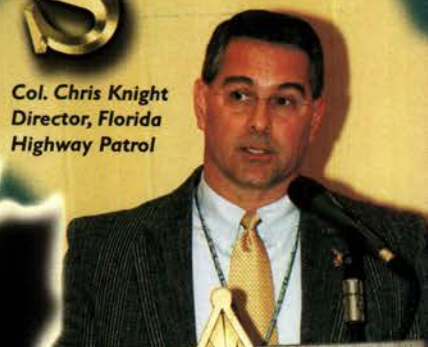


THE SHERIFF'S STAR



FSA President
Bradford County Sheriff
Bob Milner



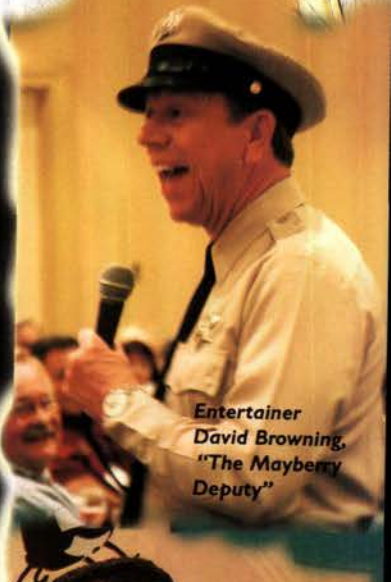
Col. Chris Knight
Director, Florida
Highway Patrol



Holmes Beach Police Chief
Jay Romine
President, Florida Police
Chiefs Association



Putnam County Sheriff
Dean Kelly and his wife,
Kris



Entertainer
David Browning,
"The Mayberry
Deputy"



Vendy Hallowell, Victim's Rights Coordinator
Office of the Governor

Mid-Winter Conference Highlights

See page 6

Franklin County Sheriff
Mike Mock and Carolyn
Powell, FDLE



From the desk of...

Gary Perkins, Executive Director
Florida Sheriffs Association



You know it's springtime in Tallahassee when Sheriffs from every part of the state descend on FSA headquarters to get briefed before being shuttled to the Capitol for meetings with lawmakers.

When state representatives, senators and other politicians visit the Sheriffs at our annual conferences, they often affirm the clout the Sheriffs carry when it comes to shaping policy.

Not that we're in the Capitol strong-arming the politicians. We're letting them know the agenda we have crafted and are introducing them to the legislative issues that will help all Florida law-enforcement officers do their jobs more effectively.

The roughly 60 days of legislative session in Tallahassee is a demanding time. As our governmental consultant, Frank Messersmith, will tell you, there are very few idle moments. The law-making process is tricky, and if you're involved, you have to carefully track the flow of information, each individual lawmaker's stance on bills, and all of the meetings where your issues might be heard.

And while many lobbyists are there representing big business – where profit is on the line – we're representing an important quality-of-life factor for citizens, where public safety is on the line.

Issues of the hour

It's always interesting to watch as sleeper issues suddenly become frontline concerns – usually related to trends in crime, as you might suspect.

For instance, one hotly contested issue at the moment is the use of tasers and other non-lethal stun gun devices by law-enforcement officers on school grounds. While some people would argue that “stunning” a middle-school student is inhumane, it's important that we look closer at the instances where these low-impact weapons have been used. It's usually to subdue a very large, very strong youth...one who might be posing a danger to himself, his fellow students, the teacher or even the officer.

Again, on the surface this might appear like an easy issue, but having the Sheriffs available to give testimony and examples of real-life cases can make a world of difference.

Of course, we're also willing to meet the opposition halfway. By hearing their concerns, we are able to go back and create a model policy and best practices for law enforcement to minimize the risk to the individual on the other end of the stun gun.

Another interesting and highly debated issue is the right of a homeowner to protect his or her home. What's being discussed is the homeowner's assessment of the “intent” of an intruder.

What comes to mind is the saying, “A man's home is his castle,” and you would think that he has the right to defend it. This dates back to Roman times.

If you stay up on the news, though, you can only imagine the types of testimony that are given by those who would seek to limit a homeowner's right to defend his or her property. At times, these individuals almost make the *homeowner* out to be the enemy, rather than the intruder.

Armed with knowledge

As you can see just from these two issues, you never know what lawmakers might be deciding, and that is why the Florida Sheriffs must be ever-vigilant in the halls of the state Capitol.

Yes, the Sheriffs are concerned about their own communities and focused on the grassroots issues, but at least once a year they recognize the value in traveling to Tallahassee to have a say in the bigger picture.

No, meeting with lawmakers, state agency heads and the delegation from the Governor's Office isn't in the job description of Sheriff. Thankfully, that doesn't stop them.

But the families of victims—the survivors of a crime that could have been prevented had there been a law, or tougher sentencing, or other means of protecting them—they understand that a Sheriff's job goes beyond county lines.

And that just might include the state Capital.


Gary Perkins, Executive Director

CRIME TRENDS

Project Lifesaver: 100% Recovery Rate in Search and Rescue

Project Lifesaver, the search-and-rescue program that can quickly find wandering Alzheimer's victims and other mentally impaired individuals, has reported a 100 percent recovery rate in search and rescues, with 1,073 rescues across the nation.

The average time of recovery is less than 30 minutes.

Brevard County Sheriff's Deputy David Altman reported their first "find" using the system during the Thanksgiving holidays last year. A 74-year-old lady who suffers from dementia was given a small transmitter bracelet after a previous incident involving a three-and-a-half-hour rescue mission to find her. Once again, she walked off and had been missing about 50 minutes when BCSO received the call.

Deputies flew the Sheriff's helicopter close to where she was last seen and immediately picked up a signal. They found a field to land in and started out on foot, locating her within minutes. She had walked about two and a half miles from her home. The total time invested in rescue: 10 minutes.



The watch-style band that Alzheimer's patients wear and the tracking monitor.

Hope for caregivers, savings for taxpayers

Searches for missing children and Alzheimer's victims are extremely time intensive, costing taxpayers tens of thousands of dollars. Also, rescue workers are working against the clock: The longer the person is missing, the higher the threat to their safety.

Project Lifesaver, a charitable, non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization, forms partnerships with local law-enforcement and public-safety organizations to offer a solution. It arms them with reliable technology to quickly locate and return wandering adults and children to their caregivers.

It's estimated that of the 5 million people in the U.S. who suffer from Alzheimer's, more than 50 percent will wander and become lost, a *critical emergency*. These patients are unaware of their situation, they do not call out for help and do not respond to people calling out to them. Nearly half of them will die and many can become injured or fall victim to predators if they are not located within 24 hours. The number of peo-

ple, families and communities experiencing this risk is expected to grow dramatically in the next few years.

This partnership and the program's effectiveness and reliability have earned Project Lifesaver the endorsement of both the Florida Sheriffs Association and the National Sheriff's Association. In Florida, Sheriff's Offices are working to get the program implemented. To date, it's reported to be in: Alachua, Brevard, Escambia, Hendry, Indian River, Leon, Pasco and Polk counties.

Pasco success

Pasco County, which has had the program for a year, conducts numerous searches annually for mentally impaired victims.

The county's first successful "catch" involved a 62-year-old patient who had wandered more than two miles from his assisted living facility in New Port Richey. Although he had a two-hour head start, and some witness reports suggested he was last seen in one part of the city, using the Project Lifesaver technology, deputies pinpointed him just east of his living quarters. He was found and returned home less than an hour after the search began.

For more information, or to read the latest success stories, visit the Project Lifesaver website: www.projectlifesaver.org, or contact Project Lifesaver International, (757) 546-5502. E-mail is:

gsaunders@projectlifesaver.org



THE SHERIFF'S STAR

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In memory of Carl Stauffer

The Florida Sheriffs Association
does not raise funds by telephone.

