

THE SHERIFF'S STAR



**Crashes by the Boatloads:
Leading Causes of Watercraft
Accidents in Florida**

See page 11

From the desk of . . .

*Gary Perkins, Executive Director
Florida Sheriffs' Association*



After last year's active hurricane season, many Sheriffs expressed an interest in taking their "lessons learned" and turning it into training to prepare for future disasters. The Florida Sheriffs Association got right on it and managed to pull together a three day "Emergency Operations for Sheriffs" training program that took place in mid-June.

Little did we know that three weeks later, our attendees would be implementing the very plan they adopted at the meeting – in preparation for, and recovery from, Hurricane Dennis.

As the hurricane approached, our Florida Sheriffs Task Force hit the ground running and assembled the information needed to assure manpower and resources could be dispatched to affected areas. All county Sheriffs' Offices were on standby and ready for immediate deployment before and after the Category 4 hurricane brushed by the Florida Keys and made its way up the coast, eventually making landfall in the Panhandle.

Reports continue to come in, but as of this writing it seems our preparation paid off. The affected counties were able to communicate their needs quickly through our FSA station at the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and resources were dispatched immediately.

Though most of us are breathing a sigh of relief that the devastation wasn't as bad as last fall, many families lost homes and property, and we pledge our continued assistance to help them in any way possible.

Speakers from the trenches

We already had a strong system in place for inter-Sheriffs' Office communication, via our Task Force, prior to the 2004 hurricanes. Still, the experience felt like baptism by fire, as no one could have anticipated the challenges that could come through a series of three hurricanes hitting so closely together.

The goal of the emergency training, then, was to be more proactive and determine the best means for safeguarding and protecting the property and lives of citizens. Sheriffs' Office key personnel, who are involved in the agency's emergency management planning, attended along with their Sheriffs, totaling about 40 participants.

To plan the training, our Task Force and FSA staff determined "who better to learn from" than the Sheriffs who most recently experienced hurricanes. The training included an extensive review of the 2004 hurricane season, which offered an opportunity to make improvements.

Sheriffs from the most affected counties who led the review discussion, included Santa Rosa County Sheriff Wendell Hall (Milton) and Escambia County Sheriff Ron McNesby (Pensacola). Charlotte County Sheriff John Davenport (Punta Gorda) was represented by his Chief Deputy (and former Sheriff) Bill Cameron.

FSA chose to use the excellent facilities at the FDLE Leadership Training Center for the gathering, which also allowed Sheriffs and their SO personnel to network with statewide contacts who assist local law enforcement on a daily basis.

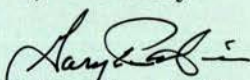
The timing of the training could not have been better. As Hurricane Dennis approached, the men and women assigned to staff the FSA desk walked into the EOC with a documented, tested game plan to put into effect immediately. We had all bases covered and were prepared for the worst-and the best case-scenarios.

Broad support

Our hats are off to the Florida Sheriffs Task Force coordinators, Orange County Sheriff's Office Capt. Rickey Ricks and Pinellas County Sheriff's Office Capt. Scott Stiner. These men, under the direction of Task Force Chairman, Orange County Sheriff Kevin Beary, pulled the training together.

Of course, the lion's share of the credit goes to our FSA membership. Without your support, we could never provide the training needed to prepare our counties for emergency response and other law-enforcement challenges.

We've included some photos taken during the training on page 15 of this issue. Let's all pray that the hurricane preparation plan isn't needed for the rest of the season...but if it is, we're ready.


Gary Perkins, Executive Director

A Profile of the Child Molester

By Kenneth Wooden

Pedophiles possess no tidy criminal profile. They come from all walks of life. Some are married, some single; some professional, some blue-collar; some young, some retired. Some prefer boys, and some prefer girls. Some are attracted to young children, others to older children. In short, pedophilia, or sexual attraction to children by an adult, is a sickness that does not discriminate by race, class or age. It knows no bounds, and afflicts people in every segment of society.

Most pedophiles do, however, share several characteristics. The overwhelming majority of pedophiles are male. Only a very small percentage of women abuse children sexually, and they are usually cooperating with a male aggressor.

Few pedophiles are able to resist their powerful urges to initiate sexual contact with children. As a result, child molesters often make efforts to gain access to or authority over children. They take jobs where children are easily approached, or they actively pursue youngsters by befriending par-

One "Entrapment of the Month" column alerted members to law enforcement's child-pornography sting operations. Their newsletter correctly identified 10 operations in five states. In just three years, the group exposed and compromised four federal undercover operations.

ents (particularly single parents), attending events for children, coaching children's sports, chaperoning camping trips, frequenting video arcades or offering baby-sitting services to friends family and neighbors with children.

The majority of pedophiles prefer children on the brink of puberty and prey on a child's sexual ignorance and curiosity. To quote one molester, "Give me a kid who knows nothing about sex, and you've given me my next victim."

Organized to victimize

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

These organizations include the

Rene Guyon Society, NAMBLA (The North American Man-Boy Love Association) and PAN (Pedophile Alert Network) in the Netherlands. Members receive articles about seduction techniques and advice on avoiding detection and prosecution. One group's "Lure of the Month" column gives advice on approaching and seducing children. In one month's column, soap crayons were praised for their effectiveness: "Children undress themselves!"

NAMBLA's "Entrapment of the Month" column has alerted members to covert government child-pornography sting operations. In one newsletter alone, NAMBLA correctly identified 10 sting operations in five different states. In just three years, NAMBLA exposed and compromised four federal sting operations as well, including Project Looking Glass, Candy's Love Club, Project Sea Hawk and Project Borderline. Clearly, these organizations have connections.

While the average child molester does not belong to a pedophile organization, we would be foolish not to take seriously any group whose members are committed to sexual activity with children. Indeed, pedophiles are often difficult to detect and can be found in the most unlikely of places. Knowing this, we must provide our children with the tools to recognize and avoid potentially abusive individuals and situations.

For more information, visit www.childlures.com. ☛

THE SHERIFF'S STAR

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LETTERS

Editor:

Regarding your publication, I so enjoy reading *The Sheriff's Star* cover to cover.

I'm a New Yorker, retired from the Nassau County Correctional Center in Long Island, now living full time in Florida. I loved serving our two wardens and previously in the Inmate Records division.

Keep up the good work – one day at a time.

Yours truly,
MHV, Holiday, FL

Editor:

Regarding the enclosed article, I think it would be of interest to men who like to work part-time. My son, Ken Buss, puts in almost 30 hours per week – nights and days.

Thanks.

John. K. Buss, father

Editor replies:

Mr. Buss, thank you for sharing the article from the *Palm Beach Post* about your son, Ken Buss, and other volunteer reservists at the Palm Beach Sheriff's Office and the Boca Raton Police Department. It says his work as a detective for the PBSO is without pay, though he's academy trained and has all the qualifications to be a deputy or police officer. "I catch killers for a hobby," the younger Buss told the reporter. Great ambition!

We appreciate the heads up about the program and will be covering it in a future edition of *The Sheriff's Star*. Thank you for writing.

Journal Entry: Injury Delays Continued Hike

As we announced in the last issue of *The Sheriff's Star*, Martin County Sheriff Bob Crowder's wife, Debbie, was seeking to hike the entire length of the Appalachian Trail. The Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches received pledges from people who wanted to support her effort.

