

THE SHERIFF'S STAR



Tribute to
W.A. Woodham
1941 - 2005
Former
"Dean of Sheriffs"

See page 6

From the desk of . . .
Gary Perkins, Executive Director
Florida Sheriffs Association



This past spring, the Florida Sheriffs Association had to say goodbye to some true friends.

In March, our association mourned the death of former Glades County Sheriff Jim Rider. And in April, we said goodbye to FSA's former Dean of Sheriffs, Gadsden County Sheriff W.A. Woodham.

Both men were in their early sixties, and just a few months into retirement, so the occasions of their passing were especially difficult.

In this issue, we pay tribute to both men and join with their families and the entire family of law enforcement in Florida, in honoring their memory.

What heroes have in common

After attending both funerals, I couldn't help but pick up on the fact that they were viewed as heroes to the communities they served. Both were well liked and were credited with meeting the needs of their constituents in small and large ways.

When I later proofread the article in this issue about the 9-1-1 communications operator (see "Little Girl's Guardian Angel: Volusia County SO Emergency Dispatcher"), I couldn't help but relate the two.

While everyone knows the Sheriff, very few people know anything about the person whose voice they hear on the other end of the line, inquiring, "9-1-1, what is your emergency?"

They're truly the unsung heroes of our profession.

The article detailing how Donna Choufani handled a telephone call from a 5-year-old whose parents had been murdered is both heart warming and gut wrenching.

You may have heard about the case, since it was broadcast internationally by the media. With this story, we feel we're offering our readers more than just a sound bite on the 6:00 news. Public Information Officer Gary Davidson did a superb job in writing the article.

Our editor inquired about running a photo of Choufani, but it turns out that she doesn't want any attention for her role. She was just doing her job, she says. But to everyone else, she is a hero.

Spotlighting 9-1-1 dispatchers

Through this article, we wanted to pay tribute to that segment of our family circle that performs this vital public service. Virtually every call they take is a crisis situation and how they handle it could mean the difference between life and death.

These individuals must be well-trained and able to remain calm and think quickly to diffuse the situation and prepare emergency workers and law-enforcement officers for whatever scene they are about to encounter.

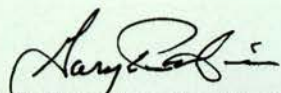
Readers of *The Star* may recall our Corrections Officer of the Year article in the March/April issue. We honored Holmes County Sheriff's Office Sergeant Lynn Lee for her amazing ability to remain calm under pressure, even when the crisis call for service involved her own husband.

Some of the responsibilities outlined in job descriptions for emergency dispatchers include:

- Use a computer-aided dispatch system, receive emergency calls from the public requesting police, fire, medical or other emergency services. Determine the nature and location of the emergency; determine priorities and dispatch police, fire ambulance or other emergency units as necessary and in accordance with established procedures.
- Maintain contact with all units on assignment, maintain status and location of police and fire units. Monitor direct emergency alarms, answer non-emergency calls for assistance.
- Monitor several complex public safety radio frequencies. Operate a variety of communications equipment, including radio consoles, telephones and computer systems.
- Use good judgment in making decisions, in emergency and routine situations.

If you're like me, you recognize that it takes a special breed of person to perform under such pressure – add these other responsibilities and you have a job that only the most dedicated and selfless person could fill.

With this column, we want to say "thank you" to those who work in communications dispatch. You're truly our heroes.


Gary Perkins, Executive Director

Meth Challenging Agencies Concerned with Child Endangerment

Florida and other parts of the U.S. are facing an unprecedented epidemic involving the growth of clandestine methamphetamine laboratories. According to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, seizure of meth labs in Florida has risen significantly in the last four years, beginning with only 33 in 2001 and skyrocketing to 215 in 2004.

Because the manufacturing of meth involves hazardous materials, it places police and first responders at risk for a variety of hazards and creates a host of other challenges, including child endangerment.

Costing young lives

The chemicals used to manufacture meth, the production process, and the waste generated as a result of that process pose serious dangers including toxic poisoning, chemical and thermal burns, fires and explosions.

The children who live in and around meth labs are at the greatest risk of harm due to their physical exposure to the chemicals. From 35 to 55 percent of children

removed from clandestine labs test positive for meth and 10 percent of those test as heavy users.

Even a very small amount of meth can significantly injure or cause death in a young child. Research shows the other long-term health effects on children include cancer; brain damage; kidney, liver and lung disease and a suppressed immune system.

Those who manufacture the drug are often users and are prone to violent behavior. Children in the home are often neglected and abused by caregivers and by others who frequent the drug-laden home.

In addition, meth producers often try to keep their illegal operations a secret through the use of weapons, explosive traps and surveillance equipment – not exactly a child-friendly environment.

Tackling the problem

To address these and other challenges, law enforcement, social service agencies and emergency services in northwest Florida have formed an alliance called the Northwest Florida Drug Endangered Children Work Group. It's made up of representatives from the Department of Children and Families, a children's advocacy center, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, two Sheriffs' offices, four police departments and emergency medical services, among others.

To help other counties that are wrestling with the unique problems associated with meth lab seizure, especially as it relates to safeguarding children, the group has drafted a multi-disciplinary protocol for seizure. The purpose is to provide professionals a starting point for drafting their own procedures related to meth production, trafficking and abuse.

The protocol can help minimize the trauma for children, protect intervening agency personnel and boost the opportunity for prosecution.

For example, one topic in the protocol advises preparing in advance of the seizure. Because of their exposure, children who are discovered at a meth lab must be decontaminated before being transported to a safe environment. This involves having all of their clothes removed and bathing their entire body using disposable wipes. Having the available equipment on hand, including a privacy tent for the process, can help.

A draft of the multidisciplinary protocol was presented to the Florida Sheriffs at a recent conference. Organizers hope to have the document finalized this year.

For more information on the Northwest Florida DEC Work Group, contact Laurie Keller, investigator, Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office, via e-mail: lkeller@sheriff-okaloosa.org, or phone: 850-609-3048. ☼

THE SHERIFF'S STAR

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E-mail: jbettinger@flsheriffs.org Web site: <http://www.flsheriffs.org>
Phone (800) 877-2168 Local (850) 877-2165 Fax (850) 878-8665

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A Spark of Hope for Troubled Young Men

By Jim Snyder

Locked in prison for having broken laws in Collier County, high-school-aged boys are being provided opportunities to make themselves productive members of society through the Collier County Sheriff's Office Drill Academy.

Young men are sent to the Academy because they have exhibited antisocial behavior, including committing a crime. Substance abuse, theft and assault are just a few of the problems. To deter them from continued criminal behavior, the Academy seeks to instill a sense of pride and leadership by using rigid discipline in a "military type" environment. The young men receive rigorous training in drill and physical fitness. Often, the boys are sent out to perform services for the community. One of these services is to help the Conservancy of Southwest Florida prepare for one of its yearly fund-raising events.

As a member of the Conservancy, I have worked with the Drill Academy during three of these events. I noticed that the boys worked harder and with more discipline than any group I'd ever seen. At one event, I asked a drill instructor if the boys ever used tools or did other tasks where they could learn a skill and was told that they usually just did tasks that involved heavy manual labor.

Turning the tide with a trade

A retired science teacher and



Photos by Susan Snyder



Through the help of volunteers, young men at the Collier County Sheriff's Office Drill Academy are learning a trade that will help them get jobs. A recent group received classroom instruction and "hands-on" experience wiring a house for the Habitat for Humanity, under the watchful eyes of a master electrician, instructors and Drill Academy deputies.

licensed electrical contractor, I had an idea. I wondered if it would be possible to have the Academy boys serve the community and also learn a marketable skill.

Since I have more than 30 years of teaching experience, including teaching apprentice electricians, I decided to develop a course of instruction where the boys at the Academy would receive "hands-on" classroom instruction and then wire a house for Habitat for Humanity. I contacted Collier County Sheriff's Office Lieutenant Ray Sutton and Academy Lead Teacher Art Kobel, and they helped me set up an eight-week program

of classroom instruction. Each week, I took tools and supplies to the jail and instructed the boys by simulating actual residential wiring situations.

