonprofit and for profit organizations must have a tax I.D.

Various consumer groups have provided a few examples of some of the ways charitable groups raise money and what you might want to watch out for before you write a check.

**Sweepstakes** - Be very wary of guaranteed sweepstakes winnings in exchange for a contribution. Remember, in a sweepstakes you never have to make a purchase - or "donation" - to be eligible to win. If you enter a charity sweepstakes contest, read the rules carefully or

your entry may be disqualified.

**Telemarketing** - Some organizations use a 900 telephone number as part of their campaign. The cost of the call is automatically billed to your telephone. Consider the costs of that call.

**Mailings** - When buying merchandise or receiving free goods in exchange for giving, remember that these items cost money - paid for from your donation. That usually means less money actually reaches the charity. To avoid this, you can donate directly to the organization and pass on the gift.

## Do's and Don'ts

**Don't** fall for high-pressure sales tactics. Be especially wary if the solicitor offers to send a runner by to pick up your money or suggests overnight delivery of your gift. Legitimate fund-raisers won't push you into giving and will be happy to receive your gift in the mail.

**Don't** send cash. For security and tax purposes, it's best to pay by check.

**Do** ask the charity to identify itself. If they refuse, hang up and report the incident to law enforcement or the Attorney General's office.

**Do** watch out for phony groups who use similar sounding names as legitimate charities.

### Need more help?

So how can you make sure that your earnest donations actually help people? If you know the exact name of the charity, visit the Better Business Bureau's Philanthropic Advisory Board or the National Charities Information Bureau. These organizations can tell you if that name is on the lists that they compile and whether a charity meets the voluntary standards they set. The BBB

has some of this information in an easy to use online "Give. . . . But Give Wisely" guide (on the web at: <http://www.bbb.org/pas/give.asp>). If the name is similar to a charity you are familiar with, but you're not sure if it's the same, try to find a number or a web site for the charity you know and contact it directly to ask if there's a relation. Online national phone directories, such as Switch board.com and ATT.com can be helpful in locating numbers.

### What about law enforcement or emergency service groups?

The Florida Attorney General's office has established guidelines for giving to police, emergency medical service and firefighter organizations. They suggest you should be aware the following points:

- Solicitors requesting money for law enforcement or emergency service groups cannot claim to be a member of such a group if they are not.
- Solicitors are prohibited from stating that if you fail to donate to a law-enforcement group you may receive reduced services.

While law-enforcement charities expend a certain amount or per-

centage of donations on the charitable purpose, you are always entitled to request information on the amount of money spent on the purpose, as well as how much is spent on other expenses. If you don't receive a satisfactory response, you may choose not to give that group a gift.

As stated above, copycat organizations may use a name similar to a legitimate law enforcement or emergency service charity. Use the guidelines described above.

If you believe you have encountered an organization that may not be operating for charitable purposes, or one that was misleading or may be fraudulent, contact your State Attorney General's office. If you simply want to know more about an organization before sending your gift, you can contact the National Charities Information Bureau at (212) 929-6300. Or, contact the Federal Trade Commission at (202) 326-2222. You can go online and visit the FTC's web page at [www.ftc.gov](http://www.ftc.gov).

*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>*

## Learning the job of Sheriff

One of the most important services the Florida Sheriffs Association offers is training of new Sheriffs before they take office. FSA has designed "The Florida Sheriffs Basic Institute," to provide these new chief law enforcement officers a foundation so they can hit the ground running.

This year, the institute was held December 4-8 in Tallahassee. It included a reception for all of the new Sheriffs to get acquainted with each other and the FSA staff and a visit to the Boys Ranch and Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranch headquarters in Live Oak.

Other topics covered throughout the week:

- The Florida Retirement System
- An "Assumption of Office" checklist
- The "Do's and Don'ts of Sheriff's Office Employment practices"
- FSA Legal Services
- County Detention Facilities

- Budget issues
- Audits and Management
- Establishing an Ethical Mindset in Your Agency
- Florida Department of Law Enforcement overview
- Florida Sheriffs Self Insurance Fund
- Legislative affairs
- Public Records Management
- The Office of Sheriff and its Relationship with the Courts & Civil Process
- Government in the Sunshine
- Keeping Tarnish Off the Star
- Media Relations
- Florida Ethics Laws
- Responsibility and Commitment in Times of Emergency
- FSA membership overview and publications.