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Helping to "Save a Child from Drowning"

By: Sgt. Mike Medina
Miami-Dade Police Department

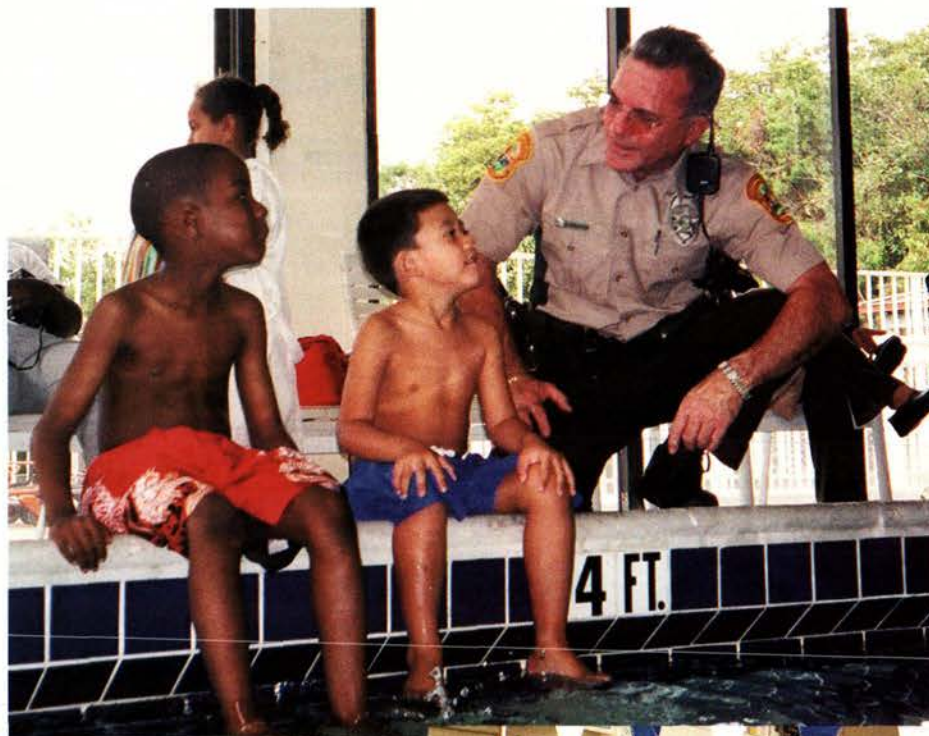
Drowning is the No. 1 cause of death in Florida for children under the age of 5, and an alarming 65 percent of these tragedies occur in a family pool.

Each year, nationally, more than 1,000 children ages 14 and younger drown. Of the children who are rescued from near-drowning episodes, most usually end up with severe brain damage due to oxygen deprivation. Also alarming is the cost of the residential care for these victims, which averages \$125,000 annually per child. Florida, with 396 deaths in 2003, ranked first nationwide in drownings, followed by Louisiana with 129.

To curb these disturbing statistics, the Miami-Dade County Intracoastal District initiated the "Save a Child from Drowning" program that specifically targets children of elementary school age who need to learn basic swimming skills. By "partnering" with the Michael-Ann Russell Jewish Community Center (JCC), children who are enrolled in a Miami-Dade County public elementary school are enrolled, regardless of ethnic, religious, social or economic background. The JCC also provides the instructors and the facility, which contains an indoor heated pool, for this 10-hour swimming course. A grant, specifically for the purpose of training children to swim, was awarded to JCC by Miami-Dade County.

Research indicates that in 1998, the overall age-adjusted drowning rate for blacks was 1.6 times higher than it was for whites. Black children, ages 5 through 19, drowned at a rate 2.5 times higher than white children. For this reason, black children were identified to significantly benefit from this program.

Eye-catching "fliers," with details about the program and registration information were designed for distribution. Then, Special Operations Officers met with the elementary public schools faculty within the Intracoastal District, as well as with religious institutions, to announce and launch the venture. A



Above, Miami-Dade Police Officer William Harrington offers encouragement to children enrolled in the "Save a Child from Drowning" program. Project coordinators believe the training has reduced the risk of drowning for many children, since its start in August 2002.

Photos by Kate Harrington

dedicated telephone line with voice-mail instructions was used to receive registration inquiries, so officers could return calls and initiate registration.

Program results

During one week in 2002, the Intracoastal District had two children die in drowning incidents. Since the inception of the Save a Child from Drowning program in August 2002, only one incident occurred, after a child fell off a boat.

Although it is impossible to measure the number of drownings prevented as a result of this training, project coordinators are confident that the reduction from two deaths in one week, to one in over two years, is indicative that the program is meeting its objectives.

A side benefit was the enhanced relationship between the public and the police through citizen participation and community involvement. By fostering social interaction with the families of the student swimmers, barriers of communication were minimized. This, in turn, facilitated the flow of



information, particularly related to ongoing criminal activity. Overall, the quality of life improved for the participating children, their families and their neighborhoods. This is an ongoing program with more than 400 "graduates" and an ever-increasing number of new enrollees.

At the conclusion of the training, participating children know how to remain calm and secure their safety. Although they may not have developed into proficient swimmers, they do learn how to reduce their risk of drowning and raise their self-confidence around water.

An 18-year law-enforcement veteran, Sgt. Mike Medina has been assigned to the Intracoastal District since 2000. For further information on this program, he can be reached at 305-546-4520. ☛

GED Instructor Marc Erwin Keeps Inmates Focused

By: Stan Nelson
Planner, Planning and Research Dept.
Lee County Sheriff's Office

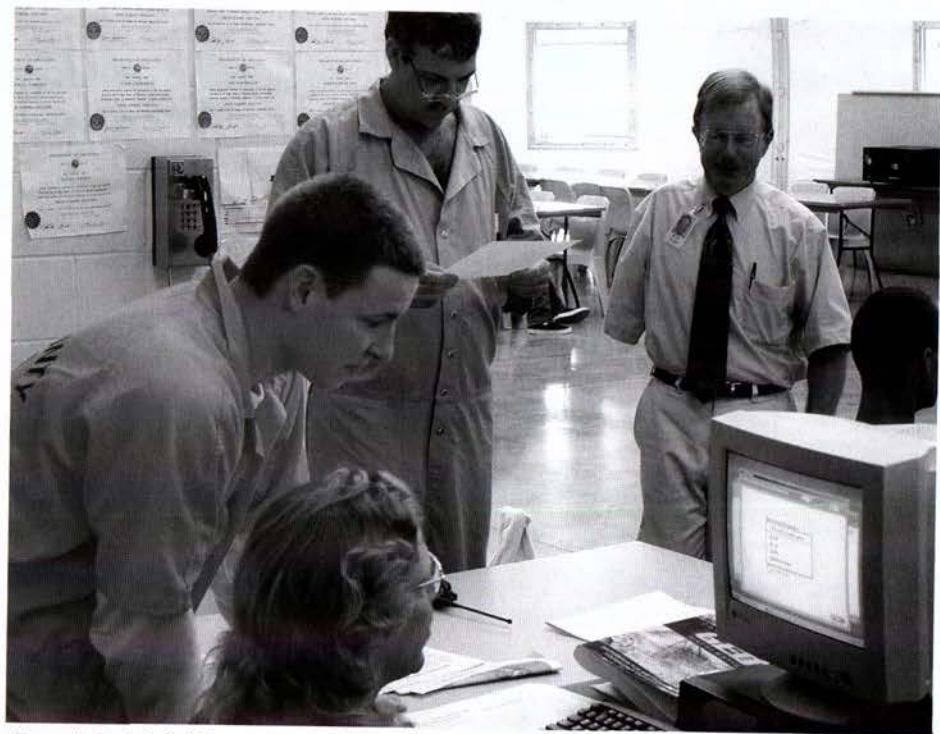
It's not just college grads putting diplomas on the walls these days.

Lee County inmates, taught by GED instructor Marc Erwin, are proud of their accomplishments and it shows. The improvised classroom Erwin uses is plastered with diplomas earned in Erwin's classes – 81 from 2003 and another 51 from 2004, despite disruptions caused by multiple hurricanes.

Erwin's classroom successes caught the attention of the Foundation for Lee County Public Schools, which named him one of this year's 31 Golden Apple Teacher Recognition Program finalists. He was selected from a pool of 2,152 teachers nominated by students, parents, colleagues, business and community leaders.

Erwin, 52, is likely the first GED instructor to be named a Golden Apple finalist in the program's 18-year history, according to Diana Hutnik, program manager for the Lee County School District's adult education office. "He is a very dedicated teacher who has students' best interests at heart," she says. The detention GED program at the Community Programs Unit, part of the Core Detention Facility in Fort Myers, is also one of the school district's largest and most successful, Hutnik adds.

"I'm not surprised Marc was nominated," says Capt. Tom Weaver, who oversees the Community Programs Unit for the Lee County Sheriff's Office. "He does a wonderful job, and he's the guy we wanted for the program. He has humor, quick wit and a good eye for security."