After passing the 100-mile mark, Debbie had to suspend her hike. She suffered a serious fall on July 6 that resulted in a sprained ankle and severely bruised left arm. Both made navigating the steep and treacherous terrain nearly impossible – and more dangerous.

One of her last journal entries tell the story best:

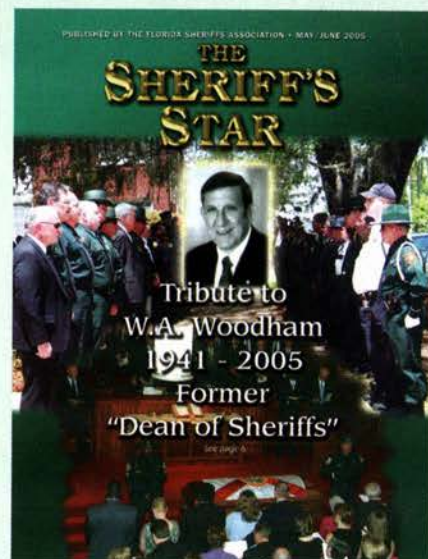
Thursday, July 7 – "Last summer at the Florida Sheriff's Conference, Sheriff Bob Milner told everyone that I was going to hike the Appalachian Trail "until I was done." I always appreciated that language because I was never positive



that I could or would be able to complete the entire trail. Then, I had the opportunity to use this trip to benefit the Youth Ranches. I began to believe that I could, and would, be a thru-hiker. Now, I realize that I probably won't finish the trail this year and so I am a section-hiker. I may be down, but I am not out! For all of you who have made pledges based on miles, don't put away your checkbooks, yet! As soon as I can walk again, I will be back on the trail somewhere."

Kids still benefit

Though Debbie will be on the mend



The Sheriff's Star - May/June 2005

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.

in the next few weeks, considering at least a partial comeback in the fall, her efforts had raised around \$15,000 in donations for the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches at last check, not counting per-mile pledges or amounts to be paid upon completion.

Way to go, Deb!

We'll continue to report on Debbie's progress in future editions of *The Sheriff's Star*.

To read all of Debbie's journal entries, visit her page on the Internet at: www.trailjournals.com/land-cruiser. E-mail encouraging words to her at: debcrowder@bellsouth.net. A pledge form is available for download from the Youth Ranches Website: <http://www.youthranches.org/hikeform.pdf>. ☺

A total of 250 participants and 50 vendors were at the training, with a large number of them representing Police Departments.

Bruce Bogan, an attorney with Bogan & Palmer, PA, and Orange County Sheriff's Office Lt. Dave Ogden spoke on "Knowing how to deal with policy, training and litigation issues related to tasers."

Fort Myers Hosts Administrative Management Training

The Florida Sheriffs Association held its annual Administrative Management Training June 7-9 at the Sanibel Harbour Resort & Spa in Fort Myers.

The 20-hour training is geared toward managers from law-enforcement agencies in the areas of command staff, finance and human resources. Many Sheriffs also attend with their personnel.

Each area has an advisory committee that meets to determine the priorities for training that will address specific issues within law enforcement.

Though these managers have other sources of training, the business in which Sheriffs' Offices and other law-enforcement agencies are engaged benefits significantly by having training tailored to their needs.

Peggy Goff, FSA's director of administrative services, says this year's conference had the largest number of Police Department attendees in the training's history. Nearly 50 sponsors also participated in the trade show.

We've included a few of the program highlights in this photo collage. *All photos courtesy of Alison Evans, Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches.* ★

Peggy Goff, FSA director of administrative services, helped coordinate the training and also acted as moderator for the "Effective Leadership Strategies for the Administrative Manager" session.

Frank Messersmith, FSA's governmental consultant, provided a legislative update - including a summary from the 2005 session.

Lee County Sheriff's Office Chief Charles Ferrante offered welcoming remarks on behalf of the host, Sheriff Mike Scott.

Suwannee County Sheriff Tony Cameron visits with General Motors representatives.

President Bradford County Sheriff Bob Iner welcomed the attendees during the general assembly and also acted as moderator for the Legislative update portion of the training.

Hernando County Sheriff Rich Nugent took advantage of the exhibition. He's pictured here with a representative of Mears Motor Leasing.

The Business of Convenience: Creating a Safer Environment in Santa Rosa County

By Cindy Sarver
Crime Prevention Specialist
Santa Rosa County Sheriff's Office

Law enforcement realizes that convenience store businesses serve an important role for the public, as they make life easier for citizens while creating a large number of jobs. Still, just read the crime reports and you'll know they also provide a convenient target for criminals.

In February 2005, the Santa Rosa County Sheriff's Office Crime Prevention team began working in concert with local convenience stores to make sure that both they and their customers were provided a safe and secure environment. This was accomplished by ensuring that all convenience store facilities, which are those operating from 11 p.m. until 5 a.m., were in compliance with the 1992 Convenience Business Security Act.

This act, passed by the Florida Legislature, was designed to protect convenience businesses from violent crimes. The requirements of the act established minimum security standards for the operation of convenience businesses.

The standards include:

- lighted parking lots
- a drop safe or cash management device that is secured to the floor or counter or that weighs at least 500 pounds
- training in robbery deterrence and safety for each retail employee, conducted through an approved

curriculum

- notice at the entrance that the cash register contains \$50 or less
- height markers at the entrance
- window tinting that permits physical identification of all persons in the sales transaction area from outside the building
- a written cash management policy limiting cash on hand between the hours of 11 p.m. and 5 a.m.
- a security camera system capable of retrieving an identifiable image of an offender
- a silent alarm
- window sign placement allowing an unobstructed view of the sales transaction area from inside and outside the building

In addition, any convenience businesses where a murder, robbery, sexual battery, aggravated assault, aggravated battery, kidnapping or false imprisonment had occurred in connection with the operation of the business must meet additional standards. The additional security measures must be in place for a minimum of two years after the date of the most recent crime.

Team of inspectors

Santa Rosa County Sheriff Wendell Hall tasked his Crime Prevention team with assisting each business in upholding all necessary and binding standards. The

team members, who are state-certified inspectors, have been conducting a complete inspection of each facility and reporting their findings to the business owner. If a facility is found to be out of compliance, it is given an opportunity to correct any security measures not found to be in place in accordance with the Convenience Business Security Act of 1992. If they fail to make the corrections the business can face a fine of between \$1,000 and \$5,000.

As of June, all stores that fall under the Security Act have been inspected initially with several scheduled for follow-up inspections. In addition, training was provided for all store owners and operators who wished to attend which covered all laws and policies contained in the Security Act.

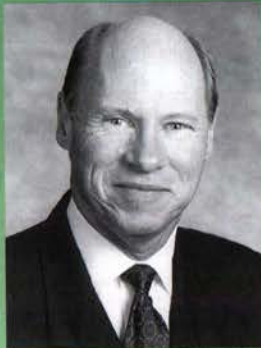
Convenience businesses that stay in compliance with the standards of the Convenience Business Security Act contribute to the overall effort to reduce the risk of robbery and therefore protect the safety and welfare of business employees and customers. It becomes a win-win situation for law enforcement, the convenience businesses and the citizens at large.