It is FSA's goal to prepare and serve the Sheriffs, so they can - in turn - continue to protect the citizens of Florida. We look forward to working with them in the coming years.

## Bidding farewell, saying hello

Following the outcome of this year's primary and general election, we must bid a fond farewell to the following Sheriffs:

Calhoun County Sheriff Buddy Smith  
Charlotte County Sheriff Richard Worch  
DeSoto County Sheriff Vernon Keen  
Escambia County Sheriff Jim Lowman  
Flagler County Sheriff Robert McCarthy  
Hendry County Sheriff Ronnie Lee  
Indian River County Sheriff Gary Wheeler  
Lee County Sheriff John McDougall  
Levy County Sheriff Ted Glass



Liberty County Sheriff J.L. Bailey  
Palm Beach County Sheriff Bob Newman  
Pasco County Sheriff Lee Cannon  
Santa Rosa County Sheriff Jerry Brown  
Walton County Sheriff Quinn McMillan

In addition, as we mentioned in our last issue, retiring Sheriffs include:

Dixie County Sheriff Dewey Hatcher  
Hernando County Sheriff Tom Mylander  
Madison County Sheriff Joe Peavy  
Okeechobee County Sheriff Ed Miller  
Osceola County Sheriff Charlie Croft  
Sarasota County Sheriff Geoff Monge  
St. Lucie County Sheriff Bobby Knowles  
Volusia County Sheriff Bob Vogel

## Bringing in the new

At the same time, of course, we have the opportunity to meet new Sheriffs – and we look forward to getting to know them over the next four years. They are:

**CALHOUN COUNTY**  
Sheriff-Elect David L. Tatum (D)

**CHARLOTTE COUNTY**  
Sheriff-Elect William E. "Bill" Clement (D)

**DESOTO COUNTY**  
Sheriff-Elect John J. "Johnny" Fugate (D)

**DIXIE COUNTY**  
Sheriff-Elect Sammy Woodall (D)

**ESCAMBIA COUNTY**  
Sheriff-Elect H. R. "Rod" McNesby (R)

**FLAGLER COUNTY**  
Sheriff-Elect James L. "Jim" Manfre (D)

**HENDRY COUNTY**  
Sheriff-Elect Leonard S. "Steve" Worley (D)

**HERNANDO COUNTY**  
Sheriff-Elect Richard B. "Rich" Nugent (R)

**INDIAN RIVER COUNTY**  
Sheriff-Elect Roy H. Raymond (R)

**LEE COUNTY**  
Sheriff-Elect Rodney M. "Rod" Shoap (R)

**LEVY COUNTY**  
Sheriff-Elect Johnny Smith (D)

**LIBERTY COUNTY**  
Sheriff-Elect Harrell W. Revell (D)

**MADISON COUNTY**  
Sheriff-Elect Peter C. "Pete" Bucher (D)

**OKEECHOBEE COUNTY**  
Sheriff-Elect O. L. Raulerson (D)

**OSCEOLA COUNTY**  
Sheriff-Elect Charles M. "Charlie" Aycock (D)

**PALM BEACH COUNTY**  
Sheriff-Elect Edward W. "Ed" Bieluch (D)

**PASCO COUNTY**  
Sheriff-Elect Robert L. "Bob" White (R)

**SANTA ROSA COUNTY**  
Sheriff-Elect Wendell Hall (R)

**SARASOTA COUNTY**  
Sheriff-Elect William F. "Bill" Balkwill (R)

**ST. LUCIE COUNTY**  
Sheriff-Elect Ken J. Mascara (D)

**VOLUSIA COUNTY**  
Sheriff-Elect Ben F. Johnson (NP)

**WALTON COUNTY**  
Sheriff-Elect Ralph L. Johnson (R)

## Children: Be aware!

It used to be that when a child discovered something scary about another student in his or her school, there was no way to report it – without everyone in the school finding out about their “tattle-tale.” And no child wants to be associated with that kind of label.

Now thanks to the Florida Sheriffs Task Force School Safety Hotline (1-877-7BE-BRAVE), kids can call a toll-free number and report their suspicions anonymously. It's available 24 hours a day and is answered by trained personnel.