From left, Gabriel Purscell, Kenneth Rice and instructor Marc Erwin assist GED students at the Core Detention Facility in Fort Myers. Purscell and Rice are inmate worker tutors.

A touch of class

Students work at their own level on computers after a group lesson at the start of class. They compete for Erwin's attention with raised hands and casual banter, punctuated with calls of "Mr. Erwin, Mr. Erwin." An average of 75 students attend his four 90-minute classes daily.

Erwin taught in elementary schools for more than 25 years before switching to adult education in December 2001. The job was intimidating at first, he says, but his apprehension quickly passed. Now the roles have switched: Erwin is arguably the program's biggest cheerleader, giving constant praise to his students and telling them that they can succeed...that they can do it. And they do.

Inmates respond well to smiley faces on assignments or being asked to take a bow after getting a perfect test score, Erwin says. GED graduations are an even bigger deal. Graduates get a cap and gown ceremony, complete with a "Pomp & Circumstance" grand entrance, commencement address and digital photos that can be e-mailed to their families.

This, in turn, creates a radically different environment than one would expect. For example, one inmate went before a judge to ask that his sentence be extended so that he could remain in

detention two more weeks to successfully complete his GED.

"These adults are really focused," Erwin says. "They know that they want a diploma and go for it. They are highly motivated."

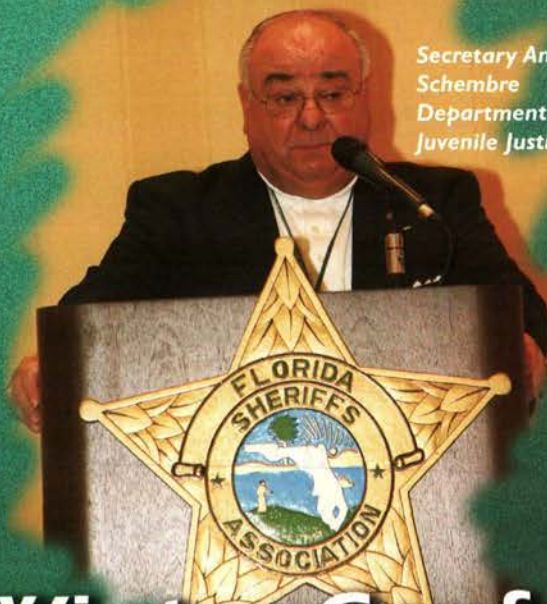
Two inmates assist Erwin in the classroom and receive five days off their sentence each month. They also provide after-hours, one-on-one and weekend tutoring for GED participants, reinforcing lessons learned in the classroom. "It's a lot of fun helping people get a GED, and it feels good teaching somebody something," says Gabriel Purscell, who already has a high-school degree but wants to help tutor. "You can share in the successes of others."

Based on the GED program's success, Weaver is expanding eligibility to include inmates from a more secure section of the detention facility. "We are very proud of the program," he says.

For more information, contact Stan Nelson, Lee County Sheriff's Office, 239-477-1066, or visit the LCSO on the web at: <http://www.sheriffleeftl.org/>



Commissioner Guy Turnell
Florida Department of Law Enforcement



Secretary Anthony
Schembre
Department of
Juvenile Justice



Gilchrist County Sheriff
David Turner

Mid-Winter Conference Highlights



Orange County Sheriff
Kevin Beary

The Florida Sheriffs Association 2005 Mid-Winter Conference was held January 23-26 at the Sandestin Golf & Beach Resort, Sandestin.

It was a time for all the newly elected Sheriffs to get to know their fellow Sheriffs and to learn more about how FSA conducts its business.

While the days were packed full of business meetings, networking and learning about the new products, services and technology available for law enforcement, the Sheriffs managed to squeeze in a little fun time. Conference host, Okaloosa County Sheriff Charlie Morris, arranged to have an Elvis impersonator available to perform at the Monday night 1950s "Sock Hop" themed dinner. The evening's entertainment included a return guest appearance of America's "Mayberry Deputy." Or, at least one of his better impersonators, David Browning of Bristol, Virginia.

This year's conference seemed to show evidence of how law-enforcement agencies are working together. The conference included presentations by the president of the Florida Police Chiefs Association, a U.S. Homeland Security official, Florida Highway Patrol director, Department of Juvenile Justice secretary and representatives from the Department of Corrections and U.S. Attorneys Office.

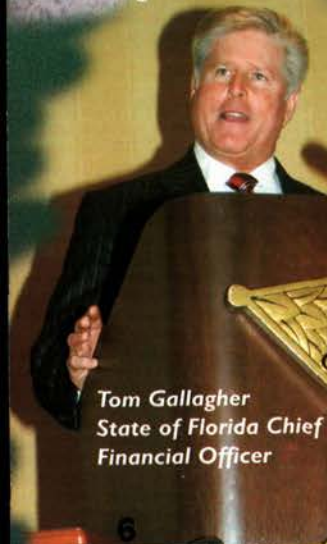
It also included a briefing on programs that are uniting law enforcement to better serve the public, including a presentation on the Florida Law Enforcement Data Sharing Consortium (see related article in this issue), TRIAD and FDLE's Integrated Criminal History System. We've included a glimpse of the people who gathered in northwest Florida at one of our most highly attended conferences in recent years.



Seminole County Sheriff
Don Eslinger



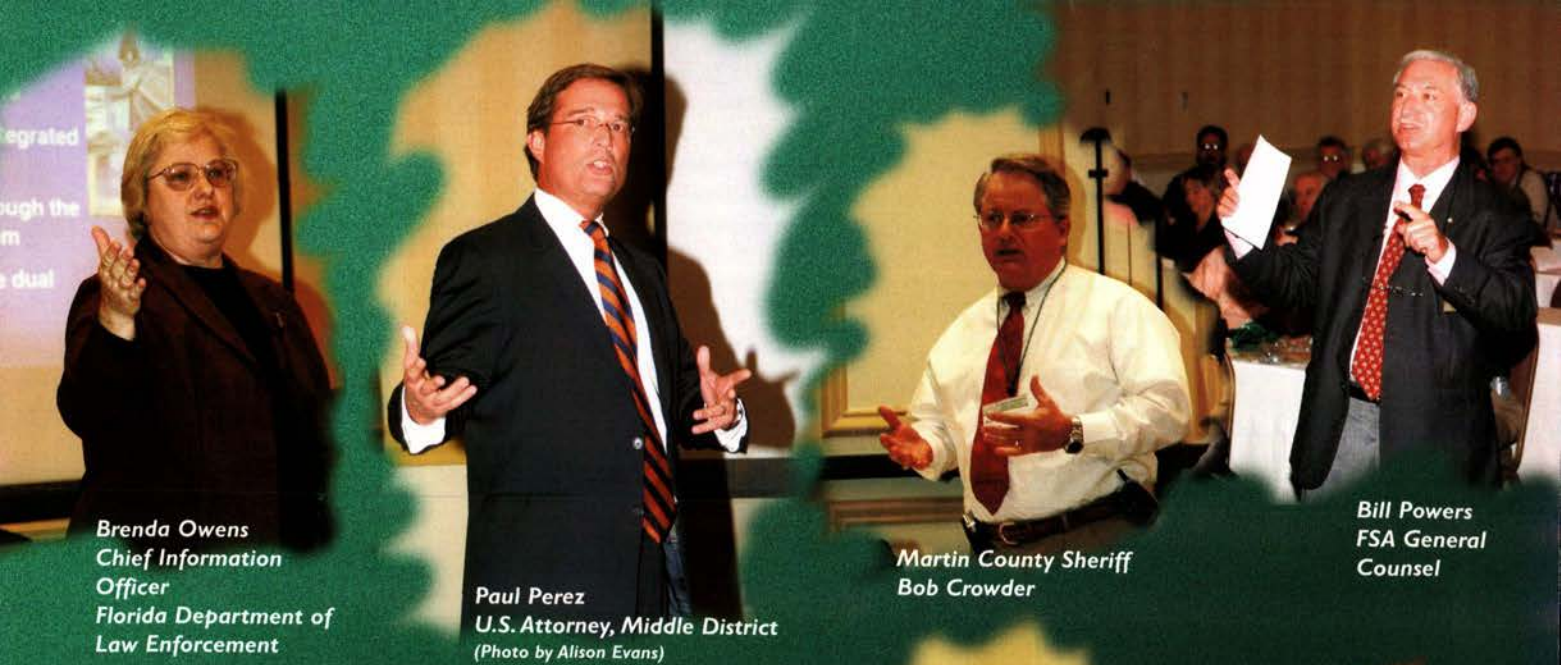
FSA President
Bradford County Sheriff Bob Milner



Tom Gallagher
State of Florida Chief
Financial Officer



Okaloosa County Sheriff
Charlie Morris



Brenda Owens
Chief Information
Officer
Florida Department of
Law Enforcement

Paul Perez
U.S. Attorney, Middle District
(Photo by Allison Evans)

**Martin County Sheriff
Bob Crowder**

Bill Powers
FSA General
Counsel



Bob Heckman
Local Law Enforcement Liaison
Office of Information Analysis
U.S. Department of Homeland
Security

Above, Orange County Sheriff's Office Capt. Rickey Ricks told the Sheriffs that the series of hurricanes last fall tested the Florida Sheriffs Task Force in a good way. Organizers are fine tuning communications, based on what they learned from the disasters.