Crime Prevention Specialist Cindy Sarver can be reached through the Santa Rosa County Sheriff's Office, csarver@srsco.net.



A Different Kind of Jail Outbreak

By Carol Shepard and
Hugh Graf, Broward
County Sheriff's Office



Broward County Sheriff
Ken Jenne

wounds clean and covered and avoiding contact with wounds or wound dressings from others.

For several days, while Shepard and her crew worked on the rest of their master plan, the MRSA bulletin was read to detention deputies at every roll call, to the administrative staff, and

They weren't spider bites ...and that was very bad news for the thousands of inmates in the five Broward County Sheriff's Office jails in South Florida.

Just a few weeks earlier, in February 2004, the local newspapers had been writing about a nasty infection invading the jails in Palm Beach County, north of Broward. Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus, or MRSA, had been a problem in health care settings such as hospitals and clinics for about 20 years, but now it was moving to a new group – jail inmates.

Usually, the effects of MRSA are slight: a minor skin infection or lesion, and treatment is successful. However, the "super bug" can also be resistant to some antibiotics and, if it's not caught in time, can quickly progress into a deadly infection in the blood or bones of its victims. But the medical staff in the Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO) Department of Detention wasn't about to let that happen.

"When that first prisoner showed up with a skin infection and lesions, we knew right away they weren't spider bites," said BSO Health Care Manager Carol Shepard. "After we confirmed it was MRSA, we took action immediately to keep it from getting out of hand in our jails."

Offense initiated

Shepard and her staff drew up a bulletin about MRSA – what it is, what it looks like, how it is usually spread, and more importantly, how to stop it from running wild. Tips included washing hands thoroughly and frequently, keeping any cuts or

to maintenance workers and inmates. Judges and attorneys who might come in contact with inmates were also warned of the potential dangers and what they should do to avoid being infected. Nothing was sugarcoated, nothing was ambiguous and nothing was left to chance. This was a very serious and potentially deadly situation.

By early May, the medical staff in the jails had found six suspected cases of MRSA. The affected inmates were isolated in the jail's infirmary while the medical staff awaited the test results and began tracing every move the inmates had made – where they had slept, where they had eaten, how they had been transported to jail, and with whom they had had contact. Every area in which the inmates had been was decontaminated, and an emergency meeting was called to make sure that every worker in the jails knew the status.

When the test results on the half-dozen inmates came back positive for MRSA, the true gravity of the situation became even more sharply focused. Every day, inmates were scheduled for release. Every day, inmates were scheduled for court appearances. Every day, inmates had visitors. And every day, there was the real threat that the number of MRSA cases in Broward County jails could begin to explode.

In order to win this battle, BSO detention managers knew they needed to form a strong alliance with county health officials. Together, they reviewed the newly developed protocols to stop the potentially deadly "super bug." They

toured the jails, looking for any possible weak spot. They looked at every thing from the MRSA isolation units and general inmate housing, to the cafeteria and recreation areas. They measured the water temperature being used to launder inmate uniforms and bedding. After careful review, county health officials made the call- BSO's medical team was meeting and exceeding federal guidelines for treating and handling the MRSA outbreak.

Proactive public notification, too

While health officials and detention staff worked on keeping MRSA in check, the Broward Sheriff's Office Media Relations Unit worked on keeping the public informed. A news release went out to the media that described MRSA, how it was spread, how to stop it, how many inmates were infected, and what BSO was doing to combat it. Day by day, as the MRSA situation in the jails changed, local reporters were given updates on BSO's efforts to fight its spread.

"We process nearly 80,000 people through our jails every year," said Broward County Sheriff Ken Jenne. "We had to attack the problem aggressively from the start."

By late December 2004, the total number of confirmed MRSA cases in BSO jails was a relatively scant 278. Many of those inmates were already infected when they were booked in Broward County and since BSO began aggressively fighting the problem, the number of new cases in the jails has continuously decreased.

"Finding out that we had a potentially deadly infection spreading in our jails was something we never expected," said Sheriff Jenne. "And even though we have it under control right now, it's going to be an ongoing challenge to keep it in check. But the good news is, we've got a fantastic group of professionals who are up to the challenge."

For more information visit the BSO website: www.sheriff.org. ★

Polk Sheriff's Office Embraces Seniors

By Carrie S. Rodgers, CPM
Public Information Officer
Polk County Sheriff's Office

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, as of July 2004, Florida had the second-highest population of people aged 65 and older in the United States (2.9 million). Florida is also the state with the highest proportion of that age group to total population. Each year, thousands of retirees flock to Florida to enjoy a carefree lifestyle, and many settle in the central part of the state, where Polk County is located.

The Polk County Sheriff's Office has long recognized the valuable tools these citizens bring to a large law-enforcement agency. PCSO's jurisdiction covers more than 2,000 square miles, with more than 330,000 residents. PCSO already employs over 200 retirees as part-time School Crossing Guards at the agency. However, it became obvious that there was far more senior citizens could do to help impact crime and increase the quality of life in the county.

In 2003, Sheriff Lawrence W. Crow, Jr., implemented the first senior-oriented volunteer program at the agency. The Seniors vs. Crime project was founded statewide in 1989 after the Florida Legislature ordered a task force to report on crime and the elderly. This task force found that seniors were being targeted for scams were subjected to high-pressure tactics by some salespersons and were being deceived by false advertising — at alarming frequencies.

In Polk County, storefronts manned by "Senior Sleuth" volunteers provide senior residents the opportunity to speak with other seniors about victimization in a



Polk County Sheriff's Office kicked off its The Citizen's Assisted Patrol program in January 2004, which now has more than 1,100 volunteers. Newly-elected Sheriff Grady Judd (at forefront in photo) recently dedicated a full-time position to coordinate the group. CAP volunteers utilize specially marked golf carts, patrol vehicles and radios to communicate with deputies.

safe and relaxed atmosphere. So far, the program has helped successfully resolve 122 cases that might not have otherwise been reported.

Feedback received from the potential victims indicates they feel like they can talk to their peers about issues that are usually civil in nature, whereas going to family members or law enforcement usually results in feelings of inadequacy and embarrassment. This program came in especially handy after three hurricanes struck Polk County and elderly victims needed somewhere to go to report scams brought about by persons posing as contractors. Since the program's implementation, more than \$88,800 has been recovered for these victims of scams or unscrupulous business dealings.

New program includes patrol

The Citizen's Assisted Patrol (CAP) program kicked off in

January 2004 at a retirement community called Windmill Village, near Davenport. There are numerous retirement communities in northeast Polk, which is the fastest growing area in our county. CAP has been organized in several other communities since its inception. It is a volunteer program designed to enhance Neighborhood Watch by having citizens contact law enforcement upon seeing any suspicious activity. Citizens are provided with specially marked golf carts, T-shirts, and communications equipment, which they use to assist patrol deputies, reporting directly to district supervisors. The citizens are trained in a 10-hour course in a variety of subjects, including identifying suspicious activities and writing reports. So far, the CAP program is up and running in 14 different neighborhoods, mostly

retirement communities, and PCSO has begun providing specially marked patrol vehicles in addition to the golf carts. Five of the vehicles are currently in use.