All students and citizens in the community can use the hotline. The information reported is then forwarded to the appropriate school and law enforcement agency for follow-up. Callers are assured a full investigation will follow and whatever action is needed will be taken.

Children are told to report any information they have on: drugs, guns, weapons, violence or any other criminal activity.

Through the hotline, the Task Force also hopes to educate parents to prevent their child from being involved in a crime. The Task Force urges parents to talk to their children about the importance of reporting threatening incidents, whether they involve their own personal safety or another child's safety. They offer parents the following tips:

- Keep personal firearms securely stored and locked
- Take an active role in your child's school
- Be a role model
- Listen and talk with your children regularly
- Set clear limits on behavior,

- before they get into trouble
- Help your child find peaceful solutions to their problems
- Discourage name-calling and teasing
- Know your children's friends, whereabouts and activities
- Support school policies and rules
- Interact with other parents through school and neighborhood associations
- Check your children's rooms for suspicious items.

## Youth Ranch produces CD

A few years ago, we told readers of *The Sheriff's Star* about a Youth Ranch alumnus who wrote a song about what the Ranch meant to him growing up. His name is Tom Chastain, and we are proud to report that — with the help of the



*Tom Chastain*

Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches — he has now recorded the song “Donated Love” on compact disc and cassette tape. Each CD and cassette includes a regular version of the song, an acoustic version and three other songs – all about life as a Rancher.

If you would like to order a copy of the CD or tape, send checks

payable to the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches, Attention: Public Relations Office, Post Office Box 2000 Boys Ranch, Florida 32064. Include \$5 for each. Be sure to specify tape or CD and make a note on your check, so it's not counted as a general donation. For more information, you may e-mail: youthranches@worldnet.att.net, or call: 904-842-5501.

## Sheriff receives statewide recognition for work on behalf of children



*Sheriff Crowder*

Martin County Sheriff Robert L. “Bob” Crowder received the Board Member of the Year award from the Florida Association of Child and Family Agencies (FACFA) and the Educational Foundation for the Advancement of Child Welfare.

The FACFA commended him for helping represent the needs of children in the Florida Legislature. Sheriff Crowder's work on behalf of children and families is not new. In 1998, Speaker of the House John Thrasher appointed him to the Juvenile Justice Accountability Board because of his interest in the prevention of juvenile delinquency.

Sheriff Crowder is highly active in fundraising for the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches. Each year he sponsors an annual barbecue that has raised over \$125,000 for FSYR boys and girls.

Congratulations, Sheriff Crowder. We appreciate all you do on behalf of kids and families in Florida.

## New Division Helps Voiceless Victims

By Kirk Englehardt  
Public Information Officer  
Broward Sheriff's Office

Breaking the cycle of violence is the mission of an innovative new investigative division at the Broward County Sheriff's Office in Ft. Lauderdale. The Special Victims and Family Crimes Section combines the expertise of detectives from BSO's Abuse and Neglect, Sex Crimes, Domestic Violence, Animal Abuse, Victim Advocate and Missing Persons units. Many law-enforcement agencies offer victim services, however, few — if any — have combined the resources into one common division working full-time to investigate and prevent family related crime. By sharing crucial investigative information, detectives will be able to recognize individuals who are at risk of being abused and refer those needing special assistance to appropriate social service agencies



Sheriff Jenne

before it is too late.

Broward County Sheriff Ken Jenne points out that several national studies have shown that only 16 percent of sexual assaults and 10 percent of domestic violence cases are reported to authorities. The Sheriff hopes the new division will encourage people to come forward and start reporting rape and abuse.

"I don't care if our statistics go up," Sheriff Jenne said. "In the long run this will bring more serious domestic crime — especially homicide — down. In my book, this is the ultimate in community policing."

BSO also recognizes that house pets are very often the first members of the family to feel the pain of abuse. Animals make convenient targets because they cannot report the abuse as a spouse or a child might. They also cannot remove themselves from a violent household. Lt. Sherry Schlueter, who supervises the new section, says BSO deputies have been instructed to look for *all* potential victims when responding to domestic violence calls,

starting with those most at risk: children, the elderly and animals.