Col. Chris Knight
Director, Florida Highway Patrol

**Leon County Sheriff
Larry Campbell**



Wendy Hallowell, Victim's
Rights Coordinator
Office of the Governor

Laurie Keller
Okaloosa County Sheriffs
Office Investigator

Tom Dunn
Lead Investigator
Children's
Advocacy Center

Monica David
Chairman
Parole Commission

**National Sheriffs
Association President
Aaron Kennard**
Sheriff, Salt Lake
City, Utah

**Holmes Beach Police
Chief Jay Romine**
President, Florida Police
Chiefs Association

An issue of grave concern to the Sheriffs is methamphetamine manufacturing, which is reaching epidemic proportions in some parts of the state. Children's Advocacy Center representatives reported that there's a growing concern for the welfare of the children found at these sites. Nearly 50 percent test positive for meth, believed to be a result of casual exposure to the drug in their homes. The CAC is looking into child endangerment laws and other issues related to the labs. Pictured at left are the presenters, Okaloosa County Sheriffs Office Investigator Laurie Keller and Children's Advocacy Center Lead Investigator Tom Dunn.

Pinellas County S.O. School Crossing Guard Program Named Best in the State

The Pinellas County Sheriff's Office School Crossing Guard Program has been selected by the state of Florida as the School Crossing Guard Program of the Year for 2004.

Leigh Matusick, the administrator for the Florida School Crossing Guard Program presented the award to members of the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office School Crossing Guard Program in Largo on February 4, 2005.

Strong beginnings

The Pinellas Sheriff's School Crossing Guard Program began in 1972 as a volunteer program. Through the years the program has grown to a Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) compliant unit with 170 school crossing guards, 15 regional coordinators and one program supervisor.

Today, Sheriff's school crossing guards cover 197 school crossings in the unincorporated areas of Pinellas County and cities of Oldsmar, Safety Harbor, Seminole, Madeira Beach and Dunedin. The program provides crossing guards for one high school, nine middle schools and 32 elementary schools.

According to Pinellas County Sheriff's Office School Crossing

School Crossing Guard Robert Workman at his post near Seminole Elementary School in Seminole, Florida.



Pinellas County Sheriff Jim Coats (far right) congratulates the School Resource Officer team for winning "School Crossing Guard Program of the Year". Included are, from left, Captain Scott Stiner, Commander Special Operations Division; Lieutenant Teresa Dioquino, Commander Community Service Section; Crossing Guard Supervisor Sharon Lough, and Florida School Crossing Guard Administrator Leigh Matusick.

Guard Program Supervisor Sharon Lough, the program competed against school crossing guard programs throughout the state for the award.

PCSO Community Services Section Commander Lt. Teresa

Dioquino says she is proud of the School Crossing Guard Program's accomplishments. In 2004, she says, the crossing guards took part in the International Walk to School Day event, many safety events and bike rodeos throughout Pinellas County and helped certified law

enforcement with securing motorcade routes for presidential visits.

"In addition, 20 new school crossing guards went through the annual Back to School Florida Department of Transportation training," she says. All the guards successfully completed the classroom and field training, according to the lieutenant.

Pinellas County Sheriff Jim Coats attended the presentation and congratulated the guards on their award and thanked them for their dedication. "Our School Crossing Guard Program is staffed with professionals who take their responsibilities seriously and it shows with every student a crossing guard takes across an intersection," he said. ☼



School Crossing Laura Vaughn at her post near Seminole Elementary School in Seminole, Florida.



Tanner
Florida Sheriffs Boys
Ranch resident



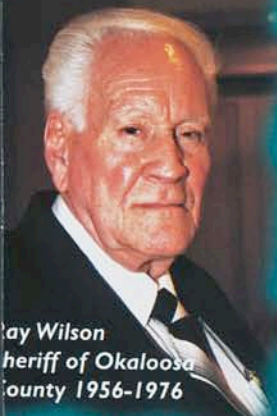
Gadsden County Sheriff Morris Young and his wife, Kathy



Sumter County Sheriff Bill
Farmer and his wife, Linda

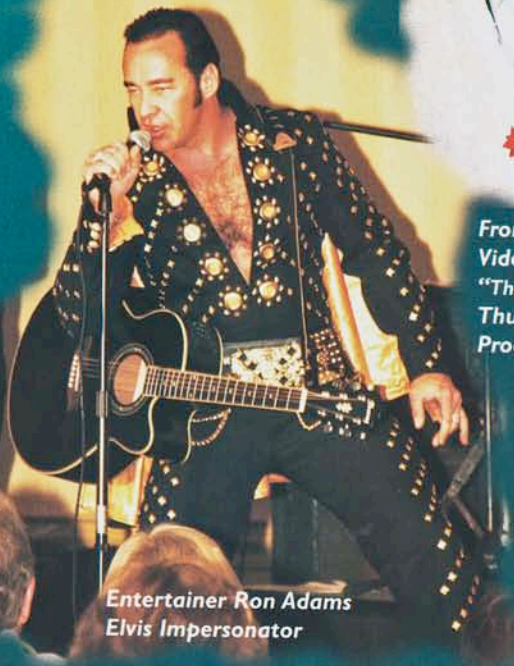
Conference Highlights

continued from page 7



Ray Wilson
Sheriff of Okaloosa
County 1956-1976

Sheriff Wilson is best known for tracking down his father's killer. As a 12-year-old boy, he witnessed his father's death following a drive-by shooting. The erstwhile Chief of Police, Ray, Jr., was a candidate for Sheriff in Okaloosa County. The boy vowed to become a Sheriff and seek justice. He reached that goal at age 27, and three years later, he solved the crime.



Entertainer Ron Adams
Elvis Impersonator



From left: Bob Thurgaland, President, Thurgaland Video Productions; Entertainer David Browning, "The Mayberry Deputy"; Todd Thurgaland, VP, Thurgaland Video Productions.



Rnee' Dean, left, FSA Conference Coordinator, and Debbie Diehl, FSA Administrative Assistant

DeSoto County Sheriff Vernon Keen and Jeff Hay, All American Air Cleaning Equipment



Marion County Sheriff Ed Dean and Levy County Sheriff Johnny Smith

LETTERS

Editor:

Regarding Vasko K-9 Officer (November/December 2004 issue), there is no mention of him or any other K-9 being put on the memorial in Tallahassee. For his master, Deputy Michael Colton, he and all K-9 officers should be remembered by all of us.

I am sure I am not the only member of the Association who feels this way. I also feel anyone shooting a K-9 should be charged and convicted the same as shooting a police officer. After all, he was doing his job.

Is there any way we can contribute to a fund for our K-9s?

Also, I think Ed Dean is doing a top-notch job here in Marion County and my hat goes off to him.

Thanks.

Ira M. Treen, Ocala
(permission given to publish)

Editor replies:

It's interesting that you should write about the K-9s and the memorial wall. I had the same question when the story went to press. While the current Law Enforcement Memorial behind the Sheriffs Association headquarters doesn't have K-9 names engraved, we hope to discuss an adjacent memorial that might somehow acknowledge the sacrifice of police dogs.

As for the penalty for killing K-9s, I did a little research. Injuring or killing a police dog is a third-degree felony punishable by imprisonment of up to five years. First-degree murder for a police officer is punishable by death or life without parole; second-degree carries a mandatory minimum term of 25 years and third-degree carries a 15-year minimum term.