Because of the popularity of these programs and the large number of volunteers that have eagerly joined, in 2005 newly elected Sheriff Grady Judd reallocated a crime prevention specialist position to work exclusively with volunteers. It is a full-time job coordinating and overseeing the entire corps of volunteers working for the agency, which as of May 2005

totaled 1,100.

In addition to these PCSO programs, in April 2004 the Polk County Board of County Commissioners Neighborhood Partnerships Office received a grant from the Corporation for National Community Service to sponsor a Senior Corps Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP). RSVP will recruit, train and place volunteers age 55 or older to serve in meaningful community programs throughout Polk County. This will be done in coordination with the Polk County Sheriff's Office, Polk

County Fire Department and Polk County Emergency Management.

With PCSO paving the way for senior volunteers to become more involved in their communities, the quality of life in the county and the valuable partnerships that are created will continue to strengthen and improve. As the percentage of seniors living in the county increases, and studies indicate it will, PCSO will continue to seek volunteers from this pool of resources and give them opportunities to make a positive difference.



Pasco Sheriff's Office Expands Project ChildSafe

By Doug Tobin
Public Information Officer
Pasco County Sheriff's Office

Pasco Sheriff's Office Child Protective Investigators who are tasked with investigating child-abuse allegations will have another tool to help keep children safe. The Sheriff's Office has started distributing 2,000 ChildSafe gunlock safety kits, doubling the number of gunlocks distributed in 2004.

The free gunlock safety kits will be given to each of the 36 Child Protective Investigators covering all of Pasco County. They will also be available at various Sheriff's Office locations, and road patrol supervisors will have the gunlocks available for deputies on the road.

The Child Protective Investigators with the Pasco Sheriff's Office conduct more than 5,000 child abuse investigations in the county each year, where they often speak to parents about child safety issues. If a CPI sees an unsecured gun in a house, they can now provide the gunlocks to Pasco citizens at no cost.

Project ChildSafe is a nationwide program that provides free gunlocks and education on responsible firearm ownership and storage. The program was developed by the



Sgt. Michael Schreck, who oversees Community Policing for the Pasco County Sheriff's Office, demonstrates how one of the gunlocks work. PCSO is distributing 2,000 free ChildSafe gunlock safety kits – double the amount given out last year.

National Shooting Sports Foundation and is supported by a U.S. Department of Justice Grant.

The safety kits include a gunlock and a pamphlet explaining how you can safely lock your handgun, rifle or shotgun. The goal of the program is to prevent a child or any other unauthorized person from accessing a firearm in the home and to encourage parents to develop a gun safety plan.

Project ChildSafe encourages parents to do more than simply lock up guns in the house. There is also a section in the pamphlet parents

can use to speak to their kids about gun safety. The No. 1 tip that parents are encouraged to share with their children is this: If you find a gun in your house or anywhere else, STOP! Leave it alone. Don't touch it and don't let anyone else touch it.

For more information about Project ChildSafe, visit the program's Website: www.projectchildsafes.org. The Pasco County Sheriff's Office Crime Prevention Unit can be reached at: 727-834-3376. *

Sheriff's Office Hosts "Real" Rodeo in Martin County

Known for his original ideas in fundraising and law enforcement, Martin County Sheriff Bob Crowder has come up with yet another way to benefit the Sheriff's favorite charity: hosting a "real, live" rodeo.

It's a first for the Sheriff's Office, and the hopes are that it will be a viable replacement for his traditional annual barbecue benefit that raises support for the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches.

The rodeo will take place at the Timer Powers Park in Indiantown, September 30 and October 1. It will have all the traditional events, including bull riding, steer wrestling, saddle bronc riding, the cowboy clowns and much more.

To boost the event's profile, the Sheriff's Office has contracted with the Marki Rodeo Company, a member of the Professional Cowboy Association, and the Sheriff's Office expects participants from all over Florida to compete for cash prizes



Above is the official Rodeo logo. You can bet that the cowboy's resemblance to Martin County Sheriff Bob Crowder is no accident.

and points. Because it's a PCA-sponsored event, points are awarded to the best competing cowboys.

Though it replaces the annual barbecue, there will still be plenty to eat. In fact, the event will include BBQ pork sandwiches by Carl Amerson, the "official BBQ king of the Sheriff's Office." There will also be plenty of hamburgers, hot dogs, snacks, cold drinks and ice cream, plus and a petting area

for the kids.

Adding to the entertainment, the Martin County Sheriff's Office will have a large display of patrol cars, crime-scene vans, motorcycles, a tank and a helicopter.

Sheriff's own horses, too

The Martin County Sheriff's Posse will also be at the rodeo. One of only a few recognized posses in the United States, this is a volunteer force of mounted Special Deputies formed to assist and supplement fulltime units. On horseback, they aid in natural disasters, manhunts, finding lost children and escaped prisoners and have been featured on the Discovery Channel's Animal Planet.

Of course, they will be on duty –patrolling the rodeo and parking lot on horseback.

To find out more information on the rodeo, contact the Martin County Sheriff's Office, 800 SE Monterey Road, Stuart, Florida, or call 772-220-7000. The MCSO website includes directions and ticket information
www.sheriff.martin.fl.us ☼

Retired Law Enforcement Wanted for Temporary Position

The Florida Attorney General's Office contacted FSA seeking members who might be eligible to help on a special investigation. Through special funding, they have created a temporary full-time position titled "OPS Civil Rights Investigator."

They are seeking a person with law enforcement experience, specifically: Strong people, communication, writing and analytical skills. Excellent computer skills, including creating charts, spread sheets and graphics. Experience with witness development, data and infor-

mation collection, assisting with case preparation and presenting testimony in court. Minimum qualifications include: A bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university and two years of experience in conducting investigations or in law enforcement. Professional or nonprofessional experience as described above can substitute on a year-for-year basis for the required college education.

This is a temporary full-time position, with hourly pay and no paid leave or insurance benefits. It also requires a background check including fingerprinting. Travel outside the worksite will be required and may involve extended hours. Anticipated starting salary is \$15 an hour.

The position number is 41900001. ☼

STAR BRIEF

Did you know....?

The majority of Florida Sheriffs Association members are not employed in law enforcement. Approximately 130,000 citizens throughout the state and 3,500 businesses make up the bulk of membership. And FSA is one of the rare state Sheriffs' associations that has full, active participation by all Sheriffs in the state.

Reach Law Enforcement Readers

The Florida Sheriffs Association's sister publication, the *All Points Bulletin*, reaches law enforcement personnel where they live and work. To advertise, request our 2005 Advertising Rate Card. Call 850-877-2165, or e-mail: info@flsheriffs.org.

Rules of the Seas: Safety First

By Sgt. Rick Hord
Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office

Not every "Top 10" list is worth bragging about, as we learned recently in Okaloosa.



Of Florida's 67 counties, our county ranked sixth in the number of boat accidents and fifth in Personal Watercraft (PWC) crashes last year. We managed to land between Miami and Palm Beach and are way ahead of Fort Lauderdale and Daytona Beach.

PWC, in case you're wondering, is a generic reference to Jet-Ski, Waverunner and Sea-Doo trademark watercrafts that are owned by Kawasaki, Yamaha and Bombadier, respectively.