Near the end of the course, along with master electrician Karl Knudsen from Massachussets, I supervised five Academy boys as they wired a "Habitat" home. In one day, the boys completed an entire house "rough-in," setting and wiring boxes for switches, outlets and ceiling fixtures. They also ran all of the high voltage lines for the oven, dryer and air conditioning.

I don't think I've ever been more

proud of a group I'd taught or had a more rewarding teaching experience. I attended the Academy graduation and handed out certificates of achievement to each boy. At the ceremony, an Academy leader read statements that each young man had written about his future plans. Four of them stated that they planned on becoming electricians.

I encourage other retirees like myself, who have marketable skills, to get involved with today's youth – especially those in Academies or other juvenile detention facilities. Through your volunteerism, you can be assured that you will not only be helping to reduce crime, you will be encouraging youth to find gainful employ-

ment and open up the opportunity for a promising future.

Ohio resident Jim Snyder winters in Naples and volunteers for the Drill Academy. A member of the Naples Nites Lions of Florida, which provides classroom materials and supplies, he can be reached via e-mail: ssnyder2@columbus.rr.com ✪

From Turtles to Tree Limbs BSO Inmate Work Crews Save Taxpayers Money

By Lynne Cunneen
Broward Sheriff's Office

Since its inception, the Broward Sheriff's Office inmate work crews have saved taxpayers millions of dollars. These crews clean up roadways and swales along Broward County's unincorporated areas and assist non-profit organizations and government agencies, including the Broward County Housing Authority, Habitat for Humanity, Broward County Department of Children and Families and the Sea Turtle Conservation Program (STCP).

They have also assisted with such community events as the Pompano Beach Seafood Festival and the Scottish American Festival.

Last year alone, inmate work crew labor saved taxpayers more than \$633,000. They picked up more than 8,000 cubic yards of trash from Broward County roadways – equivalent to 513 dump truck loads.

Hurricanes accelerated the pace

As everyone in the state of Florida knows, 2004 was a very busy hurricane season. BSO's inmate work crews removed more than 61 tons of debris in the aftermath of hurricane Frances alone – all of which was loaded manually onto dump trucks.

This past January, the crews assisted STCP by shoveling out old dirt and replacing it with new dirt in Pompano, Hollywood and Fort Lauderdale beaches. This effort provided sea turtles with a clean nesting environment. To date, BSO has saved the program approximately \$17,500 – not to mention thousands of turtles.

Inmates of the Broward County Jail provided labor to clean up the county following the devastation by last fall's hurricanes. The

Broward Sheriff's Office estimates that work crews saved taxpayers more than \$633,000 in labor last year – picking up an estimated 513 dump truck loads of trash on roadways.



In addition to outside organizations, inmate work crews provide service to the Broward Sheriff's Office. When Lauderdale Lakes Fire Rescue merged with BSO, inmate work crews spent several weeks and hundreds of man-hours at the station. They painted the interior sleeping, recreation and kitchen areas, replaced ceiling tiles and provided lawn and landscape maintenance. This saved BSO thousands of dollars.

Visit BSO's Mounted Unit on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and you will see the crews cleaning and maintaining stables. If a Sheriff's Office unit or division is moving, inmate work crews are also instrumental in moving equipment and furniture.

Organized volunteers

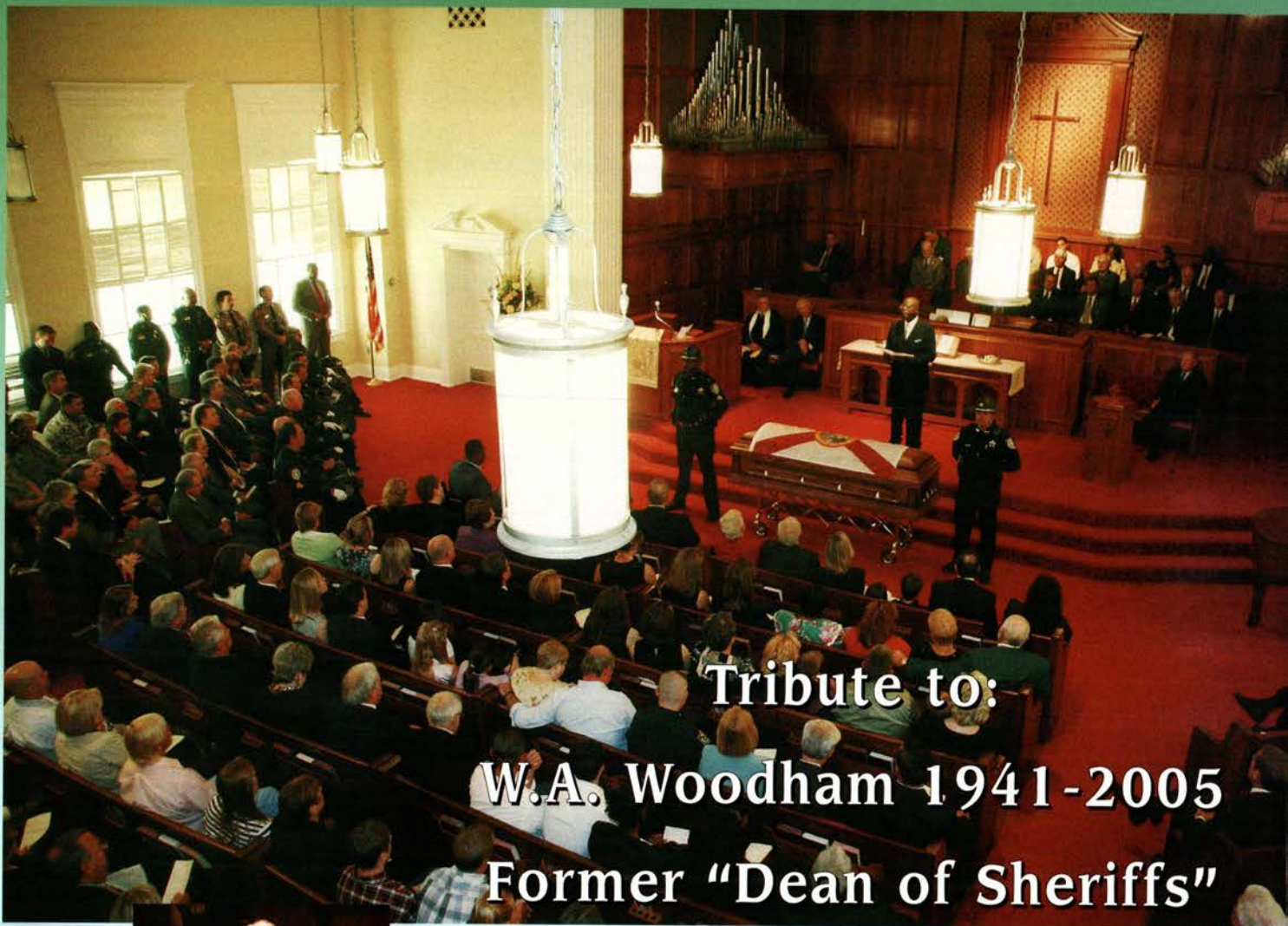
Inmates volunteer to work on these crews, but they must have a minimal past criminal history and no history of violence or sexual charges. Generally, inmates are serving time for DUI, drug possession, failure to pay child support or traffic violations. Inmates who participate in work crews reduce their sentences based on the amount of service hours they provide. They also receive a change of scenery, fresh air and exercise.

There are 10 Deputy Sheriffs and one sergeant in the inmate work crew unit. They work with eight vans and three dump trucks. Each deputy can supervise up to nine inmates, but the number of most crews is limited to six. Inmate work crews are not limited to male inmates. In fact, BSO has one female crew and with the increase of the female inmate population, this number is expected to grow.

Organizations submit requests for inmate work crew assistance by e-mailing Sgt. Harrison Humphries. Once a request is received, he calculates the amount of time needed for the job, ensures the inmates can complete the task and then schedules it. Non-profit organizations must provide proof of non-profit status prior to crew assignment.