We don't know of any efforts to stiffen the laws related to K-9 killing, but thank you for the suggestion.

Editor:

I enjoyed reading the Nov/Dec 2004 issue of *The Sheriff's Star*. Much interesting information as well as timely tips.

One of the articles speaks about manatee safety and mentions two locations where one can go see these "gentle" creatures (my wife says they are so ugly they are real cute). I

would like to tell you about a place we visit yearly where one can see and learn about manatees. It's called Homosassa Springs State Wildlife Park and is located off of Route 19 in Homosassa. It is well worth visiting, especially if you have children.

Volunteers actually enter the water with the animals and spend about half an hour telling everyone there about them. The volunteers feed them, pet them and generally help you to really understand what they are all about. There is an admission fee, but it is small, compared to theme parks. In addition, this small park has living exhibits of most of the animals and birds native to Florida. They also put on other "shows" about alligators and other animals.

Perhaps you might mention this in a future issue.

- PGR, Zephyrhills

Editor replies:

Thank you for this useful information. We learned a boatload about manatees with that last article, and we're happy to add to the knowledge through your letter.

Editor:

Last year I recall an article on the state laws concerning the growing concerns of children/young adults riding unlicensed ATV/ 4 wheelers/golf carts on roadways, public and private roadways, with and without helmets, registrations, or any type license. This has become an ongoing problem in Clay County with property owners calling for deputies to increase patrols, and issue trespass warrants and possibly impound these vehicles, which are causing great damage to private property/roadways/driveways etc.

Some Sheriff's deputies seem unsure of the exact laws concerning these vehicles, but *do* tell us traffic laws are the same on private roads. Could you run again an update on these type vehicles and the "rules of the road?"

Our Farm Bureau insurance policy covers these vehicles — ATV, mini-bikes, golfcarts/4-wheelers — **ONLY** on private property and in a licensed park/recreational facility.

If we make copies of these laws,

then parents could be made aware of their responsibilities, and we can enforce these traffic rules fairly. Property owners are very worried concerning legal liabilities when these kids trespass, tear down "No Trespassing" signs, then build race tracks on unfenced private acreage. We have requested newspaper articles for public information, but I guess this is not a popular subject.

Also, what are the road rules for those little mini-motorcycles, that even adults ride on sidewalks, and also in the streets? These also are really growing in numbers on our roadways and are difficult to see.

Thank you,

STR, Green Cove Springs

Editor replies:

We checked around, and what we learned is that, generally, state traffic statutes *do* apply on private roads *if* that road is open for travel by the general public.

Any comment beyond this should come directly from your county officials.

We appreciate the suggestion as a story topic and will consider it. Thank you for writing.

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.

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.

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Strange But True: Headlines You Didn't See in 2004

By: Sgt. Rick Hord
Public Information Officer
Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office

Most of the more than 160,000 incidents handled by Okaloosa County Sheriff's Deputies in 2004 didn't make the headlines. Here are a few that never graced the evening news, but represent a sampling of real-life events in Okaloosa County last year:

Didn't Know Her Own Strength. An employee of Starbuck's Coffee at Destin Commons was taking out the trash, but over-shot the dumpster. The bag of trash sailed over the dumpster and landed on a marked Sheriff's patrol car parked on the other side, smashing the car's rear window.

You're Both Ugly. Two 20-something women accused each of vandal-

izing the other's car in the parking lot of a Destin nightclub two weeks before Thanksgiving. One car had been keyed, and the other had a bottle of booze poured all over the interior. It all started with an argument over who was prettier.

Slow Learner. Jorge Baez was arrested on cocaine charges. He got out of jail for a few weeks while waiting to be sentenced. He took advantage of that break to sell more cocaine... to an undercover cop, again.

Learning Empathy the Hard Way. A resident of the Wright area reported that someone broke into his house and stole his TV, a pair of shoes, 100 empty CD cases and two bottles of prescriptions. He wasn't sure when it happened because he was in jail at the time for burglarizing his neighbor's house.

How Not to Avoid the Cops. Deputies arrived at a Destin townhouse after neighbors reported a domestic disturbance. One of the parties involved in the disturbance avoided the cops by hiding in the attic...until he fell through the ceiling into a neighbor's unit, which earned him a burglary charge.

An Eye for an Eye. A teenager,

upset that his mother wouldn't illegally buy him alcoholic beverages, threw a frying pan of hot grease at her. He got arrested for aggravated assault... after getting out of the hospital. The hot grease burned *him* instead of his mother.

That's Why They Call it "Dope." A Niceville High School student told his resource officer he had grabbed a pair of jeans from the dirty clothes basket to dress in haste that morning and didn't discover the partially smoked marijuana cigarette in a pocket until he got to school. Another student told the resource officer at Pryor Middle School he didn't have time to finish the marijuana joint he was smoking while walking to school, so he snuffed it out and stuck it behind his ear. He forgot all about it until a teacher noticed it.

Just Trying to Help. Deputies chose not to arrest a 12-year-old girl accused of battery. She admitted pouring mouthwash onto the face of a friend who was trying to go to sleep, but said she didn't intend to irritate the other girl's eyes... she was simply tired of smelling her bad breath and was aiming for the mouth. ☺

Lake County Gets Head Start on PAL Youth Bike Program

The concept for a Lake County based program to help steer kids away from a life of crime was launched on a cycling tour in the Italian Alps.

Then New York resident Lou Rossi was touring the region on his bicycle, where he met a fellow biker from Colorado. That's when he learned about the Front Rangers Cycling club, a highly successful cycling program organized through the Denver Police Department to help urban youth get into the sport. Rossi wanted to start a similar program in New York, but found limited in volunteer support.

Late last year, after relocating to Florida, he contacted Lake County Sheriff Chris Daniels, who told him about the newly formed Lake County

Police Athletic League, a nonprofit group that focuses on juvenile crime prevention.

Programs hosted by PAL provide a medium for children to interact with law-enforcement officers and other positive role models. This is usually accomplished through sports, recreational and educational activities. Several other county PALs also had competitive cycling programs.

It turned out to be the perfect match.

Sheriff Daniels connected Rossi with PAL organizers and within weeks, Rossi made a \$10,000 donation to get a program off the ground and get at-risk youth involved in the sport of cycling.

Hitting the streets

Rossi, 60, has cycled in Europe and Panama. He wrote a book in 1998 about cycling along canals in New York. He says cycling opportunities are excellent in Lake County, for both on-road and off-road cycling.

This, coupled with PAL's mission, provide a solid foundation to create a youth bicycle racing team open to all interested Lake County youth - girls and boys - ages 8-17. Rossi says the new program will seek to promote a healthy lifestyle and competitive spirit, and form close relationships between youth and the Lake County deputies.

Monies from Rossi's donation will be used to buy equipment, finance instruction, and may pay for racing competitions, transportation and race clothing and equipment. Rossi says he envisions LCPAL Youth Racing Team outfits, including a Sheriff's star on the jersey.

For more information, visit the Lake County PAL website: <http://www.lakecountypal.com/>, or write to the executive director, Deputy Peyton Grinnell, pgrinnell@lcs.org. ☺

2004 Corrections Officer of the Year:

Holmes County Sgt. Lynn Lee

Runners-Up Also Named

Each year, the Florida Sheriffs Association sends out requests for nominations for its Corrections Officer of the Year award. And this year's awards committee agreed that the nominations for 2004 proved especially competitive.

To give you an idea of what they faced, nominations included an off-duty Corrections Officer who pulled a family from a burning vehicle following a serious accident and worked with each injured victim triage-style, including performing CPR on a 6-year-old. Another nominee had chased after and tackled a jail escapee, as he was trying to carjack a getaway vehicle.

After much discussion, though, the awards committee focused on one incident that required a Corrections Officer to fight her natural instincts and remain at her post until backup could arrive, all the while listening to a drama played out over the Emergency Operations Center radio that involved her police officer husband.

Drama unfolds

The incident that led to Holmes County Sheriff's Office Sergeant Lynn Lee's nomination as Corrections Officer of the Year occurred in March of last year around 10:00 on a Saturday morning.

Sergeant Lee, who has also worked as a sworn deputy, was the Shift Sergeant on duty at the Holmes County Sheriff's Office Work Camp when the event unfolded. It just so happens that the Dispatch/9-1-1 operations center is located adjacent to the booking area of the jail, where Sergeant Lee was working.