Here are a few facts from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's (FWC) Website (www.myfwc.com):

- PWCs were involved in almost half of Okaloosa County's boating accidents in 2004, and almost 90 percent of the county's PWC accidents, despite the fact that privately owned PWCs outnumber rentals 16 to one.
- Carelessness is by far the leading cause of boat crashes.
- The second-leading cause is "Violation of Navigation Rules."
- Many boaters apparently violate navigation rules out of ignorance. Almost 90-percent of the boat operators involved in accidents statewide last year reported "no boating education."
- The third-most common cause is worth special notice: "off-throttle steering." In jet-powered craft (mostly PWCs), it's a strange sen-



Annual festivals, like Billy Bowlegs in Northwest Florida, attract the masses, making boating and watercraft safety particularly challenging. Photo by Scott Jackson - Photoflora.com

sation for inexperienced drivers...back off the throttle and you completely lose steering. Boats have no brakes, so operators often try to steer around trouble, while coasting, which doesn't work.

- The most common injuries in PWC crashes are broken bones, contusions, lacerations, head injuries, back injuries and internal injuries – in that order.

- Don't blame the tourists: 93 percent of the boats that crashed in Florida last year were being driven by Florida residents.

These statistics are from last year's accident reports. The FWC investigates about 75 percent of the reported boat accidents in the state. Local Sheriffs' Offices and Police Departments handle the rest. Florida requires reporting of boat accidents that involve personal injury (beyond immediate first aid), death, the disappearance of a person or property damage of at least \$2,000. It is the responsibility of the boat operator to immediately notify the FWC or the local Sheriff's Office or Police Department.

For residents and visitors in Northwest Florida, the Billy Bowlegs fireworks, pirate invasion and related events herald the beginning of boating season.

While a past tradition of joining the Bowlegs battle by hurling water balloons has waned somewhat in recent years, it's still a problem. Though seemingly harmless, water balloons pose serious hazards, apart

from the widely discussed environmental concerns. Water is heavy and non-compressible. It's possible for a water balloon impact to exceed the energy of a .45 caliber gunshot. A few years ago, a man struck by a water balloon on an Okaloosa Island beach suffered a life-threatening skull fracture and brain injuries. His attacker was never identified. Every year sees lesser, but still significant, injuries plus shattered boat windshields and other damage from water balloons.

Not all water-balloon tossing is illegal, but anyone involved in indiscriminate pitching of fastballs at unsuspecting targets, or using slingshot-type or other mechanical launchers for high-powered, long-range bombardment is risking injury to others and a court date or citation for themselves.

So, be safe on the water. Consider reviewing all Boating Safety rules. The FWC recommends a boater safety course, which can be taken via the Internet. Find out more at the following Websites: <http://boat-ed.com/fl/> and <http://floridaboating-course.com/>.

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 / ☺



Counterfeit Merchandise Business Lands Father/Son Team in Jail

BAY COUNTY - A complaint from a disgruntled woman who never received merchandise for the \$4,000 check she sent to an Internet site led Bay County Sheriff's Office Investigators to a Panama City Beach residence and a truckload of counterfeit purses, suitcases, shoes, belts, wallets and sunglasses.

In jail today is Joseph Julius Wunsch III, DOB 2/18/62, and his son, Joseph Julius Wunsch IV, DOB 12/25/85. Both list 2509 Pelican Bay Drive as their residence. Marijuana, cocaine and drug paraphernalia were also found during the execution of a search warrant on the home.

Investigators have records that indicate the two men were running a business operation through two Websites: EMS Diva Fashion and World Wide Replicas. Paperwork demonstrates they had customers all over the world with many complaints of merchandise never arriving after money was sent. Investigators believe the Wunsches obtained the counterfeit Louis Vuitton, Prada, Christian Dior, and Oakley products from China and New York and had been in operation about one year.

Wunsch III is charged with possession of cocaine, possession of marijuana less than 20 grams, possession of drug paraphernalia, grand theft, possession of counterfeit goods (x2), and sale of counterfeit goods (x2). Wunsch IV is charged with possession of marijuana less than 20 grams, possession of drug paraphernalia, principle to possession of counterfeit goods, and principle to sale of coun-

terfeit goods.

- Ruth Sasser, with Inv. J. Mathis ☼

Loads of Narcotics off the Street, Thanks to Deputy's Work

BUNNELL - February proved to be a busy month for Deputy Michael Breckwoldt, who is a member of the Alpha Squad within the Patrol Division.

On three separate occasions, Deputy Breckwoldt conducted traffic stops on vehicles which lead to the seizure of a substantial amount of illegal narcotics and the arrests of the suspects.

The activity began February 3 when Deputy Breckwoldt conducted a traffic stop. As he approached the vehicle, he noticed a strong odor of cannabis coming from the vehicle. He conducted a search of the vehicle and found two bags of marijuana. After he arrested two suspects, he then searched the entire vehicle and found five one-pound bricks of marijuana inside a backpack on the back seat of the vehicle.

Eight days later, Deputy Breckwoldt observed a vehicle being driven by a suspect that he knew was a habitual traffic offender. As he attempted to stop the vehicle, the suspect fled from the vehicle on foot. A search of the abandoned vehicle revealed 38 bags of marijuana totaling 66.3 grams, 12 grams of crack cocaine and 6.8 grams of powder cocaine. Deputy Breckwoldt requested an arrest warrant, and one was issued by the Honorable Circuit Court Judge Kim Hammond with a \$50,000 bond.

On February 22, Deputy Breckwoldt again observed a suspect who had an active arrest warrant issued for him. The deputy stopped the vehicle and arrested the individual on the warrant. A

subsequent search of the vehicle resulted in the discovery of a large blue bag containing 12 individual bags with 852 grams of marijuana and a red bag containing nine individual bags of cocaine. In the center console was a bag with 11 grams of marijuana. Deputy Breckwoldt also recovered multiple plastic bags and two scales used to weigh and package narcotics for sale and delivery. He also recovered \$1,455 in cash.

Sheriff Donald W. Fleming has recognized Deputy Breckwoldt for his outstanding service to the community and to the FCSO. ☼

BSO's "Operation Money Car" Slams Brakes on Stolen Car Cloning Ring

BROWARD - "Operation Money Car," a more than two-year-old Broward Sheriff's Office undercover investigation into an auto theft and VIN (Vehicle Identification Number) cloning ring, culminated recently with the arrest of 19 suspects wanted for racketeering and dealing in stolen property. Three suspects, Cornell Welds, Darren Fiske and Charles Barone, are still at large. BSO detectives also recovered dozens of luxury vehicles the ring either stole from legit car dealerships or obtained via "insurance give-up" scams.

On Tuesday, June 21, BSO undercover detectives, in conjunction with the Broward State Attorney's Office, authorities in the state of Indiana, the National Insurance Crime Bureau, Coral Springs Police, the Palm Beach Sheriff's Office, the Volusia County Sheriff's Office, the Miami-Dade Multi-agency Auto Theft Task Force, the Lee County Sheriff's Office and

Office Depot's Loss Prevention Unit, dismantled a national multi-million-dollar car theft and VIN cloning ring operating out of several Florida car dealerships, including: Alpine Motors (5981 Funston Street, B1, Hollywood), Cormakk Inc. (5400 SW 12th Street, #216D, Fort Lauderdale), Reids Auto (5981 Funston Street, B2, Hollywood), Platinum Key Auto (Daytona Beach, FL) and Gold Key Auto (Dissolved in 2000).