As demonstrated by their track record, BSO's inmate work crews are proving to be a valuable asset to Broward County residents.

For more information about the services the inmates provide, contact Sgt. Humphries at Harrison_Humphries@sheriff.org. ✪



About a dozen Sheriffs and former Sheriffs, along with a number of other law-enforcement officers, gathered to pay tribute to W.A. Woodham, who served the office of Sheriff for 33 years.

Retired Gadsden County Sheriff's Office Major Alvan Pickels, and retired Florida Rep. Harrold Thompson told stories about his life.



Retired Major Alvan Pickels



Rep. Harrold Thompson

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of W.A. Woodham, former Sheriff of Gadsden County and Dean of Sheriffs in Florida (greatest number of years in office) until his retirement last year.

Sheriff Woodham died Thursday, April 14, at St. Luke's Hospital in Jacksonville, after a long battle with liver and heart ailments.

When he was appointed Sheriff of Gadsden County by Gov. Reubin Askew in 1971 to serve out the term of the late Sheriff Robert Martin, he was one of the youngest Sheriffs and one of the few at the time with a college degree. He was subsequently elected Sheriff in 1972 and re-elected to serve seven more consecutive terms, for a total



of 33 years.

Described as tough but fair, the 63-year-old Woodham managed to win the confidence of the public, despite being a white Sheriff serving a predominantly black county.

A native of Dothan, Alabama, he went on to receive a bachelor's

degree in criminology and corrections from Florida State University. He was a State Trooper with the Florida Highway Patrol and worked as assistant counselor to the Gadsden County Juvenile Court for four years before his appointment by the governor. He also served as vice president, chairman of the Board and president of the Florida Sheriffs Association.



About 200 mourners gathered to say goodbye to Sheriff Woodham. Sheriff, police and other emergency vehicles processed through the rural town of Quincy to honor his memory.

Gathered to remember

About a dozen Sheriffs and former Sheriffs' along with a number of other law-enforcement officers attended Woodham's funeral held at the First Presbyterian Church in Quincy. A long line of Sheriff,

police and other emergency vehicles processed from the Sheriff's headquarters, that years ago was named "the W.A. Woodham Justice Center," to the church and cemetery.

Long-time friend, Leon County

Sheriff Larry Campbell, said he had known Sheriff Woodham since college and described him to a local news reporter as being, "as close to Andy Griffith as you could get in the real world" for his good nature.

Retired Jefferson County Sheriff Ken Fortune recalled that Woodham was a chief encourager of the other rural county Sheriffs. He says Woodham "took me under his wing and taught me what it took to be a rural county Sheriff. He helped me through the tough times. Gadsden County has lost a true friend."

Baker County Sheriff Joey Dobson says Woodham gave him excellent advice on how to run a small county Sheriff's Office, as well. "We've lost a real professional," he says.

Years taught him well

According to several Sheriffs gathered to pay tribute, Sheriff Woodham had a knack for determining which newly elected Sheriffs would make it to a second term.

"He had enough insight into the

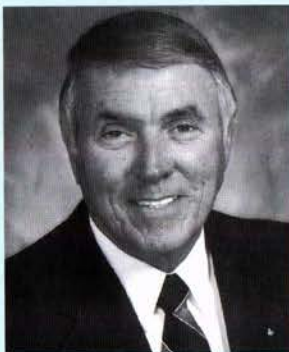
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Former Glades County Sheriff Dies

With great sadness, the Florida Sheriffs Association reports that Glades County Sheriff James E. "Jim" Rider passed away March 23 after a brief illness.

Sheriff Rider, age 64, was credited for revolutionizing the Glades County Sheriff's Office, updating the computer system and 911 operations, opening a substation, plus initiating youth programs and the Citizen's Patrol.

Law-enforcement officers from the South Florida region attended the funeral to pay their respects to a man they described as "a true leader" who served with honor and



Former Glades County Sheriff
Jim Rider

integrity.

According to reports, Sheriffs and officers from Glades, Hendry, Highlands, Okeechobee, Broward, Palm Beach and Miami-Dade counties, plus Sewell's Point and the Seminole Tribe stood solemnly during the gun salute, parade by mounted flag bearers and helicopter flyover.

Most touching was a voice over the Glades County Sheriff's radio calling for "number one." It's a call that went unanswered.

Born in Marion, IN, Sheriff Rider received his bachelors in public administration from St. Thomas University, which was fol-

lowed by numerous other certificates and specialized training. He achieved a distinguished career in law enforcement, working for the Miami-Dade Police Department for 18-1/2 years before moving to the Broward County Sheriff's Office, for another eight years.

He was elected Sheriff of Glades County in 1996 and re-elected in 2000. During his terms as Sheriff, he contributed to FSA by coordinating the Statewide Drug Task Force. He received many other honors and awards in his lifetime.

The Florida Sheriffs Association offers condolences to the family of Sheriff Rider, including his wife, Carol, and two children. He will be sorely missed. ✪

One More for the Road? They're Thinking Twice in Leon County

By Sgt. Chris Chase
Public Information Officer
Leon County Sheriff's Office

For most law enforcement agencies, the trend toward aggressive DUI enforcement has become just about as routine as shaking doors on nightly business checks. With the support of organizations such as Mothers Against Drunk Drivers (MADD) and Students Against Drunk Drivers (SADD), it looks like this trend is here to stay. But Leon County Sheriff Larry Campbell has taken this enforcement one step further.

In late 2003, the Leon County Sheriff's Office was awarded a grant for two DUI enforcement positions. The grant, funded through the Florida Department of Transportation, was awarded due to the specific need of the community. Tallahassee and Leon County ranked in the top 13 counties for alcohol-related traffic crashes in previous years. The grant provides for vehicles, equipment, salaries and benefits to outfit the positions.

With the implementation of the DUI enforcement position from the grant, the Leon County Sheriff's Office's DUI arrests climbed from 188 in 2003 to 426 in 2004 – a 224-percent increase.

For the first time ever, the Leon County Sheriff's Office will have two deputies represented at the 2004 MADD 100 Awards Ceremony honoring law-enforcement officers who made 100 or more DUI arrests for the year. The DUI enforcement deputies attending have certainly made their presence known in the community by making 263 of the DUI arrests. The remaining 163 DUI arrests

were made throughout LCSO, and they are not limited just to the Uniform Patrol Bureau. The School Resource Officers Unit, Criminal Investigations Bureau and even Sheriff Campbell himself have all contributed to this number.

Organized on the road

The DUI enforcement deputies are primarily assigned to work with a certain shift rotation with the Uniform Patrol Bureau. What this has accomplished is to put more DUI enforcement on the streets with all the deputies, not just the DUI enforcement deputy out looking for drunk drivers.

"It's like fishing," says Sheriff Campbell. "If you only have one fishing rod in the water, you can potentially only catch one fish. But, if you have 20 rods in the water at a time, you've increased your potential 'catch' dramatically."

This has been a "win-win" situation for the Uniform Patrol Bureau. When a patrol deputy stops an impaired driver, he or she need only call the DUI enforcement deputy to complete the arrest. Watch Commanders have noted that instead of a patrol deputy taking three to four hours to complete a DUI arrest, the DUI enforcement

deputy, with his or her experience and expertise, can turn it out in about an hour and a half. This not only frees up the patrol deputy to answer calls, but it increases the volume of DUI arrests.

The DUI enforcement deputies do more than just arrest impaired drivers. They also provide educational programs to the community encouraging prevention.

Deterring teens

One of the more popular LCSO programs is a mock DUI crash, which is hosted by one of the local high schools just before spring break or graduation. This is a real eye opener for the students. Crashed cars are brought in from a local wrecker yard to set the stage. The fire department, EMS, DUI deputies, and funeral home personnel all play their respective roles in a realistic looking crash. Generally silence is the strongest reaction we've seen with the mock DUI crashes. The students just stare and take it all in. The DUI enforcement deputies also regularly instruct classes on the consequences of drinking and driving throughout our area schools. These classes are usually taught through the driver education program.