According to the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence, 65 percent of all U.S. female homicide victims are killed by someone they know. In 1998, 85 percent of victimizations by intimate partners were against women. In the same year, about one million violent crimes were committed against individuals by their current or former spouses, boyfriends or girlfriends. In the first 10 months of this year, the Broward Sheriff's Office had handled more than 1,200 domestic violence complaints and five domestic-related murders.

If you are a victim, or if you witness domestic violence in progress, dial 9-1-1 for the law-enforcement agency in your area. If you suspect family violence, contact your local Sheriff's Office.

*For further information on BSO's Special Victims and Family Crimes Section, contact Lt. Sherry Schlueter at (954) 321-4200.*

## Bay County SO uses in-house talent and saves \$750,000 on Mobile Data Terminals

By: Jennifer Collins, Public Affairs Specialist

When a call for law-enforcement comes in, a speedy response could mean the difference between life and death. With that in mind, Bay County Sheriff Guy Tunnell recently completed a project that speeds response time for deputies and gives them several new weapons for fighting crime — without ever leaving their patrol cars.



Sheriff Tunnell

The new mobile data terminals, or MDTs, are laptop computers that can be used for communication between cars or between a patrol car and the dispatcher. This new technology has improved service in several ways, including allowing deputies to: see calls on hold; respond more quickly to calls in their zone; and use "silent dispatch," which preserves the element of surprise against criminals who are using police scanners.

"We are always interested in technology that will help us provide faster, safer and more efficient law enforcement for our citizens," says Sheriff Tunnell. "The MDTs, with all the information they put at our fin-

gertips, also serve to keep our deputies visible and available on the road."

The MDTs can pull up booking photos and arrest records, which lets deputies know instantly who they are dealing with. The deputies can also run driver's licenses and car tag checks from the computer — tasks that previously were done via radio to the communications center. Sheriff Tunnell says that, while the MDT system is a definite advantage, an even more impressive fact is that the software was written in-house.

"We are lucky to have two employees with extensive computer knowledge who wrote this entire program for us," Tunnell says. "This allowed our deputies to have a lot of input as to how the system works

*continued on next page*

and what they can do with it. Lt. Joel Heape and Jack Hughes have worked tirelessly on this project. They came to several places where experts in this field said, 'It can't be done.' Each time, they were able to create a new path, and because of this, we have a system that is unlike any other (on the market)."

One story in particular points

out the potential of the MDTs. Shortly after the system was installed in one platoon, a theft call came in. A deputy saw the call on the screen and was able to spot the suspect before the call had been dispatched over the radio. An arrest was made shortly after.

Sheriff Tunnell said that because writing the program, equipment installation and training were done in-

house, the Bay County Sheriff's Office saved about \$750,000. The Bay County Sheriff's Office MDT system cost about \$250,000 and was paid for with the help of the Bay County Commission and a federal grant. The costs for similar systems, using subcontractors, is close to \$1 million.

## Letters to The Editor

*Continued from page 7*

over 400 vehicles detained, 99.8% of the occupants were innocent of any wrongdoing. The other .02% were cited for predominantly minor offenses that didn't justify the time and expense wasted to catch them.

To catch a few minor law violators, over 400 local citizens were stopped, inconvenienced, intimidated and their constitutional rights to be free of unreasonable searches were violated by having flashlights shined into their cars and faces – along with probing questions violating their right to privacy and freedom of travel.

The public would have been better served by having this group of law enforcement personnel spread out over the entire county – instead of a 200 square feet area – to act as a visual deterrent and to concentrate on other crimes or the really bad drivers who are not drinking or drugged – but kill far more people.

More laws are not the answer. It was Thomas Jefferson, I believe, who said that "if we give up our freedom for security, we end up with neither."

GPW, Hobe Sound

Editor:

The July/August Star featured an article by Deana Danner, public information officer of Hernando County Sheriff's Office.

This article concerned the Sheriff's purchase of miniature tape recorders containing medical information for deputies in the event they have a medical emergency.

The information can be retrieved

by first responders, saving precious time in determining medical history, care and treatment. It is obviously an excellent idea.

Along these same lines, the state of South Dakota provides a service that is unique: They put coded medical information on the drivers license which can give the same information for use by first responders. Coding assures privacy and drivers can opt out if they want.