According to detectives, ring members dodge authorities by equipping stolen or "insurance give-

up" cars with cloned VINs from a similar make and model. The suspects would then forge new documents - including fake titles - and re-register the stolen car, allowing them to sell the cars on their lots to unwitting customers as legitimate used cars. The suspects would even scour junkyards and attend salvage auctions in search of vehicles that matched the description of their stolen cars. After removing the legitimate VIN from the salvaged vehicle, the suspects would re-VIN their hot ride. The organized crime ring was

operating out of Florida, and used certificates of title for cloned VINs from Alabama, California, South Dakota, Indiana, Ohio, New Jersey and Canada.

After infiltrating the ring, undercover BSO investigators were able to purchase several stolen cars directly from key players and obtained crucial documents that lead to the recovery of 26 re-VINed luxury cars.

More arrests and vehicle recoveries are expected. The investigation continues.

- Liz Calzadilla-Fiallo ☼

U.S. Presidential Award Goes to Seminole County SO Volunteer

By Steve Olson, Public Information Officer, and Ann Bryant, Special Projects Coordinator

Betty Haggard, a volunteer with the Seminole County Sheriff's Office, was the proud recipient recently of the President's Volunteer Service Award.

The recognition came during a quick tour, when President George W. Bush visited Central Florida to promote reform of the Social Security program. The president took time to honor Haggard's achievements, posed with her for a photo next to Air Force One and mentioned her by name in his speech.

Haggard was amazed by it all. "I was initially honored by the recognition," she says, "but the full impact did not hit me until I found myself standing there watching Air Force One land, and suddenly it all became very real. There I was, a



Betty Haggard's volunteer hours at the Seminole County Sheriff's Office drew attention from the White House. She received the President's Volunteer Service Award, which included personal congratulations from the president when he visited Central Florida recently.

girl born and raised on a farm in Indiana, about to meet the President of the United States. As he walked down the steps from the plane, the excitement was overwhelming. He was coming to talk to me! It was an indescribable honor - an event I will never forget."

Haggard has been volunteering all her life. When her children were young, she was paramedic and captain of the medical division for an

all-volunteer fire department. She was also the neighborhood chairperson for the Girl Scouts for several years.

Her latest volunteer position is with the Seminole County Sheriff's Office. She has been a "Citizens on Patrol" volunteer for more than six years, donating between 60 and 80 hours a month and performing a variety of duties with her usual efficiency and class.

Haggard drives a Citizens on Patrol car and is co-coordinator and trainer for the District 3 Citizens on Patrol program. She is also a team leader with the volunteer Search and Rescue Team, and she assists at the security desk in the lobby of the Sheriff's Office.

It seems that Haggard is the original over-achiever.

Seminole County Sheriff Don Eslinger agrees. "Volunteers, such as Betty, make a difference, not just for the Seminole County Sheriff's Office, but for communities all across America," he says. "We are so thankful that there are people like Betty, who give so unselfishly of their time and talents."

For more information, contact Steve Olson, solson@seminolesheriff.org. ☼

Sheriff Eslinger Among Winners of TAC Award

Tragedy spurs successful reform of Florida law for people with severe mental illnesses

During Mental Health Month, May 2005, Seminole County Sheriff Donald Eslinger, Linda Gregory of Jacksonville and Alice Petree of Sanford were named winners of the Treatment Advocacy Center's mental illness advocacy awards. The Treatment Advocacy Center (TAC) is a national non-profit organization dedicated to removing barriers to treatment of severe mental illnesses.

Eslinger, Gregory and Petree won this year's national Torrey Advocacy Commendation for their successful advocacy for a new mental illness treatment law in Florida. The TAC award recognizes the courage and tenacity of those who selflessly advocate – despite criticism and opposition – for the right to treatment for those who are so severely disabled by mental illnesses that they do not recognize that they need treatment.

The board of directors of the Treatment Advocacy Center voted unanimously to recognize all three Florida advocates in a move that resulted in an unusual advocacy partnership.

In making the award, TAC board secretary Dr. Fred Frese said, "We are impressed by their heart-felt efforts over more than four years to get a more humane treatment law for Floridians with severe mental illnesses." He said the Sheriff, Gregory and Petree were to be commended for their dedica-



Seminole County Sheriff
Don Eslinger

tion and effectiveness in spearheading a complex and critical reform of Florida's outdated treatment law.

Lawmakers add to the recognition

In addition to the national spotlight, the Florida House of Representatives cited

the TAC award in a resolution sponsored by Rep. David Simmons and Rep. Sandra Adams that recognizes these three advocates for "their successful advocacy in honor of Deputy Sheriff Gene Gregory and Alan Singletary and all people with severe mental illnesses who will benefit from their efforts."

The result of the three award-winner's work is Florida's new law, which took effect January 1, 2005. It allows assisted (court-ordered) outpatient treatment for people with severe mental illnesses – such as schizophrenia and bipolar disorder – who have a history of noncompliance combined with either repeated Baker Act admissions or serious violence. Court-ordered outpatient treatment is a less restrictive, less expensive alternative for those who need intervention but do not require inpatient hospitalization.

New statistics from New York, a state with a similar law, show that for those in the program, 74-percent fewer experienced homelessness, 77-percent fewer experienced psychiatric hospitalization, 83-percent fewer experienced arrest and 87-percent fewer experienced incarceration. Individuals enrolled were also more likely to regularly participate in services and take prescribed medication.

Case history

On July 8, 1998, Deputy Sheriff Gene Gregory and Alan Singletary, a man with a history of severe mental illness, died in a 13-hour stand-

off. Seminole County Sheriff Eslinger vowed to not let their deaths be in vain and created a Mental Health Task Force to advocate for reforms in mental health and substance abuse services and laws. With the unlikely team of Alice Petree, the sister of Alan Singletary, and Linda Gregory, the widow of Deputy Sheriff Gene Gregory, Sheriff Eslinger worked through the task force and with other community groups and stakeholders to increase awareness of the need for treatment of mental illnesses.

With the leadership of the Florida Sheriffs Association, the efforts of these advocates and the community network they helped to create resulted not only in reforming the Baker Act to allow for assisted outpatient treatment, but also in other beneficial programs for those with mental illnesses such as jail diversion, forensic treatment programs, mental health screening at a county correctional facility, funding for a detox receiving facility, a voluntary identification program, and law-enforcement crisis intervention teams.