After using grant funds to add DUI enforcement positions to the Leon County Sheriff's Office, arrests climbed by 224-percent – from 188 to 426 – and traffic fatalities have fallen 50-percent.

Part of the inspiration behind the agency's aggressive DUI enforcement is giving credit where credit is due. A plaque is proudly displayed in the lobby of the Sheriff's Office honoring those deputies that made 50 DUI arrests for the calendar year. The plaque, named "The Fifty Reasons," signifies each DUI arrest as a reason the streets of Tallahassee and Leon County are safer.

Another incentive is the Deputy Recognition Program. Uniform Patrol Supervisors submit the

names of deputies who are conscientious in their response to traffic-related citizen complaints. These deputies, in turn, are rewarded with new equipment like compact flashlights and other non-issued items. Deputies who go the extra mile in response to citizen complaints also receive new traffic enforcement tools. Last year, eight radar units and four in-car cameras were awarded.

All of these initiatives combined to create the winning combination that put Leon County in a

light it hasn't seen in recent years. In 2003 there were 36 traffic fatalities in Tallahassee and Leon County. In 2004 there were 16 traffic fatalities. That's more than a 50-percent decrease. Leon County is also at a five-year low in traffic-related fatalities.

The Leon County Sheriff's Office is committed to continuing this positive trend in the future.

Sgt. Chris Chase can be reached via e-mail: ChaseC@mail.co.leon.fl.us.



Sheriff to Accompany Hiking Wife (Part of the Way) on The Appalachian Trail Youth Ranches to Benefit

Here at *The Sheriff's Star*, we frequently correspond with the 67 Sheriffs of Florida to get their take on the latest crime fighting tools, big cases and trends in law enforcement.

A recent e-mail brought an entirely different topic: A Sheriff wanted to let us know that his wife of 19 years was going to hike the entire length of the Appalachian Trail...more than 2,000 miles!

And he planned to accompany her – at least for the first few days.

It probably won't come as much of a surprise to loyal readers of *The Star* that this particular Sheriff is one with his own competitive drive, Martin County Sheriff Bob Crowder.

In his correspondence, Sheriff Crowder explained that his wife, Debbie, will be retiring from her teaching job June 10. The two will travel to Maine at Mt. Katahdin in Baxter State Park, the northernmost part of the Appalachian Trail, where Sheriff Crowder will accompany his wife on the first leg of her trip – to the summit of Mount Katahdin – before she begins her hike south. She plans to make it all the way to the summit of Springer Mountain in Georgia – a total of 2,174.9 miles.

Sheriff Crowder wrote, "She hopes to finish by December 20 (our wedding anniversary) but it may take her a little longer."

Considering that Mrs. Crowder is



Martin County Sheriff Bob Crowder with his wife, Debbie.

a marathon runner (races of 26.2 miles), our money is on her finishing on time.

A benefit for Youth Ranches

To give the hike even greater meaning, beyond Debbie Crowder realizing a lifetime dream, Sheriff Crowder has decided to drum up support (and prayers!) for his wife by having the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches benefit.

Considering that Debbie has spent her lifetime helping children (her current job is running a Head Start and Pre-K Program), and her husband has been a strong advocate of the Ranches during his 12 years as Sheriff, it makes perfect sense.

To make it easier to respond, the FSYR has designed a pledge sheet that includes one-time gifts, a per-day commitment and a per-mile commitment. If you would like to support Debbie Crowder on her journey

and help the boys and girls at the Youth Ranches, you can download a pledge form from the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranch website: www.youthranches.org.

You may also send an e-mail to: fsyr@youthranches.org and request to have a pledge sheet sent to you. Or, you can just mail a check, payable to the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches, to: P.O. Box 2000, Boys Ranch, FL 32064, and include a note that it's a pledge in support of Debbie Crowder.

We'll provide updates on Debbie's progress in *The Sheriff's Star*, and you can also track information related to the fundraising effort through the Youth Ranches' website. Sheriff Crowder will have periodic contact with his wife throughout her trip, so if you want to send encouraging e-mails, go to www.trailjournals.com/landcruiser. On the left side, there is a button under "guest book" that says "Sign." That sends an e-mail to Debbie Crowder.

The Florida Sheriffs Association congratulates Mrs. Crowder on having such a lofty goal and especially for using it to the benefit of the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches. Way to go, Debbie! 🍀



Debbie Crowder has dreamed of hiking the entire length of the Appalachian Trail her whole life. She plans to start this summer and is using it to benefit the Youth Ranches.

Hillsborough Sheriff's Deputy Uses AED to Revive Woman

By J.D. Callaway
Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office

Eleanor Linnan finished her dinner with family and walked out of Applebee's, headed to her daughter's car and a manicure before the Easter weekend. Suddenly, the 84-year-old collapsed in the parking lot between two cars.

Bystanders converged and offered aid. Someone called 911.

Hillsborough County Sheriff's Cpl. Stu Gray, assisting with calls for service in the eastern side of the county, heard the message about a person down. It turned out that he was just across the street in a shopping center parking lot.

In 20 seconds, he was on the scene.

Off-duty Sheriff's Cpl. Hank Bruce had already begun cardiopulmonary resuscitation on Linnan. Bruce had been inside the restaurant with his family when she collapsed.

On arrival, Gray quickly retrieved an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) from the back seat of his vehicle and ran to the woman. He placed the five-pound device – about the size of a laptop computer – on the ground and connected the two-foot-long wires to the woman's chest.

The Cardiac Science AED did the rest. Its sensors read the woman's vital signs, and in audible voice commands told Gray what to do. "Stand back and shock advise," the machine said. Gray pushed the button designated by a heart image. The woman's body rose with the electric current. "Continue CPR," the machine ordered. Her pulse was barely detectable. Then, the AED ordered another shock. Everyone stood back. Gray hit the button again. The woman's pulse grew stronger, and she was breathing.

EMTs take over

Hillsborough Fire Rescue arrived on the scene next and took over Linnan's care. She was stabilized and taken to the hospital.



Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office Cpl. Stu Gray used an automated external defibrillator (AED) to revive 84-year old Eleanor Linnan. Linnan's daughter, Mary Nagel, and her husband Ed Nagel express their gratitude above. Photo courtesy of Tampa Tribune

The incident marked the first time a Hillsborough Sheriff's Office AED successfully revived someone. It was also the first time Gray, a 13-year law-enforcement veteran, had used the AED on someone.

Gray, 39, says he won't forget what happened that early evening in March. Neither will Mrs. Linnan's family.

"We are so grateful for those who helped my mother," said Mary Nagel, Linnan's daughter. "We will never be able to thank them enough. That machine is a miracle."

While Mrs. Linnan couldn't speak while in the intensive care unit of Brandon Regional Hospital, she could hear and she could nod and wink. Sadly, she lived for only eight more days. To her family, some of whom arrived from out of state, it was cherished time to be able to tell her goodbye.

AEDs to be increasing

"I'm glad we could help," Gray said. "The device proved priceless this one time. I hope we never have to use (one) again. But I believe we will, and I hope it will be successful, too."

The Sheriff's Office has 46 AEDs, adding 23 units each year since 2003. All patrol corporals carry them in their cruisers. Twenty-three more devices – at \$750 each – will be arriving this year.

Hillsborough Sheriff David Gee's

continued on next page

Lawmakers Fund Lifesaving Devices For Law Enforcement Vehicles

Florida legislators just passed a bill unanimously that will help more law enforcement agencies across the state equip their vehicles with Automated External Defibrillators, or AEDs (see article above).

Senate bill 328 creates a grant, administered through the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, to help purchase the \$1,800 AEDs.

The budget provides \$1 million from general revenue, which will be used to match funds from law enforcement agencies for the purchase. Urban area agencies will make a 25-percent match and rural areas will contribute 10-percent.

Counties that have AEDs in patrol cars are reporting positive results. In Brevard County, Sheriff's deputies have saved at least five lives with AEDs since 1998.