The state of Florida, with its older population, would certainly benefit if this was available.

JY, Punta Gorda

**Editor's note: The following letter was sent to FSA Executive Director Buddy Phillips. The letter writer offered to have portions of it published:**

Dear Buddy:

It fascinates me when I travel, whether in this country or abroad, and see the signs indicating "Neighborhood Watch." Unfortunately, it has been a waste of money – as nobody is watching. If anyone is watching, there aren't many of them.

It bothers me because it was in Bedford Village, Westchester County, NY, that I and another man who has since died, and the Chief of the local police force initiated a neighborhood watch program. I was medical advisor to the unit. It was prompted by an increase in thefts and murders in the village.

At that time, it involved neighbors recognizing license numbers of cars that were strange to their particular area, noting the make and color of the vehicle, and having a list of neighbor's car

numbers. We formed citizen patrols for the night-time hours. The patrols didn't carry on for very long, as volunteers dropped out. The signs saying "Neighborhood Watch" had been posted on all the roads we patrolled. Now – as I mentioned – they are on almost every road in the country. . . . and nobody is watching.

It's a sad thing and frankly is now a waste of money. The criminals know nobody is watching most of the time.

Perhaps a television reminder to report suspicious persons and vehicles at frequent intervals is now in order.

Keep up the good work.

ELM, Ft. Myers

*Editor responds:*

*While it may seem that "nobody is watching," many Sheriffs' offices and other law enforcement agencies will tell you that reports of suspicious activity has increased in recent years. Much of this is due to the use of cellular phones, which make it easier for reporting.*

*Most Sheriffs' offices have Crime Prevention Units that work with neighborhood associations to establish "Crime Watch" and "Neighborhood Watch" programs. The idea is to raise awareness for crime prevention – in addition to helping them learn how to report suspicious activity in a way that is useful to law enforcement.*

*So, while it might not be ideal, law-enforcement agencies seem to agree these programs are worth the effort – if nothing else, to reduce the chance of victimization.*

*Because you raise the point, we're going to make an effort to bring you future news on successful Neighborhood Watch programs in upcoming issues of The Sheriff's Star. Thanks for sharing your observation.*

# FLORIDA SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION

## HONOR ROLL



**SEMINOLE COUNTY** - Gold Business Member plaque presented by Seminole County Sheriff Don Eslinger to Dr. Keny F. Bastien of Kenor International Corporation.

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.



**HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY** - Gold Business Member plaque presented by Hillsborough County Sheriff Cal Henderson to Chin Kim.



**DeSOTO COUNTY** - Gold Business Member plaque presented by DeSoto County Sheriff Vernon Keen to Tim Reed, right.



James E. Thompson



Mrs. Thomas Dame



Danilo Iglesias

**HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY** - 25-year certificate presented by Hillsborough County Sheriff Cal Henderson to James E. Thompson and Mrs. Thomas Dame.



**CLAY COUNTY** - 25-year certificate presented by Clay County Sheriff Scott Lancaster to Mr. & Mrs. Howard Meyer.



Morris Jenkins



Robert J. Radcliff



Richard Schnaare, Sr.



Edmond L. Bidoul, Jr.

**HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY** - 30-year certificate presented by Hillsborough County Sheriff Cal Henderson to Danilo Iglesias; Morris Jenkins; Robert J. Radcliff; Richard Schnaare, Sr.; and Edmond L. Bidoul, Jr.

## Honoring our fallen heroes on canvas

Orlando County Sheriff's Office Det. Steve Fusco's day job is Forensic Artist. He draws composites of bad guys and missing persons. But his talents go way beyond aging photographs or reconstructing faces based on witness account. He can draw just about anything.

Recently, Det. Fusco was asked to paint a portrait of a fallen Deputy Terill "Grady" Braddock and John Hollomon, who both died in 1998.

Seeing his talent, Hollomon's father, OCSO Capt. Jim Hollomon and Lt. Ken Gregory asked Fusco if he would produce a law enforcement memorial portrait. Fusco spent three months on the project and created "The Escort." The medium used is oil paint on canvas, size 30x40. The painting depicts the Archangel St. Michael escorting a fallen deputy/officer into heaven. St. Michael is the patron saint of police officers.