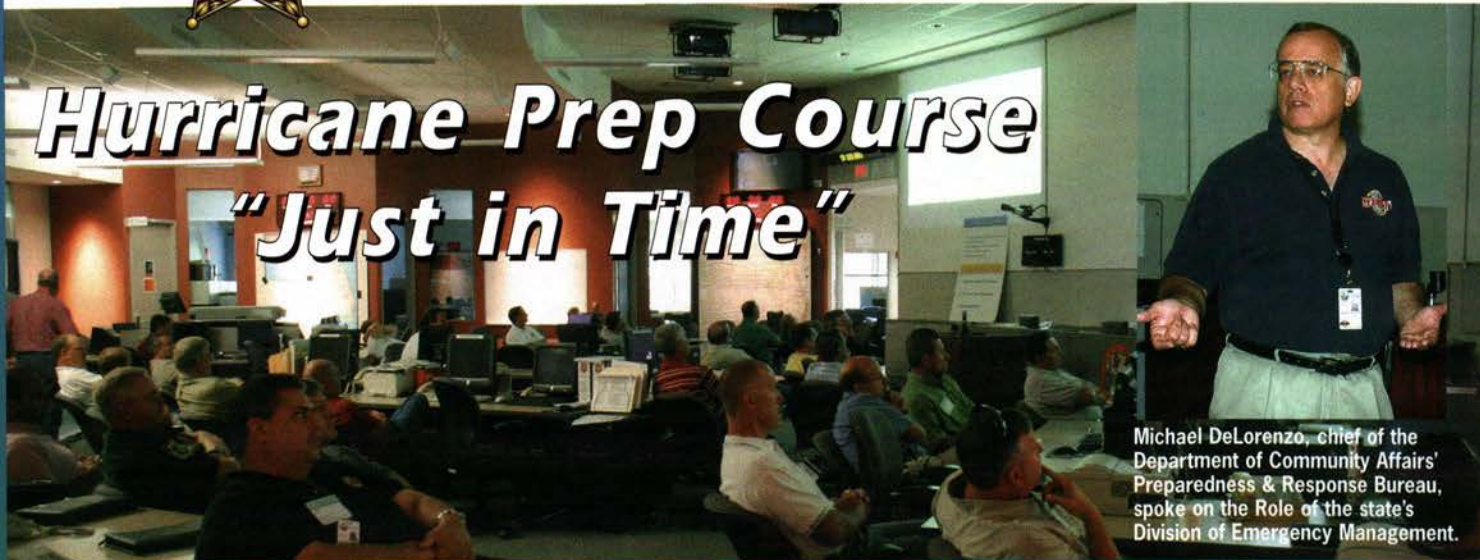
The Treatment Advocacy Center's Board of Directors presents the Torrey Advocacy Commendation annually. The award is named for Treatment Advocacy Center President and Founder, Dr. E. Fuller Torrey, a nationally known and respected psychiatrist, researcher, and advocate whose unflagging resolve to remove barriers to treatment for people with severe mental illnesses sparked a national reform movement. Recipients make a substantial difference for their community through advocacy, awareness, research or legislation in this field.

For more information, contact the Treatment Advocacy Center by phone 703-294-6001 e-mail: info@psychlaws.org. ☉



SHERIFFS' OFFICE TRAINING

Hurricane Prep Course "Just in Time"



Michael DeLorenzo, chief of the Department of Community Affairs' Preparedness & Response Bureau, spoke on the Role of the state's Division of Emergency Management.

After things had settled a bit at Sheriffs' Offices, following the series of three hurricanes last year, FSA began to field requests for a "debriefing" of sorts. Emergency management personnel and their Sheriffs wanted to compare stories and determine what worked and what didn't work and plan a strategy for response to address future threats.

FSA and the Florida Sheriffs Task Force, under the direction of chairman Orange County Sheriff Kevin Beary and Coordinator OCSO Capt. Rickey Ricks, pulled together a 20-hour course for Sheriffs and their Emergency Management staff members. Held June 15-17 at the Florida Department of Law Enforcement Training Center in Tallahassee, the program allowed participants to gain a strong foundation in emergency response and to walk out of the training with a solid strategy for hurricane preparation and recovery.

Little did anyone know that three weeks later their strategy would be put to the test by Hurricane Dennis.

The Florida Sheriffs are now assessing their response and will continue to fine tune as needed. We'll bring you more updates in future editions of *The Sheriff's Star*.



Some of the Sheriffs attending the Emergency Management training, included (seated from left): Highlands County Sheriff Susan Benton, Calhoun County Sheriff David Tatum, Hendry County Sheriff Edwin Lee, Sr., Flagler County Sheriff Don Fleming and Volusia County Sheriff Ben Johnson. Standing is Pinellas County Sheriff's Office Capt. Scott Stiner, one of the presenters

Each year, the Florida Sheriffs Association holds an important three day "Training Conference for the Sheriff's Assistant," for those who work in the hot seat, serving as the right hand to all 67 Florida Sheriffs.

This year's training, held May 16-19, enjoyed a record attendance, with 52 participants. We managed to pull most of them together for a photo when they visited FSA headquarters.

The Florida Sheriffs Association would like to congratulate all of the ladies who made the sacrifice and came to Tallahassee for that critical training.



FLORIDA SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION

HONOR ROLL



LAKE COUNTY – 40-year certificate presented by Lake County Sheriff Chris Daniels to Frederick Pedrick.

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



John Spoto



Gjak Paloka

PALM BEACH COUNTY – Gold Business Member award presented by Palm Beach County Sheriff Ric Bradshaw to John Spoto of Spoto's Oyster Bar and Gjak Paloka of the Palm Beach Oceanfront Inn.



Allen Ellis



Robert Vartdal

LEE COUNTY – 30-year certificate presented by Lee County Sheriff Mike Scott to Allen Ellis and Robert Vartdal.

PALM BEACH COUNTY – 25-year certificate presented by Palm Beach County Sheriff Ric Bradshaw (right) to Earl Brownell.



COLUMBIA COUNTY – 25-year certificate presented by Columbia County Sheriff Bill Gootee to Edward Hall.



HENDRY COUNTY – 25-year certificate presented by Hendry County Sheriff Ronnie Lee to Ralph Elver.



PUTNAM COUNTY – 30-year certificate presented by Putnam County Sheriff Dean Kelly to Mr. & Mrs. John Sillassen.



DESOTO COUNTY – 30-year certificate presented by DeSoto County Sheriff Vernon Keen (left) to John D. Stone.



SARASOTA COUNTY – 25-year certificate presented by Sarasota County Sheriff Bill Balkwill to Mr. & Mrs. Frederick W. Besse.



LAKE COUNTY – 25-year certificate presented by Lake County Sheriff Chris Daniels to Peggy Griffin and her husband, former Lake County Sheriff Noel E. Griffin, Jr.



POLK COUNTY – 25-year certificate presented by Polk County Sheriff Grady Judd to Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Dodd and Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Trachtenbarg.



POLK COUNTY – 30-year certificates presented by Polk County Sheriff Grady Judd to Mr. & Mrs. Guillermo Pazos (with son and grandson) and Walt Ferguson.



Walt Ferguson



William D. Richards



Dr. I. Graydon Cloud

POLK COUNTY – 40-year certificate presented by Polk County Sheriff Grady Judd to William D. Richards and Dr. I. Graydon Cloud.



Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Trachtenbarg

FLORIDA SHERIFFS YOUTH RANCHES

HONOR ROLL



COLLIER COUNTY – Presented by Collier County Sheriff Don Hunter (right) to Mr. & Mrs. Walter C. Kutschera.