Because Saturday mornings are typically quiet in rural Holmes



Congratulating Sgt. Lynn Lee, FSA's Corrections Officer of the Year, are (from left) FSA President Bradford County Sheriff Bob Miller, Lee's husband, Bonifay Police Dept. Officer Steven Lee and Holmes County Sheriff Dennis Lee (no relation to the winner).

County, which is located in north-west Florida and borders Alabama, it was a skeleton staff at the unit. A newly trained part-timer was handling emergency dispatch while Lee and another Corrections Officer managed about 100 inmates. Their backup was transporting another inmate for medical treatment.

When the dispatch operator received a call about a man with a gun who was shooting in a neighborhood, Sergeant Lee recognized the area as one the Bonifay Police Department usually covered. She called her husband of 10 years, Steven Lee, who was also on duty as an officer with Bonifay PD, and he recognized the address as one he'd handled often.

Baker Act rebound

Bonifay Police Department had Baker Acted the resident several times, most recently about six months prior to this incident...and because Officer Lee was familiar with the man's mental illness, he said he would handle the call.

Steven Lee arrived on the scene to find Dwight McWaters standing unarmed in his front yard. As

Officer Lee approached him, he could see that McWaters was clearly delusional and might be dangerous. As he started to restrain McWaters, they got into a struggle. Officer Lee reached for his pepper spray, but McWaters broke away and ran for his high-powered rifle, which was located just inside his kitchen door.

Simultaneously, Officer Lee ran toward his vehicle for cover and started yelling into his radio for backup. Before Lee could be shielded, though, McWaters started shooting ...hitting him a total of nine times, including his leg, thigh and part of his upper torso, where the bulletproof vest didn't cover.

Back at the Dispatch/Operations Center, the radios and phones started going haywire. Sgt. Lynn Lee quickly moved in to help and heard not only "shots fired" and "officer down," but her own husband's voice over the radio as he screamed directions to backup and gave information about his injuries.

Sgt. Lynn Lee immediately dispatched an ambulance and resisted the urgings of her co-workers to go to the scene. "I can't leave," she

told them. "There's no one to cover my post."

She called her father, Billy Forehand, also a Sergeant with Holmes County Sheriff's Office, and told him, "Get over there." Her next call was to the Sheriff to plead for someone to relieve her, and he responded quickly.

At the scene

Deputy Eddie Eaton was the first backup to arrive on the scene of the crime. He returned fire at McWaters and threw himself on Steven Lee to shield him from more bullets. He shouted directions to a highway patrol officer to pull his vehicle between the shooter and Steven Lee, hoping to stop the bullets and allow the ambulance to get to Lee.

As more backup arrived, McWaters retreated to the house, where officers knew he had more guns. They organized the SWAT Team and prepared to go in...but the shooting stopped. McWaters had been seriously injured and, though hospitalized, eventually died from his wounds.

Finally relieved at her post, Sgt. Lynn Lee raced to the scene, but her husband was already on his way to the hospital. One of the other deputies transported her to where he was waiting on the air ambulance to be flown to a Dothan hospital.

Sgt. Lynn Lee described it this way: "I'm looking at him and he's covered in blood from the neck down. I think I was just in a dazed state. Later, when we looked at the x-rays, you could see fragments all the way down the left side of his body. God was with him..."

She says when people hear the story, they always ask her, "How did you stay there and listen to it all and not leave?"

She responds, "Honest to God, I don't know how I stayed there. Basically, I knew I couldn't leave. I still had my job to do until I could get somebody there to cover for me. It seemed like forever..."

You'll be happy to know there's

a happy ending to her story. Though still on disability, Officer Steven Lee is recovering well and hopes to be back at work as soon as he is able.

When we asked our award winner, Sgt. Lynn Lee, how life has changed after the incident, she says, "We see things a lot differently than we did back then. Life's too short – you know that – but it doesn't seem to sink in until something like this happens."

On the award nomination form, Holmes County Sheriff Dennis Lee – no relation to the winner – wrote, "Pride, integrity, honor and respect are all qualities we strive for as law-enforcement

and corrections officers. Sgt. Lee demonstrated the highest level of those qualities in carrying out her duties that day...She had incredible composure and made sure that everything was done that could be done. In my opinion, there is no corrections officer in the state of Florida who is more deserving of recognition by the Florida Sheriffs Association than Sgt. Lynn Lee."

Sheriff, we agree. And for this reason, we named Sgt. Lynn Lee the 2004 Corrections Officer of the Year, which includes a handsome plaque and a check for \$1,000.

Congratulations Sergeant Lee.



Runners-Up Also Named

Since the competition was so strong for Corrections Officer of the Year, the awards committee chose two runners-up.

Polk County Detention Deputy Gregory Louis Fraley and Hillsborough County Sheriff's Deputy Robert Hartzell.

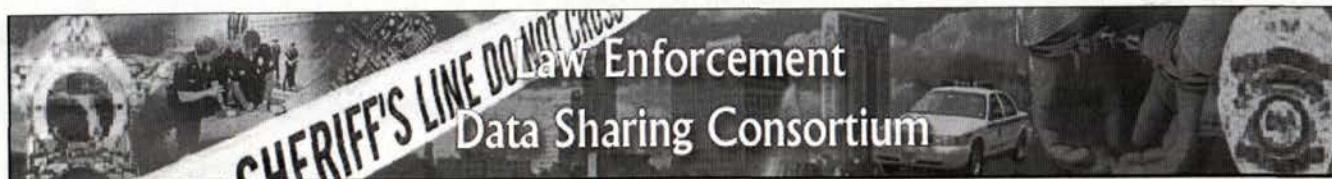
Detention Deputy Greg Fraley is being commended for his tireless efforts and careful organization in feeding the masses following Florida's rash of hurricanes last fall.

Hundreds of emergency relief workers flooded into Polk County following Hurricane Charley, but basic services were lacking. The Food Service Section of the Sheriff's Office deployed its mobile kitchen unit as part of the emergency command post to feed deputies and emergency workers. Deputy Fraley managed to use limited resources to feed hundreds of people three times a day. Throughout the operations, Deputy Fraley did not leave the site, choosing to sleep in the food services truck and be available around the clock. At one point, his Major had to order him to go home to take care of personal needs.

Within weeks, Deputy Fraley was called into service following Hurricane Ivan, this time he responded to assist Escambia County. Others commended him for his sense of mission and devotion there as well.

Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office Deputy Robert Hartzell is being recognized for his work related to the Special Projects Section to coordinate and manage the purchase of approximately \$2.8 million in equipment related to a jail expansion project. In this new position, Deputy Hartzell arranged a donation of 188 standard and intensive-care hospital beds for the jail infirmaries. He has also been able to salvage usable stretchers, wheelchairs and blood pressure machines. The total value of the nearly new equipment exceeds \$800,000.

The Florida Sheriffs Association extends its congratulations to Deputies Fraley and Hartzell for their exemplary performance and continued dedication. Thank you for a job well done. ★



Florida Law Enforcement Data Sharing Fast Becoming a National Model

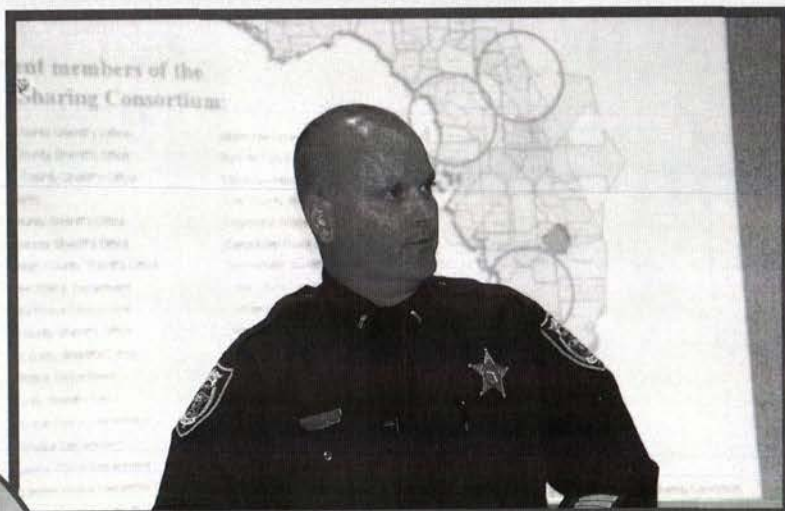
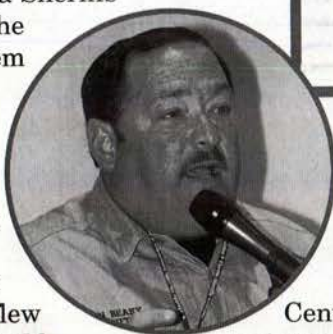
In 2002, the Florida Sheriffs Association endorsed the idea of creating a system for data sharing that would address the problems brought to light following the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the United States.