On Fusco's web site, he offers more information: The name Michael signifies "Who is like to God?" and was the war cry of the good angels in the battle fought in heaven against Satan and his followers. Holy Scripture describes St. Michael as "one of the chief princes," and leader of the forces of heaven in their triumph over the powers of hell. He has been especially honored and invoked as patron and protector by the Church from the time of the Apostles. Although he is always called "the Archangel," the Greek Fathers and many others place him over all the angels - as Prince of the Seraphim.

Fusco produced 500 hand signed and numbered lithographs of the painting that he is now selling nationally for \$75 each. He is donating 10 percent of the proceeds to the Orange County Law Enforcement Memorial Fund. For quantity orders by law enforcement agencies, the price is \$45 each.



Orange County Sheriff's Office Det. Steve Fusco with his memorial painting, "The Escort."

To purchase a lithograph or contact the artist, Det. Steve Fusco, phone: 407-836-4020 x76444 or visit his web site: [ocsoartist.com](http://ocsoartist.com).

# FLORIDA SHERIFFS YOUTH RANCHES

## HONOR ROLL



**ORANGE COUNTY** - Presented by Orange County Sheriff Kevin Beary and Youth Ranches Development Officer, Sandra Phillips to William C. Demetree, Jr. of the William C. Demetree Foundation.



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*. 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.

### New Lifetime Honorary Members

Mr. and Mrs. Dave Agatstein  
 Mr. James J. Ainsworth  
 Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Allen  
 Mr. George A. Belcher  
 Mr. Vladimir Belfor  
 Mr. Jack C. Bennoite  
 Ms. Kelly Birnbaum  
 Mr. Ernest R. Bolduc  
 Mrs. Judy Burgess  
 Mrs. Nancy H. Burnam  
 Mr. Philip S. Cabanzo  
 Ms. June E. Campbell  
 Mr. Michael G. Carter  
 Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Caruana  
 Central Florida Hoo-Hoo Club  
 Mr. and Mrs. Lee Chase  
 Community Foundation of Greater  
 Lakeland  
 Sgt. and Mrs. Mark Cowan  
 Craig Funeral Home, Inc.  
 Mr. David W. Dahl  
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert M. English  
 Mr. and Mrs. Michael Eurich  
 Col. and Mrs. C. D. Fairless  
 Mr. and Mrs. Raymond T.  
 Fellenbaum  
 Mrs. Belinda Felscher  
 Mr. and Mrs. Michael Fitzsimmons  
 Mr. A. W. Fletcher  
 Mrs. Claytha Frinder  
 Dr. Alexander Gali  
 Mrs. Kim Gandy  
 Mr. Raymond Girard  
 Green Hills-Fountain Volunteer Fire  
 Dept.  
 Sgt. David Ham  
 Dep. Norma J. Hickey  
 Mr. David Hodgdon  
 Mr. Billy Holdren  
 Horizon Village Mobile Home Park  
 Jacobson's Plants, Inc.  
 Jalaram Motels Inc.  
 Mr. and Mrs. Doug Janowski  
 Mr. Harry Jones  
 Mr. and Mrs. James E. King  
 Mr. Joseph David Kowalczyk

Mrs. Ruth Law  
 Mrs. Patricia Lewkowicz  
 Mr. and Mrs. Shane K. Licke  
 Live Oak Gas Company, Inc.  
 Dr. and Mrs. Richard H. Logan, III  
 Ms. Linda Loiselle  
 Mrs. Sylvia Lovett  
 Malcolm Furniture  
 Mr. and Mrs. Billy C. Maxwell  
 Mrs. Elizabeth C. McGivern  
 Mrs. Evelyn Murphy  
 Ms. Carol L. Pandoli  
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert Pierson  
 Mrs. Louise Pisacreta  
 Ms. Donna S. Pruitt  
 Mr. Tim Robinson  
 Mr. and Mrs. Raul E. Rodriguez  
 Mrs. and Mrs. Raymond G. Royal  
 Mr. Robert W. Saunders, Jr.  
 Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Shackelford  
 Mrs. Jennifer Smith  
 Mr. and Mrs. Gene Stover  
 Mr. James O. Tanner  
 Dr. and Mrs. William M. Taylor  
 The Pandoli Family  
 Ms. Nancy Todd  
 Mr. Arthur J. Van Suetendael, III  
 Mr. and Mrs. Fred Walendowski  
 Ms. Naomi Sharon Weaver  
 Westwind Provisions  
 Mr. George J. Wiehle  
 Mr. and Mrs. Richard C. Young



**MARTIN COUNTY** - Presented by Martin County Sheriff Bob Crowder, left, to Detective and Mrs. Sal Rastrelli, with daughter Hailey.