For more information contact the American Heart Association at 1-800-275-0448 or visit www.americanheart.org.

Techno-Savvy Scam Artists

Lady receives bogus cashier's check through e-mail correspondent and winds up owing thousands.

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



Crooks don't give you money, they take it.

Because that seems so obvious, the cleverest crooks with a high-tech edge turn that concept to their advantage.

A woman in the north section of Okaloosa County appeared to be on the verge of a fantastic windfall just after Christmas. An e-mail message told her a wealthy overseas relative had left her \$6 million. Four thousand dollars would take care of the processing fees.

The woman replied that she didn't have \$4,000. A few e-mails later she was told some attorneys were "working on the problem." Before long, the mailman brought a Wells Fargo Bank certified check in the amount of \$4,788.60. She cashed the check, took the

cash to the supermarket, purchased two Western Union money drafts of \$2,000 each and mailed them to an address in Lagos, Nigeria.

A few days later, the bank told her to return the \$4,788.60. The check was a forgery.

Too late. All but \$788.60 was in some crook's pocket in Nigeria.

International barriers

Sadly, that crook will get away with it. Crimes that cross international borders are exceedingly difficult to prosecute, even if the host government wants to help. In the case of Nigeria and several other countries, it's hopeless; the crooks have literally found themselves a safe haven.

The "Nigerian Scam," in operation for many years, is still commonly referred to by that name, even though it has spread to several other countries. What is new is the ability to print a prospective victim's name on an authentic-appearing, multi-thousand dollar-counterfeit check.

Computers, high-quality color printers, scanners and copiers, and graphics programs have transformed counterfeiting. Not long ago, only a skilled artist with special equipment had any chance of producing realistic fake checks or bogus bills.

Until recently, almost all counterfeit bills were of the \$20 denomination. Anything larger would attract too much attention, and anything smaller wouldn't be worth the

effort. Like counterfeit checks, however, fake money is now seen in any denomination from \$1 to \$100. These bills are most commonly passed at convenience stores, fast-food restaurants, and other high-volume cash businesses.

What's next? Crooks will expand their use of technology to fool the unsuspecting. A potentially worrisome development is the ability to trick caller-ID. Several commercial businesses now specialize in what's called "Caller-ID spoofing." It's advertised as a way to facilitate legitimate business for bill collectors and private investigators... or for executives who want to play golf but need to make calls from the "office."

The crime potential is obvious: a crook trying to get his hands on your personal information or a sleazy solicitor trying to talk you into a dubious "donation" could fool your caller ID into thinking a government office, law-enforcement agency, or reputable bank or business is on the line.

The moral of the story is: whether it looks like a \$20 bill, a cashier's check or a legitimate telephone call – be cautious.

Send your crime prevention and personal safety questions to Rick Hord, c/o Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office, 1250 Eglin Parkway, Shalimar, FL 32357-1234 or via e-mail: rhord@sheriff-okaloosa.org/. ☎

continued from next page 10

goal is to have an AED in every patrol car.

"This is something that can save lives," Gee said. "These devices are yet another tool in our efforts to serve and protect."

The Sheriff's Office also has AEDs in all four patrol district headquarters as well as the Sheriff's Operations Center in Tampa. All

civilians and sworn personnel have been trained in their use as part of an overall one-day first aid refresher course.

Money for the AEDs came from community development block grants as well as grants from the American Heart Association. The AHA is in the midst of a public awareness campaign to generate support to provide AEDs to law-enforcement agencies

around the state. In addition, Florida lawmakers have just created a multi-million-dollar program to supply AEDs statewide.

For more information, contact Erica Rogers, communications director, American Heart Association Florida/Puerto Rico Affiliate, via e-mail: erica.rogers@heart.org or phone: 727-570-8809. ☎

Service Profile: State-of-the-Art Computer Crime Lab in Miami-Dade

By Sergeant Richard Conover
Professional Compliance Bureau
Forensic Computer Laboratory
Section
Miami-Dade Police Department

Solving crime today goes beyond traditional means, such as dusting for fingerprints and interviewing suspects. In today's electronic world, collecting evidence means keeping pace with the advancements in computers, telecommunications and other technology.

The Miami-Dade Police Department provides investigators for local, state and federal agencies the information they need to help solve crime through its Forensic Computer Laboratory Section (FCLS).

The FCLS is a state-of-the-art facility dedicated to the recognition, collection, preservation and analysis of digital evidence. It is recognized worldwide for its forensic laboratory excellence.

Achieving such notoriety doesn't just happen – it's a result of a commitment of the leadership at the Miami-Dade Police Department, investment in resources and extensive (some would say exhaustive) training.

The FCLS currently houses five forensic examiner's, 21 examination computers, the most advanced forensic acquisition equipment, a four terabyte forensic examination server, five workstations (each capable of running four forensic examinations simultaneously), three investigator workstations and a mobile laboratory with a single workstation that has the capabili-

ties of performing the same tasks in the field as performed in the lab.

Employment screening is strict
Critical to the FCLS's commitment to excellence is careful screening and extensive training of employees.

Prospective employees must go through a rigorous interviewing process to become part of the FCLS team. A series of interviews help measure and determine the applicant's computer knowledge, investigative skills, previous job history, experience level, oral and written communications skills and – equally important – interpersonal skills.

Once accepted, an applicant begins a one-year apprenticeship at the FCLS, where they will receive extensive in-house training by certified forensic examiners. The apprentice/student will be assigned research projects dealing with the newest technologies and will learn to test newly purchased equipment to make sure that the manufacturer's design and production meets the forensic specifications required in the lab. The applicant will also attend a variety of specialized training courses, one of which is sponsored by the International Association of Computer Investigative Specialists (IACIS).

Boot camp-style training

IACIS is an internationally recognized organization that offers certification in the field of computer forensics. The course starts with an exhaustive two-week boot camp where the students are taught such

"Becoming certified in computer forensics is not easy... only 10 percent of the 350 students will become certified examiners. The final examination consists of 75 essay questions, and the average time spent answering each question can range from 3 to 11 hours."

subjects as binary code, data recovery at the hexadecimal level, algorithm conversions, etc. Once the student completes this boot camp, there is a one-year time period in which the student must complete and pass nine IACIS proficiency and competency tests.

Becoming certified is not easy. Usually, there are 350 students per class and only 10 percent will become certified examiners. The final examination consists of 75 essay questions, and the average time spent answering *each* question can range from three to 11 hours. Once the student passes all the tests, he or she is awarded the distinct honor of being a "Certified Forensic Computer Examiner" (CFCE) and a "Certified Electronic Evidence Collection Specialist" (CEECS).

In order to perform forensic examinations in the FCLS, the examiner *must* be IACIS certified





within a year. Failure is not an option.

Because of the FCLS's status, examiners are sought after by government agencies, universities and private sector companies to provide professional collaboration, consultation, advice and training. In addition, the FCLS offers an internship program to aspiring university students who are pursuing a career in the field of computer sciences or computer forensics.

The FCLS offers a range of forensic examination services to help solve crimes, including examination of:

- Computers
- Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs)
- Cellular phones
- Recordable media
- USB watches
- Compact flash cards
- Digital cameras
- Digital video capturing devices

- Thumb drives
- Real time network intrusion monitoring
- Network packet sniffing
- Taser guns
- Undercover "black-bag" forensic acquisitions

Cases submitted to the FCLS have included:

- Homicides
- Child pornography
- Child predator
- Network hacking/intrusion
- Cyber stalking
- Internal affairs
- Economic Crimes

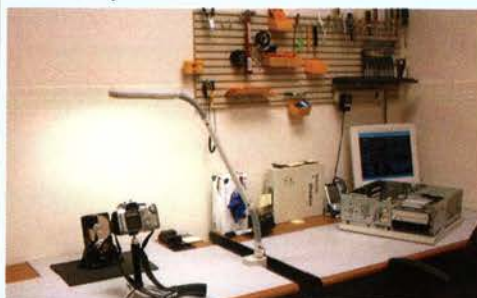
The latter includes: credit cards, skimmers, cargo theft, auto theft, forgery and satellite TV theft.