Two months before pilot Mohamed Atta flew an airplane into the World Trade Center towers, police in Florida had stopped him for a traffic infraction. Had the officer been able to use his patrol car computer to search law-enforcement records in nearby counties, he would have learned there was a warrant for Atta's arrest because he had failed to appear in court after driving without a license in Broward County.

Up until 2001, though, as law-enforcement technology was developing, each agency had its own information and database. There was no available means for one agency to instantly and electronically tap the information at other agencies.

The Sept. 11 case made it clear that law-enforcement agencies needed an integrated system for sharing information about criminals and suspects, without compromising security.

And they needed it on a budget.



Orange County Sheriff's Lt. Mike McKinley (above) gave a comprehensive presentation on Florida's Law Enforcement Data Sharing Consortium to the Florida Sheriffs at the annual Mid-Winter conference. Orange County Sheriff Kevin Beary (inset) and the Florida Sheriffs Association are credited with helping to get the DSC off the ground.

The University of Central Florida expressed an interest on creating a records management system for this very purpose. With support from organizations such as the Florida Sheriffs Association and the Florida Police Chiefs Association, the Data Sharing Consortium was born.

The DSC is a law-enforcement driven, non-commercial system for helping solve crimes that involve details beyond county and other jurisdictional boundaries.

Started through the combined effort of five Sheriffs' Offices and UCF, the Florida Law Enforcement Data Sharing Consortium now includes 80 law-enforcement agencies throughout the state (police departments and Sheriffs' Offices). More than a third of Florida Sheriffs' Offices have either joined or are in the process of joining the network.

Budget and other advantages

Three of the system's biggest advantages are: public-public part-

nership, which provides a cost savings; use of UCF to avoid political pitfalls; and its user friendliness, with a technology that works much like the Internet search engine Google.

Fees can be kept low, as overhead is low, consisting primarily of time invested by professors and students working on the network. And fees are tiered according to the size of the law-enforcement agency using the system.

DSC organizers recently made a presentation to the Senate Criminal Justice Committee. Important points that captured the committee's interest included:

The DSC provides critical data for detectives and officers. A detective can instantly search hundreds of police databases throughout Florida. He can query by property item, motor vehicle, pawn activity and by person.

It provides faster and more effective investigations - One detective with one computer can now perform in two hours what it

previously took several detectives at several different agencies days or weeks to accomplish.

It's credited for several hundred arrests - Armed robbers, burglars, home invaders and those trafficking in stolen property.

The DSC strengthens Homeland Security - It can be used to connect the dots and thwart a possible attack (ex: connect three different suspicious incidents at ALLTEL Stadium, Raymond James Stadium, and the Orange Bowl).

The system is secure and doesn't raise privacy issues - The DSC only searches police records and it is only accessible by law enforcement agencies.

The DSC will save money - Annual estimated cost savings through Data Sharing will be several million dollars.

No system conversions are needed - Although many people said it can't be done, UCF was able

to create a distributed network, so no centralized database is needed. Records can stay housed at the agency, but they will be available to other law-enforcement agencies through secure connections.

Early success stories

Though still in its infancy, the DSC has helped Florida gain attention as a national model for effective information sharing in law enforcement. Even more important are the real-life success stories.

In one case, Hillsborough County detectives use data sharing to bust a multi-county theft ring and recovered more than \$75,000 in property stolen from cellular phone companies.

Orange County detectives used data sharing to identify and apprehend a suspect involved in a series of armed robberies across the central Florida region.

In Osceola County, a case involved \$11,000 in jewelry stolen

from a tourist visiting central Florida. Detectives used data sharing to recover the jewelry and return it to the owner before her vacation ended.

Orange County Sheriff Kevin Beary was highly instrumental in establishing the DSC, through manpower and support.

"Today, career criminals are sitting in jail as a result of our approach (to data sharing)," he says. "Florida is becoming the first state in the nation to achieve President Bush's priority of data sharing to prevent terrorism. In my 27 years of law enforcement, it is possibly the single greatest advance in public safety that I've seen."

For more information on Florida's Data Sharing Consortium, visit the DSC's web page:

<http://www.pstc.ucf.edu/> or e-mail: Joe Saviak at jsaviak@mail.ucf.edu. ☼

STAR BRIEFS

Deputy Continued to Fight for His Life and Others

The Lake County Sheriff's Office is mourning the loss of Deputy Sheriff Wayne Koester, age 33, who died February 9.

Deputy Koester, along with Deputies Thomas McKane and William Crotty, responded to a morning domestic disturbance call in the Lake Kathryn area of northeast Lake County. Shortly after arriving at the scene, a shotgun-wielding suspect viciously ambushed the deputies. During this attack, Deputy Koester was struck by a shotgun blast to the head but continued to engage the suspect in a firefight.

Critically wounded and over-



Lake County Sheriff's Deputy Wayne Koester

come by the suspect's superior firepower—and also aware that his fellow deputies had received injuries from the assailant's attack—Deputy

Koester made an attempt to get to his vehicle and reach his shotgun.

When he retrieved the gun, he turned to engage the suspect once again, and was struck by a second and fatal blast.

During this encounter, and to the very end, Deputy Koester continued to fight for his life and those of his fellow deputies. Through his heroic efforts, Deputy Koester demonstrated the highest standards of what is expected of a law-enforcement officer.

The entire Florida law-enforcement community joins the Lake County Sheriff's Office in mourning the loss. We pray for his survivors, wife Ashley Koester, and children: Amber (age 13), Ryan (11) and stepchildren Jamie (12) and Jordan (7).



FLORIDA SHERIFFS YOUTH RANCHES

HONOR ROLL



ST. LUCIE COUNTY - Presented by St. Lucie County Sheriff Ken J. Mascara to Margaret and Stanley Wisniewski.



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 ❖

M & K Used Auto Parts, Inc.

Charles R. Perry Construction, Inc.
Allen Family Foundation, Inc.

Roser Memorial Guild
Florida Caribbean Marketing, Inc.

Aramark Corporation
Foundation Services of Central Florida, Inc.

Mr. and Mrs. Pedro J. Alberio

Mrs. Arthur Andres
Mr. William M. Bagley
Mr. Terry C. Balderson
Mr. and Mrs. Raymond E. Banks

Mr. Robert D. Bowden
Mrs. Belen C. Brown
Mr. and Mrs. L. O. Brown
Deputy and Mrs. Samuel W. Bruce

Mr. and Mrs. John Bunting
Mr. John J. Burns

Mrs. Jean B. Carroll
Mr. George H. Chaney
Mr. James M. Cook

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Diez
Ms. Joyce C. Ellis

Ms. Ellen L. Fox
Mr. John C. Gage

Mr. Frank L. Gioielli
Deputy Manuel Gonzalez
Ms. Madeline Hall

Mr. and Mrs. Bruce A. Hallblade

Mr. and Mrs. Ron Hanson
Ms. Nancy A. Harhen

Cdr. and Mrs. Allen B. Headley

Mr. Milton Herlong
Ms. Sandra S. Higdon

Ms. Grete K. Hill
Mrs. Suzanne Hopple

Sheriff Grady C. Judd
Mr. Warren W. Larson

Mr. and Mrs. Dana B. Mattox

Mr. and Mrs. Gary McCombs

Mrs. Margaret McWilliams



BAY COUNTY - Presented by Bay County Sheriff Frank McKeithen to Jane Russell and Frank McCallister.



COLLIER COUNTY - Presented by Collier County Chief Kevin Rambosk to Ruth Meyers and Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Schwab.



OSCEOLA COUNTY - Presented by former Osceola County Sheriff Charlie Aycock to Mrs. Xiomara Bermudez and Bill Cunningham.



LEE COUNTY - Presented by Lee County Sheriff Mike Scott to Robert Willin, accepting on behalf of Manatee Moose Legion 58.



Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Schwab



BAY COUNTY - Presented by Bay County Chief Deputy Major J.B. Holloway to Robert H. Shumaker.