**MARTIN COUNTY** - Presented by Martin County Sheriff Bob Crowder to Mrs. Bruce Burstein, Carleigh and Lauren.



**ST. JOHNS COUNTY** - Presented by Youth Ranches Chairman Martin County Sheriff Bob Crowder and Youth Ranches President Roger Bouchard to St. Johns County Sgt. David Ham.



**CLAY COUNTY** - Presented by Youth Ranches Chairman Martin County Sheriff Bob Crowder and Youth Ranches President Roger Bouchard to Clay County Sgt. Cowan.



**MARION COUNTY** - Presented by Marion County Sheriff Ed Dean to Leo and Janice Smith (left photo), Florida Law Enforcement Offshore Fishing Tournament; Jeff and Judy Miller, Millers Boating Center.



**HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY** - Presented by Hillsborough County Sheriff Cal Henderson to Deputy Kenneth Canady (left photo), and James Lombard.





M.S. Wallace



Sandy Tullners



Mr. & Mrs. Ken Griffin



Mr. & Mrs. Alexander V. Misure



Mr. & Mrs. Doug Behnke

MARTIN COUNTY – Presented by Martin County Sheriff Bob Crowder to M.S. Wallace; Sandy Tullners; Mr. & Mrs. Ken Griffin; Mr. & Mrs. Alexander V. Misure; Mr. & Mrs. Doug Behnke; and Iris Kwek.



Iris Kwek



Frederick and Eleanor Lanz



Mr. & Mrs. George Costage



Mildred Whitman



John and Retah Ross

PINELLAS COUNTY – Presented by Youth Ranches Development Officer Terry Gregg to Frederick and Eleanor Lanz; Mr. & Mrs. George Costage; Mildred Whitman; and John and Retah Ross.



COLUMBIA COUNTY – Presented by Columbia County Sheriff Frank Owens to Mr. and Mrs. Perry Perkes (left photo), and Tommy Kline.



MARTIN COUNTY – Presented by Martin County Sheriff Bob Crowder to Fred Wolf, right.



BOYS RANCH – Presented by Bill Brown (far right), Youth Ranches senior development officer, and Bill Yarick (far left), vice president of Financial Development for FSyr, to David Yurick, Youth Ranches development officer.

## Little Minutes

By: Deputy Sheriff Tim Furey  
Martin County Sheriff's Office

**This poem is based on a true story. The deputy who answered the emergency call is the author.**

*He laid in the dirt, all broken and bruised,  
This baby a victim of driving and booze.*

*They drove through the night with sirens screaming,  
To the scene where he lay, silent and bleeding.*

*His mother was screaming for him to wake up,  
But he lay there instead, unable to get up.*

*A deputy ran to this baby that was dying,  
And looked at his mother who was still crying.*

*This mother knew her son was leaving,  
And said to the deputy, "He's not breathing."*

*Into his hands she did commit,  
Her son's broken body for him somehow to fix.*

*He knew he was gone by the time he came,  
But he blew into his mouth and pumped blood through his veins.*

*This deputy tried as if this was his son,  
To bring him to life and give him back to his Mom.*

*His efforts were rewarded, the heart started to beat,  
When the medics arrived, he got to his feet.*

*The medic knelt down, and took over his care,  
And confirmed to the deputy the beat was still there.*

*Into the truck they took him away,  
And drove him to a chopper that would fly him away.*

*The chopper took off into the night,  
To a hospital where they might save his life.*

*Soon after getting back on the ground,  
His heart stopped beating, never again to make a sound.*

*This baby was gone, and all were sad,  
Tears by all were shed for this small lad.*

*There is a story about this little one  
That might offer a little comfort to some.*

*Earlier that day he saw this red truck. . .  
With sirens, red lights, and all that neat stuff.*