Becoming a team member of the Miami-Dade's Forensic Computer Laboratory Section is difficult, yes, but we find that the expectation of our services demands a certain level of expertise and proficiency. Those investigators and agencies that have relied on the FCLS to assist them in retrieving details from digital equipment will tell you that it's invaluable. And that's enough for our MDPD Director Robert Parker to continue to support and equip the FCLS in the future.

Sgt. Richard Conover, CFCE, CEECS, can be reached through the Professional Compliance Bureau of Miami Dade PD's Forensic Computer Laboratory Section. Phone: 305-994-1647 or email: rconover@mdpd.com



Above some of the duplication equipment that is used by the lab.



An assembly, disassembly and photograph workstation, where all new computers submitted for examination are first processed.



Cleaning workstation, where hard drives are forensically cleaned of all possible data remnants.



The Forensic Computer Mobile Laboratory, which allows technicians to perform the same operations as the main laboratory at the scene of a crime.

Little Girl's Guardian Angel: Volusia County SO Emergency Dispatcher

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

It was just before 3 a.m. on Monday, March 28, and little Tia's life was about to come crashing down with unfathomable horror.

Mature beyond her years, Tia had just discovered her parents in their bedroom, horribly brutalized. And yet the 5-year-old girl with the angelic voice somehow instinctively knew what had to be done. She picked up the phone, dialed 911 and asked for help, in all likelihood just as Mommy and Daddy had taught her to do in case of an emergency.

In a voice both remarkably brave, and at times quivering with fear, Tia would tell the calltaker: "I think they're dead."

Sitting at her console at the Volusia County Sheriff's Office's Communications Center, roughly nine hours into her shift, was Donna Choufani. Her life was about to intersect with Tia's in a way that would profoundly affect both the little girl and Choufani, a mother of two.

Scared girl, compassionate dispatcher

As Tia dialed 911, she would desperately need warmth and compassion on the other end of the telephone line. She would need a calm and reassuring voice. She would need nothing short of a guardian angel. She got that, and much more, in Choufani. Tapping into her maternal instincts to calmly divert Tia's attention from the horrific scene, Choufani would bring a ray of sunshine and tenderness to the senseless tragedy that would leave little Tia orphaned.



Talking to Tia about everything from her black labrador retriever, Lizah, to the need to cover up with a blanket before the arrival of responding Deputies, Choufani nonetheless managed to elicit information from Tia that would be critical to arriving units.

"I don't see a gun, but I'm scared," Tia said at one point.

"Oh, sweetheart," Choufani replied, in the most soothing tone she could muster. "I will not let anything happen to you."

The five minutes and 22 seconds, as captured on the 911 recording broadcast internationally by the news media, moved everyone from regular citizens to seasoned cops to tears. It also generated widespread acclaim for Choufani's amazingly skillful handling of the call and the way in which it reflected so positively on the difficult and stressful job of police dispatching.

Recognition for a job well done

"I cannot find the words to express my admiration for the Dispatcher/Call-Taker who handled

the call," e-mailed a San Jose officer. "Her professionalism was evident at every second of the call."

"Your telecommunicator sounded very professional and compassionate," wrote a 30-year communications veteran with the Alachua County Sheriff's Office. "Please thank her for showing the nation what a great job telecommunicators do! She did us proud."

Choufani's handling of the call also earned her high praise from Volusia County Sheriff Ben Johnson along with the department's Medal of Merit. Choufani has worked for the Sheriff's Office since October, having transferred from Daytona Beach after the Sheriff's Office took over dispatch services for the city.

"This obviously was an extremely difficult call for everyone involved," said Sheriff Johnson. "We're very proud of Donna and the way she managed to keep her composure and calm Tia under extraordinarily stressful conditions. She did a superb job."

Recounting the events of that morning, Choufani later said that, had she been able, she would have reached through the telephone line to comfort and protect Tia. Meanwhile, she has done her best

Trust Fund Started for 5-Year Old

The victims of this tragic homicide were the son and daughter-in-law of former Volusia County Sheriff's Deputy Tracy Hernlen, and little Tia is Tracy's grandchild. Two funds have been established to help with Tia's expenses.

Contributions can be sent to:

Tia Hernlen Trust Account
Gulf States Credit Union
P.O. Box 945110
Maitland, FL 32794

Tia Skye Hernlen
Education Fund
Bank of America
3809 S. Nova Road
Port Orange, FL 32129

to deflect the attention, asking that her photo not be used and saying it's little Tia who deserves all the praise for her extraordinary courage.

A woman of strong convictions, Choufani is convinced that God will cause her path to cross with Tia's once again. It will happen under happier circumstances, and when the time is right, says Choufani.

And when that day comes?

"I'll give her a great big hug and tell her how special she is," says Choufani. ☼

Transcript of 911 Call by 5-year-old

Following is the unofficial transcript of the 911 call that 5-year-old Tia Hernlen made after she found her parents slain in the bedroom of their New Smyrna Beach. To hear the entire recorded call, go to the "murder case logging tapes" page on Dispatch Monthly Magazine website: http://www.dispatchmonthly.com/herlen_tapes/index.html

OPERATOR: 911, what is your emergency?
CHILD: Um, hello.
OPERATOR: Hello. Is everything OK?
CHILD: My mommy and daddy.
OPERATOR: Uh-huh.
CHILD: I think there is a bullet on the floor.
OPERATOR: And the what?
CHILD: And there is blood, coming out of my dad's mouth and he fell off the bed.
OPERATOR: Let me get someone right over to you. Did you, did you go in your mommy and daddy's room?
CHILD: Uh-huh, and there is blood.
OPERATOR: All over the place?
CHILD: Not all over. There's blood on the plant and blood on the floor.
OPERATOR: Oh my goodness and you have your little doggie with you?
CHILD: And three cats.
OPERATOR: And three cats too?
CHILD: Three cats and one dog.
OPERATOR: OK, are you the...only one there besides mommy and daddy?
CHILD: Well I said "Mommy" and "Daddy" and they didn't even answer.
OPERATOR: OK, OK, what I want you to do honey. I want you to stay on the phone with me. What is your name?
CHILD: (tells operator her name)
OPERATOR: Oh that is a very pretty name.
CHILD: (blocked out)
OPERATOR: Oh, I'm so sorry, that is a

beautiful name. What is your doggie's name?

CHILD: Lizzah

OPERATOR: OK, and what made you wake up tonight?

CHILD: There was, I think I heard a gunshot.

OPERATOR: You heard a gun?

CHILD: Yes, and I see a bullet lying on the floor. I think it's a bullet.

OPERATOR: Really!

CHILD: Mmm-hmm

OPERATOR: Who has a gun in the house?

CHILD: I don't see a gun but I'm scared.

OPERATOR: Oh sweetheart! . . . I will not let anything happen to you.

CHILD: Can you send a deputy down here?

OPERATOR: I promise I will . . . and you're only 5 years old?

CHILD: Mmm-hmm

OPERATOR: You are so smart for 5 years old. Wow! . . . are you off from school this week?

CHILD: Um, no, I go to school next year.

OPERATOR: You do? Oh my gosh, you're not even in kindergarten yet?

CHILD: Nope.

OPERATOR: Oh, what's your doggie's name?

CHILD: Lizzah

OPERATOR: Lizzah, what kind of doggie is she?

CHILD: She's a lab.

OPERATOR: Oh my God, I love those. Those are so beautiful. Is she a black lab or is she a yellow lab?

CHILD: A black lab.

OPERATOR: Oh, you are so smart.

CHILD: With, um, brown eyes.

OPERATOR: Oh my goodness, how old is she?

CHILD: She is like 3 years old, or, 2 years old, I don't really know.

OPERATOR: Wow! . . . You can remember for a really long time.

CHILD: Yup.

OPERATOR: Oh my goodness. Was there anybody else in the house tonight besides you and mommy and daddy tonight? Like an uncle or anything?

CHILD: No, there's no robber in the house.

OPERATOR: OK, well I didn't think there would be a robber sweetheart. Did you have anybody staying over the night with you guys tonight?