Miss Thelma Cole Miller
Ms. Ethel M. Mills
Mr. Steve Mulkey
Mr. and Mrs. Lyle B. Myers
Mr. and Mrs. Eugene T. Ogilby

Mr. and Mrs. Milton Palmer
Sheriff and Mrs. Fred Peel
Sheriff Roy Raymond
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Reed

Mrs. Ellen K. Robertson
Mr. Peter C. Rossi

Mr. Roy H. Rounseville
Mr. and Mrs. John W. Sampson

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Sanders
Mr. John E. Schreadley

Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Schwab
Mr. Clinton D. Swingle

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Van Oosten, Jr.

Mr. Clifford E. Vaughn
Mrs. Cornelia J. Wendt

Mr. Malcolm H. Whitelaw
Mr. Robert O. Zinnen



SUWANNEE COUNTY - Presented by FSYR President Roger Bouchard to Boys Ranch Alumnus and current volunteer Warren "Buddy" Kimball.



HERNANDO COUNTY - Presented by Hernando County Sheriff Richard Nugent (center) and FSYR Donor Relations Officer Donald Meek (right) to Tony DeMarzo on behalf of the Hernando County 10-13 Club.



VOLUSIA COUNTY - Presented by Volusia County Sheriff Ben Johnson to Lt. Bob Lambert for personal giving.



BAY COUNTY - Presented by Bay County Chief Deputy Major J.B. Holloway (left) to Walter R. Scruggs.



MANATEE COUNTY - Presented by Manatee County Sheriff Charlie Wells and FSYR Donor Relations Officer Bill Brown (left) to Marlon Hall.



OKALOOSA COUNTY - Presented by Okaloosa County Sheriff Charlie Morris to Col. Edward Newman.



VOLUSIA COUNTY - Presented by Volusia County Sheriff Ben Johnson (third from right) to Sgt. Bruce Fleischmann (third from left). Also pictured (from left) FSYR Donor Relations Officer Debra Girard, Special Events Manager Joe McLeod, Volusia County Sheriff's Office Capt. Marty Hatchett and Capt. John Szaroletta.



VOLUSIA COUNTY - Presented by Volusia County Sheriff Ben Johnson (far right) and FSYR Donor Relations Officer Debra Girard (left) to the city of Daytona Beach Shores, represented by Public Safety Director Stephan Dembinsky (second from left) and Mayor Greg Northrup.

**Thank You
for
Caring and
Sharing.**

FLORIDA SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION

HONOR ROLL



This awards program gives special recognition to individuals who have demonstrated their commitment to progressive law enforcement by supporting the Florida Sheriffs Association. Certificates are given to those who have been Honorary Members for 25 years or more. A special "Lifetime Honorary Member" plaque is reserved for those individuals who give \$1,000 or more and for law enforcement personnel who have served at least 40 years. Business leaders who support the Florida Sheriffs Association and its anti-crime activities are recognized with plaques and yearly renewals at the following levels: Gold (\$500), Silver (\$250) and Bronze (\$50). For membership information, please email us: membership@flsheriffs.org or visit our website: www.flsheriffs.org



SEMINOLE COUNTY - FSA Lifetime Honorary Membership plaque - presented by Seminole County Sheriff Don Eslinger to Lawrence J. Jackman.

**Thank You for
Caring and
Sharing.**



BAY COUNTY - Gold Business Member plaque presented by Bay County Sheriff Frank McKeithen to Mark McKinney.



POLK COUNTY - Gold Business member plaque presented by Polk County Sheriff Grady Judd to Steve Strange, representing Riverside National Bank.



COLLIER COUNTY - 30-year certificate presented by Collier County Sheriff Don Hunter to Douglas M. Voss.



HERNANDO COUNTY - 25-year certificates presented by Hernando County Sheriff Richard Nugent (right) to Mr. & Mrs. Thomas A. Pitts, Sr. and Israel Acevedo.



OSCEOLA COUNTY - 30-year certificate presented by former Osceola County Sheriff Charlie Aycock to Harold Stickley and Ervin Wetzel.



FLORIDA SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION

HONOR ROLL

continued from page 17



Talmadge and Jenny Tomlin

ST. LUCIE COUNTY - 30-year certificates presented by St. Lucie County Sheriff Ken J. Mascara to Talmadge and Jenny Tomlin and Ernest Riefler.



Ernest Riefler



OKALOOSA COUNTY - 25-year certificate presented by Okaloosa County Sheriff Charlie Morris to Ronald E. Stearns.



OKALOOSA COUNTY - 25-year certificate presented by Okaloosa County Sheriff Charlie Morris to Ms. Hedwig S. Thurmond.



JACKSON COUNTY - 25-year certificate presented by Jackson County Sheriff Johnny McDaniel to Shira McKinnie, Sr.



JACKSON COUNTY - Certificates presented by Jackson County Sheriff Johnny McDaniel (center) to Robert Furry (30 year) and Wallace Phillips (25 year).



Perry W. Bell



Robert W. Reeves

BAY COUNTY - 25-year certificate presented by Bay County Chief Deputy Major J.B. Holloway (left) to Perry W. Bell and Robert W. Reeves.



OSCEOLA COUNTY - 30-year certificate presented by Osceola County Sheriff Bob Hansell to Albert Wilson.



COLLIER COUNTY - 40-year certificate presented by Collier County Sheriff Don Hunter to Robert E. Lindabury.



LEE COUNTY - 40-year certificate presented by Lee County Sheriff Mike Scott to Mr. & Mrs. Robert Marks.



FLAGLER COUNTY - 30-year certificate presented by Flagler County Sheriff Donald W. Fleming to Marcus Strickland, Jr., Flagler County Commissioner.



POLK COUNTY - 25-year certificates presented by Polk County Sheriff Grady Judd to Mr. & Mrs. Richard Frisbie and Luther James.



SEMINOLE COUNTY - 25-year certificate presented by Seminole County Sheriff Don Eslinger to Jack M. Browder.



INDIAN RIVER COUNTY - 30-year certificate presented by Indian River County Sheriff Roy Raymond to Randy Miller.

Hillsborough Hosts Bike Rodeos

By Elena Arroyo
Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office

The Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office has Bike Rodeos in various communities throughout the year. You may ask yourself, "What is a Bike Rodeo?"

A Bike Rodeo is an event planned by a Community Resource Deputy to educate children about bicycle safety. The children and parents attend free of charge at a local school playground. A recent one was held at Lutz Elementary.

Deputies and volunteers from the community and civic groups spend a Saturday working with the children. Participants learn about having properly working equipment on their bicycles and about traffic rules using a safety course with miniature traffic cones.

Best of all, there's no cost; everyone offers their time, services and equipment for free.

At the Lutz gathering, 200 donated helmets were fitted and distributed, and 50 headlight-tailight sets



The Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office makes bike safety fun through free "Bike Rodeos." Kids receive instruction on bicycle equipment, traffic safety and participate in hands-on bike riding exercises. They also become eligible to win new bikes, helmets and headlight-tailight sets.



were given as gifts. At this year's event, new bicycles with locks were donated and given to 30 lucky boys and girls.

Radio Disney, Hillsborough County Fire Rescue Ladder 14, University Bike Shop, Dr. Bike Mobile Repair, the Civil

Air Patrol, the Lutz Community Council and the multiple deputies from District 1 were all present to make the event fun, informative and safe for all.

For more information about HCSO Bike Rodeos, contact Dep. Brian Sherman at 813-247-8000. ☼

Attention Members:

Has your address changed? Please send us . . .

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

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.

OLD ADDRESS:

RETURN TO:

The Florida Sheriffs Association
P.O. Box 12519
Tallahassee, FL 32317-2519

Or, if you prefer, fax it to: (850) 878-8665
E-mail: kcollier@flsheriffs.org
Or call us at (800) 877-2168
Web site: <http://www.flsheriffs.org>

NEW ADDRESS: ☐ Permanent or ☐ Temporary

Name _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____
Area code/phone _____

SWAT & YOUTH

The Sarasota County Sheriff's Office SWAT Team participated in "SWAT Day" at the Sarasota-Bradenton Youth Ranch last December.

The Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches encourage opportunities for law-enforcement officers to spend time with youth, and offer positive role models. The Sheriff's Office captured a few of the more competitive moments on camera.

It seems that even Sarasota County Sheriff Bill Balkwill (center of group shot, wearing a tie) joined in the fun.