*He wanted a ride, but the firemen were busy.  
They had to rush off, and left him wishing.*

*Later that night, while he lay dying  
The same truck came back to where he was lying.*

*After hearing this story, the deputy went home,  
All by himself, his thoughts now his own.*

*His wife made him feel he had done his best,  
And soon came the night with no real rest.*

*Sitting alone with his thoughts running deep,  
He heard a little voice that started to speak.*

*"I would have been gone if it were not for you,  
And you know what I say is very true.*

*Those few minutes of life were very important to me,  
That's why I want to let you see.*

*Those minutes you gave made my dream come true;  
A ride in a fire truck. . . thanks to you."*

## 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  
Tallahassee, FL 32317-2519

Or, if you prefer, fax it to: (850) 878-8665

Or call us at (800) 877-2168

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## CHILD LURES continued from page 9

oning camping trips, or offering baby-sitting services to friends, family and neighbors.

The majority of pedophiles prefer children on the brink of puberty, and they prey on the child's sexual ignorance and curiosity.

Wooden found these pedophiles to be unusually honest about their urge. "One molester told me, 'Give me a kid who knows nothing about sex, and you've given me my next victim.'"

### Organized and dangerous

Small groups of militant and highly organized child molesters operate worldwide through pedophile organizations whose members claim genuine concern for the welfare of children. Their belief is that sex with children is harmless; some even claim that sexual relations are healthy for children.

One group's "Lure of the Month" column gives advice on approaching and seducing children. Of course, it would be no surprise that communication via computer is quickly replacing the printed

pedophile newsletter. It's also quickly becoming the seductor's method of choice.

Well-known murderers such as Ted Bundy used lures. In another case, ten-year-old Jimmy Ryce was lured into a vehicle that led to his horrendous rape and murder. Jimmy, an obedient boy, was just cooperating with a man who blocked his path on his way home from school and demanded he get in his truck, or else.

Besides "Oprah," Wooden has also appeared on "Prime Time Live" and the "Today" show demonstrating the favorite ploys or "lures" used by actual pedophiles and abductors to gain a private audience with their victims.

His book and the nationwide effort to bring his prevention program to schools recently gained the support of the 67 Sheriffs of Florida. Following a presentation by Wooden at FSA's summer conference, the Sheriffs overwhelmingly agreed: A lure-proofed youngster is the best defense against sexual predators.

### What kids already know

Wooden's unusual approach is based on the belief that children are not totally

defenseless. "Child Lures" teaches them critical thinking – what Wooden says is the best defense against victimization. The colorfully illustrated book, "Child Lures," includes text written especially for children, as well as valuable information for parents. His lures and prevention strategies are presented in a non-frightening and productive manner. Wooden also encourages children to recognize, trust and follow their instincts. He instills within them the realization that they have the right to be treated with respect and dignity. He also reinforces the notion that the vast majority of people are good, caring and safe to be around. Presented correctly, Wooden says children will not become paralyzed with fear, but will feel safer having learned prevention techniques.

Increased public awareness and prevention protects people in hurricanes and other natural disasters. Don't you think it's time we used the same concept to protect the innocence and lives of our children?

*The "Child Lures" book is available from online booksellers, including Amazon ([www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)) and Barnes & Noble ([www.bn.com](http://www.bn.com)). You can also have it special ordered through your favorite bookstore.*

# FSA

## photo clips



**O**n Friday, October 27th, students and teachers at Lawton Chiles Middle School in Oviedo, Florida took Red Ribbon Week to new heights. Wearing red shirts, the students gathered in the field at the rear of the school and lined up to spell out the words "drug free." The Seminole County Sheriff's Office helicopter was on hand to take photographs.

The origins of Red Ribbon Week date back to 1985. In February of that year, drug traffickers in Mexico kidnapped U.S. Drug Enforcement Agent Enrique Camarena. He was tortured, beaten and brutally murdered. His body was discovered one month later.

The National Federation of Parents for Drug-Free Youth saw an opportunity to unite Americans from all walks of life in efforts to combat the destruction caused by alcohol abuse and illegal drug use. The Red Ribbon became a national symbol of intolerance for drugs in schools, work places and communities. Each year since its beginning, Red Ribbon Week has been observed the last week of October.