CHILD: Nnn- nnn

OPERATOR: OK. So and the doors are all locked? And everything like that . . . Where are you in the house?

CHILD: Well, I was in my room sleeping till I heard a noise shot and it woke me up.

OPERATOR: Oh my goodness. Uh, what part of the house are you in at now?

CHILD: I'm in the one, it's yellow, all yellow

house, of green, green with it, a little bit of green, and a pink door.

OPERATOR: Oh my goodness, that sounds really cool. Did you pick out the pink door?

CHILD: Um, no, my mom picked out the door.

OPERATOR: Look, I bet you that is beautiful. Does mommy and daddy have a car in the driveway?

CHILD: Mmm-hmm, two cars.

OPERATOR: Two cars? What kind of cars do they have?

CHILD: Umm, my mom has a Toyota

OPERATOR: What color is that Toyota?

CHILD: Umm

OPERATOR: Is it dark, or grey, or silver?

CHILD: It's um red.

OPERATOR: Red? OK, what kind of car does daddy have?

CHILD: He has a Jeep. It's black and . . .

OPERATOR: OK, listen to me (name). Is your phone the type that you can take with you and walk around?

CHILD: Um, this . . .

OPERATOR: There should be an officer at your front door. I need for you to take your phone with you and walk over to the door and open it for me, OK? And I will stay on the phone with you, OK?

CHILD: But um . . .

OPERATOR: I will not hang up.

CHILD: I'm naked.

OPERATOR: Oh, well do you want to grab a towel or something? I don't think the officer's going to care baby. We just want to make sure that mommy and daddy are OK, all right?

CHILD: Mmm-hmm.

OPERATOR: Grab a blanket or something. Stay on the phone with me, stay on the phone, alright?

CHILD: OK.

OPERATOR: My name is Donna, by the way. You are doing a wonderful job (blocked), wonderful job.

CHILD: And I know what to do for (incoherent)

OPERATOR: You did great!

CHILD: I knew...

OPERATOR: You were wonderful, absolutely wonderful. You should be very proud of yourself.

CHILD: I'm to the door, I'm unlocking it.

OPERATOR: OK, you let me know when the officer talks to you. OK you go ahead (blocked), talk to the officer.

OFFICER: (background) You talking to the dispatcher? OK, tell her I'm here now and you can hang up.

OPERATOR: Bye sweetheart.

CHILD: Um, he's here.

OPERATOR: OK sweetheart, you be good, OK? Bye-bye.

FLORIDA SHERIFFS YOUTH RANCHES

HONOR ROLL



LEVY COUNTY – Presented by Levy County Sheriff Johnny Smith to Mr. & Mrs. Steve Quackenbush, III.



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 ❖

Deputy Donald F. Apperson, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Dick Benson
Sheriff Susan C. Benton
Mr. and Mrs. James Bettinger
Mr. and Mrs. Werner Bohm
Bonefish Grill Ocala
Mrs. Ruth T. Bowman
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Bradshaw
Deputy John A. Bray
Ms. Jean L. Bridges
Brumberger Foundation, Inc.
Mr. Larry D. Carr
Mr. and Mrs. Wayne W. Childress
Mr. Nicholas Codispoti
Mr. Harry L. Coleman
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Collet
Maj. Michael J. Coup
Mr. Raymond Crabe
Mr. Joe L. Davis, Sr.
Ms. Kathleen E. Davis
Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Davis
Delmar & Audria M. Olson Foundation
Mr. Harvey J. Engel
Mr. and Mrs. Elliott E. Evans
Fondation pour l'Enfance of America, Inc.
Mr. and Mrs. Geoffrey S. Gallo
Mr. James Garrett
Mr. and Mrs. Annabelle A. Geer
Gold Wing Road Riders Association
Chapter FL2-B2
Mr. John R. Griffith
Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Grissom
Mr. Michael Holup
Sgt. Eugene Hoover
Deputy Charles M. Johnson
Mr. and Mrs. Richmond E. Johnson
Mr. Robert F. Johnston
Mrs. Elizabeth H. Joyce
Mr. and Mrs. David Kaufman
Mr. and Mrs. Gary Keener
Mrs. Diane J. King



LEON COUNTY – Presented by Leon County Sheriff Larry Campbell to LCSO Deputy Sheriff & Mrs. Sam Bruce.



MANATEE COUNTY – Presented by Manatee County Sheriff Charlie Wells to Grete Hill and Jean Knopp, representing Roser Church Women's Guild.



Mr. & Mrs. Maurice Biggs



Max W. Corzilius

SARASOTA COUNTY – Presented by Sarasota County Sheriff Bill Balkwill to Mr. & Mrs. Maurice Biggs, Max W. Corzilius, Mr. & Mrs. Warren Donaldson and Mrs. & Mrs. Robert Keeley.



Mr. & Mrs. Warren Donaldson

Mr. and Mrs. Walter F. Kutschera
Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Larson
Liberty Behavioral Health Corporation
Mr. J. R. Lowder
Mr. and Mrs. Larry Lunn
Col. Clifford H. Meier
USAF (Ret.)
Mr. J. Leon Miller
Mr. and Mrs. T. F. Minter
Mr. Fred A. Mudgett
Mrs. Jane G. Muller
Mr. Gene Neithold
Ms. Joan B. Nolz
Mr. Eugene G. Peek III
Mrs. Edna P. Pizzi
Raintree Chapel
Mrs. Margery P. Sella
Mrs. Lisa R. Stern
Mr. and Mrs. Dan Streek
Tampa Airline Lodge #2319
Mr. Stephen E. Taub
Mr. and Mrs. Earl G. Wise



Gary and Nancy McCombs



Mr. & Mrs. Robert Keeley



Milton and Paul Palmer



Lyle and Nancy Myers

SUWANNEE COUNTY – Presented by Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch Business Manager Bruce Goff to Gary and Nancy McCombs, Milton and Paul Palmer and Lyle and Nancy Myers. All are traveling missionaries from the Mobile Missionary Assistance Program.



WAKULLA COUNTY – Presented by Wakulla County Sheriff David Harvey (right) and FSYS Representative Frank Kenny to Wakulla County Sheriff's Office Capt. Larry Massa.



VOLUSIA COUNTY – Presented by Volusia County Sheriff Ben Johnson (second from right) to representatives of the Bright House Networks (from left), Joe McLeod, Don Wolfe, Bob Bevis and Jan Edwards. Bright House is a sponsor of the annual Volusia County Bus Race.

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



SARASOTA COUNTY – 40-year certificate presented by Sarasota County Sheriff Bill Balkwill to William E. Getzen.



Mrs. Charles A. Walker



Walter Rothenbach



SARASOTA COUNTY – 25-year certificate presented by Sarasota County Sheriff Bill Balkwill to James R. Williams and Louis H. Reitschlager.



Mrs. Stuart E. Morton



Paul J. Cody



LEON COUNTY – Presented by Leon County Sheriff Larry Campbell (second from left), retired FSA Executive Director Buddy Phillips (far left) and FSA President Bradford County Sheriff Bob Milner (far right) to Devoe Moore of the Tallahassee based Antique Car Museum. Mr. Moore is an annual sponsor of the FSA Legislative Seafood Festival.



WAKULLA COUNTY – 25-year certificate presented by Wakulla County Sheriff David Harvey to Sherrie Alverson.



LAKE COUNTY – 25-year certificate presented by Lake County Sheriff Chris Daniels to John E. Eschllman.



LAKE COUNTY – 30-year certificate presented by Lake County Sheriff Chris Daniels to John E. Rosich, Jr.

Florida Sheriffs and Family Ties

By Victor Silvestri

Former Escambia County Sheriff William E. Davis has been quoted as saying that he is related to three former Sheriffs of Escambia County. He said Sheriff H. E. Gandy was his great-uncle, Sheriff Emmett Shelby is a second cousin and that Sheriff Mose Penton was a distant relative.

Davis' pride in his family achievement is well deserved. Those who have the title of "Sheriff" in Florida are, by the provisions of the state constitution, the direct representatives of the governor and responsible to him alone.

What is even more remarkable about Davis' family line, something that he did not brag about, is that the combined tenure of these four Sheriffs amounted to 34 years. Surely, they must have been doing something right for this dynasty to be approved by the voters every four years. And considering the era these men were in office, it becomes quickly apparent that they must have been the right men for the job.

Sheriff Davis served during the rebellious decade of the 1960s, which culminated in the peak of the Vietnam War protests. Mose Penton did not have it easy, either, serving from 1923 to 1932 and facing the constant turmoil of bootleggers during Prohibition, followed by the onset of the Great Depression.

In June of 1923, Penton was appointed Chief of Police of Pensacola. In October of the same year he was appointed Sheriff of Escambia County by Governor Hardee, then elected on his own merits in 1924 and re-elected in 1928. At the time, it is reported that he enjoyed the distinction of being the youngest Sheriff in Florida.

H. E. Gandy took over in 1933, keeping the peace through the remainder of the Depression and leading up to the entry of the country into World War II. Emmett

Shelby probably had it the easiest, serving in the Eisenhower years, but faced with the growth of the county and the huge Naval Air Station with its training mission for the Korean War and the corresponding surge in county population, he had to prepare for the growth of his own organization when money was in scarce supply.

Tracking Sheriff histories

Many family Bibles, picture albums and other keepsakes and memorabilia contain the records of these legends and traditions. It would be possible to stop in almost any county seat and discover a similar story.

That is my work in progress. I am authoring, "The Encyclopedia of Florida Sheriffs," carefully piecing together bits of history and memorabilia to help uncover gems such as the Davis family track record.

It's not a job – just a hobby. And one I enjoy immensely.

It can be trying at times, as I rely on the fading memories of families. And people are busy, so my requests for information don't always get answered.

But I will continue on, as long as I am able, so that readers of *The Sheriff's Star* and other publications will benefit from this body of knowledge.

Wakulla keeps it in the family

Another story I'll share is from Wakulla County, located south of Tallahassee, from my files on the Morrison family. This time the family ties are by marriage.

Rural and coastal Wakulla County is known for its peaceable nature and congenial atmosphere.

With the exception of an invasion by marauding Union forces during the Civil War, the county has little or no experience with the wild-West type of shootouts or Sheriff-killings, like other parts of the state. The present Sheriff is David F. Harvey, and he has been sheriff since 1977 (currently FSA's Dean of Sheriffs), which speaks a lot about the stability of the county.

The Morrison family has been a stabilizing force in the county as well. Sheriff Angus Morrison was born August 27, 1886, in Sopchoppy, a town in Wakulla. He was raised in

a house on Cow Creek, and in his younger years he was engaged in the logging, timber and cross-tie business.

In 1907, at age 21, he was elected councilman of Sopchoppy, and in 1912, at age 26, he was elected Sheriff of Wakulla County. He served for 20 years.

Sheriff Angus Morrison was married to Marie Walker, the daughter of state Senator Henry Walker, who later served as Sheriff of Wakulla County from 1877 to 1883. The Walker family also boasts of two previous Sheriffs: N.G.W. Walker (1853-1855) and W.H. Walker (1877-1883). The mother of Marie Walker Morrison was Daisy Smith, and Daisy had at least two brothers – J.W. Smith and C.K. Smith – who were Sheriffs of Wakulla County prior to the tenure of their relative by marriage, Angus Morrison. Thus we have this important and civic-minded family strongly involved in the politics and management of this county for about 80 years, or the better part of a century.

This term of family influence legitimately could include the entire century, since, after his retirement as Sheriff, Angus Morrison was elected to the state Legislature and was influential in the construction of the Gulf Coast Scenic Highway (US 90). He also made a personal guarantee (his own money) that brought telephone service to Wakulla County.

Records show that Morrison was active until his death in July 1937.

The only son of Angus Morrison was Harry Copeland Morrison Sr., who continued the family tradition of community and county service. Following graduation from high school, the younger Morrison was employed with the Florida Department of Agriculture (in charge of all criminal records at the time). Then he worked as a part-time jailer for Leon County while he attended law school. After passing the bar exam, he applied to become an FBI agent. Upon his return to Florida, he was appointed state attorney for the 5th Judicial Circuit, where he served until his death in December 1980.

Seeking more histories

Writing the stories and histories of the Sheriffs' families is difficult,

but thrilling. It's a lot like compiling a family genealogy – you have to use what you have on hand and piece together the details.

In my work, it's especially challenging, as often the people I speak with will have a vague recollection that "some" relative at "some" time mentioned a possibility that "one of our grampas was a Sheriff." That's the type of information I have to go on, as I begin my investigation.

But it is enough to attract my interest, and it helps when the families remain involved.

My fear is that these histories are on the verge of being lost forever, and that would be a shame. These were men, and sometimes women, who provided the stability required during the youth of our state that helped preserve and develop our American heritage.

I encourage anyone who has any suspicions, rumors, myths, gossip or legends of former Sheriffs to contact me and tell your story. You have my promise to give each story all of my energy and interest.

Writer Victor Silvestri may be contacted by mail: 561 Tall Oaks Road, Defuniak Springs, FL 32435-8972, e-mail: summers@gdsys.net or by telephone 1-850-892-6962. ★

W.A. Woodham former "Dean of Sheriffs"

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person and the politics," Sheriff Dobson said. "He knew who could get re-elected and who couldn't."

Hamilton County Sheriff Harrell Reid says in 1988 during FSA's New Sheriffs Basic Institute, Sheriff Woodham sized up who would be back. Reid says he was assured to hear Sheriff Woodham's prediction that he would be back (correctly, it seems, as Reid has won every election since).

Gadsden County resident Charles Goodwin, who used to live near Sheriff Woodham, says there wasn't anything he wouldn't do for residents. Looking around at the attire of people at his funeral, including nurses dressed in medical uniforms and law-enforcement officers from police to the FBI, he said, "There's not too many people who didn't work with W.A. – he knew everybody."

During the funeral, Sheriff Woodham's retired Chief Deputy Major Alva Pickels spoke of hard work – all-night raids of moonshine

stills in the old days and meth labs in more recent years – balanced with a good laugh now and then.

Retired Florida Rep. James Harrold Thompson spoke at the funeral and said there was no doubt of Woodham's valor. "He would go head first into a dangerous situation" and somehow managed to diffuse it.

Sheriff Woodham will be greatly missed by the many friends and family who loved him, including his wife, Karen, and three adult children: Amy Jo Dunbar and Emily Woodham, both of Charlotte, N.C., and Laurie Beth Woodham of Tampa.

The family has requested that all memorial contributions be made to the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranch, P.O. Box 2000, Boys Ranch, FL 32064. ★

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Seafood Fest

The Florida Sheriffs Association hosted its annual Legislative Seafood Fest March 29. In the FSA tradition, it was held at the Tallahassee Antique Car Museum – thanks to the generosity of museum owner, Devoe Moore – and catered by FSA favorite, Woodville-based Seinyard Restaurant. The Leon County Sheriff's Office provided hospitality and service.

The gathering offered a good opportunity for legislators and new Sheriffs to meet and for the “seasoned” chief law enforcement officers of the state to visit with their lawmaking counterparts.

We captured some of lighter moments on camera for readers of *The Star*.



From left, Leon County Sheriff's Office Major John Schmidt, Florida Rep. Loranne Ausley (D-Tallahassee) and LCSO Legal Counsel Alan Griner.



Current Putnam County Sheriff Dean Kelly (left) and retired Putnam County Sheriff Taylor Douglas.



From left, Seminole County Sheriff Don Eslinger, Dept. of Corrections Secretary Jim Crosby, FSA President Bradford County Sheriff Bob Milner, Dept. of Juvenile Justice Secretary Anthony Schembri and Suwannee County Sheriff Tony Cameron.



From left, FSA Governmental Consultant Frank Messersmith, Dept. of Children and Families Secretary Luci Hadi and FSA President Bradford County Sheriff Bob Milner.