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 ❖

Adult Care Group, Inc.
Mrs. Betty L. Allen
Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Anderson
Mr. L. A. Badger
Mr. Arthur E. Baumgart
Mr. and Mrs. Gordon C. Belshaw
Mrs. Sara R. Bemby
Mr. and Mrs. William S. Bennett
Deputy Barry D. Blackburn
Blue Knights - Florida Chapter XVIII
Mr. W. Thomas Brooks
Mr. and Mrs. Robert C. Brown
C. F. Webb & Sons Logging
Mrs. Helen V. Ciejek
Mr. Charles J. Cooper
Mr. Paul Coyle
Mr. Gerard Dupoux
Mr. Harry T. Easton
Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Ellis
Mr. John A. Elsasser
Mrs. Marilyn C. Ferguson
Mr. and Mrs. William H. Fisch
Mrs. Louise C. Folk
Mr. Paul K. Freeman
Mr. and Mrs. John Geheb
Mr. Charles D. Griffin
Mrs. Abby A. Griscom
Mr. and Mrs. Robert F. Harris
Mr. Don S. Henderson
Mr. George H. Henry
Mr. Robert H. Hoisington, Jr.
Sheriff and Mrs. Vernon Keen
Mr. Richard G. Keene
Mrs. Olivia A. Kelly
Dr. Joye D. Kent
Mr. and Mrs. Hugo H. King
Kiwanis Club of Dunedin
Cpl. Jeffrey Kreyling
Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Lentz
Mr. and Mrs. Gideon L. Long
Loyal Order of Moose Lodge #2205
Mr. Walter H. Lucas, Jr.
Mrs. Mary M. Manns
Mrs. Ellen M. Moo



MANATEE COUNTY – Presented by Manatee County Sheriff Charlie Wells (right) and FSyr Director Bill Brown to Col. Clifford Meier.



LAKE COUNTY – Presented by Lake County Sheriff Chris Daniels (center) to the American Legion Post #52.



Earl G. Wise



Jon Swift

SARASOTA COUNTY – Presented by Sarasota County Sheriff Bill Balkwill to Earl G. Wise and Jon Swift, representing the Swift Family Foundation, Inc.

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY – Presented by Youth Ranches staff to Alexander Heckman.



Ms. Joretta N. Musselwhite
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph R. O'Brien
Mrs. Katharine K. Patterson
Mr. William A. Perri
Mrs. Judith E. Reimers
Mr. Archer A. Riddle
Mrs. Frances E. Sigler
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Simpson
Ms. Sandra Slovik
Ms. Margery S. Sparks
Mr. Daryl G. Stimpson
The Beatrice P. Levy Foundation
The Mary Anna Foundation
The Richard Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Thomas
TMP Management Corp.
Mr. and Mrs. Huynh V. Tu
Mrs. Esther D. Von Geyern
Mrs. Jean L. Waters
Ms. Audrey C. Zaiser
Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Zapata, Jr.
Mr. Joseph S. Zivic



Beverly Brame



J.R. Congdon

MARTIN COUNTY – Presented by Martin County Sheriff Bob Crowder (right) to MCSO Commander of the Directed Operations Division, Beverly Brame; J.R. Congdon, Sergeant Eugene Hoover and Frank Zappala, Jr.



Sergeant Eugene Hoover



Frank Zappala, Jr.

PBSO Helping to Combat Domestic Violence

The traditional response of law enforcement to domestic violence has not always been effective, because even though the suspect may be arrested, the victim is often left alone without any assistance. Since the root of the problem was not being addressed, deputies ended up responding to the same address over and over again.

This "cycle of violence" not only places victims at risk for further harm, but it also endangers the children living in the home, the responding deputies and society as a whole.

The Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office has taken aggressive steps to combat this "cycle" by creating various innovative programs. In 1997, the agency specially trained a small number of deputies and developed their expertise in investigating domestic violence cases. Today, this unit — known as the Domestic Abuse Response Team (DART) — has grown to 120 officers.

To work hand in hand with the DART program, the PBSO also initiated the Volunteer Domestic Violence Victim Assistance Program. This program is highly creative in that it utilizes professional volunteers from the community who are specially trained to work with victims of domestic violence immediately from the scene via telephone. This program forged a partnership with "Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse," a local Certified Domestic Violence Shelter for abused women and men. To assist in combating domestic violence, the Sheriff's Office has also implemented two other programs:

The "Internet Project" involves taking photographs of domestic violence crime scenes and transmitting them via the Internet to first appearance judges, domestic violence shelters and victim service providers. With the "KIDS" program (Kids In Domestic Situations), Sheriff's Deputies identify children living in homes in which domestic violence has occurred so that the children's names can be provided to a specific contact person who works for the School Board of Palm Beach County. The contact person then informs each child's guidance counselor or school principal about the violence the child has witnessed so that follow-up and counseling can be provided, if needed.

Steps are solution

The Domestic Violence Victim Assistance Program involves a step-by-step protocol utilized by Sheriff's Deputies and DART Officers.

Once a DART Officer responds to a domestic violence call, they determine the severity of the crime and categorize it. Level-1 cases involve serious injury or severe psychological trauma to the victim or children and the victim is often taken to the hospital. In this instance, the DART Officer will contact a Palm Beach County Victim Services Advocate to respond to the scene or hospital to provide crisis intervention. Fortunately, only a small percentage of PBSO cases are classified as Level-1 cases.

Level-2 cases, the majority of the domestic violence responses, involve victims who do not have severe injuries. When a level-2 case occurs, the deputies are trained to get in contact with the "on-call" Volunteer Domestic Violence Victim Advisor. The advisor is fully trained on what questions to ask the deputy over the telephone related to the incident, and then usually speaks with the victim. Using an "Abuse Indicator Assessment," the advisor is able to determine the level of abuse suffered and better determine the potential for future violence.

The advisor reviews a "safety

plan" with the victim and provides him or her with important community service referrals. He or she completes a follow-up contact with the victim in order to check on their safety and to inquire if they followed through with the referrals made.

The Victim Assistance Program has been in existence since January of 2001 and has helped many victims break the silence about domestic violence by giving them the power through knowledge about the abuse. It has also been instrumental in making victims aware of the local services available to assist them in getting out help for themselves and for their children.

Since the implementation of the DART and Volunteer Victim Advisor Program, PBSO has noticed a steady and significant decline in domestic-related victim homicides. Prior to the program, the county averaged about six DV homicides annually for the previous three years. After implementation, those numbers have dropped to an average of a little more than two a year — with no homicides in 2002.

By providing victims of domestic violence with an immediate and effective response from law enforcement and Volunteer Victim Advisors, the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office has been able to collectively increase the safety of victims and their children while at the same time send a message that victims do not need to suffer in silence.

For information on the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office Domestic Violence protocol, please contact: Sgt. Scott Shoemaker (561) 688-4162. Prospective volunteers should call (561) 688-4195 and ask for Marla Galindez, Volunteer Program Coordinator and Domestic Violence Victim Advocate. ☛

❖ New Lifetime Honorary Members ❖

Continued from page 17

SARASOTA COUNTY – Presented by Sarasota County Sheriff Bill Balkwill (second from right) and Youth Ranches President Roger Bouchard (left) to John and Rose Martens, on behalf of the Gold Wing Road Riders Association Chapter FL2-B2.



SUMTER COUNTY – Presented by Sumter County Sheriff Bill Farmer (second from right) and FSyr Frank Kenny (far right) to Kendall Smith (holding plaque) and Warren Shelor of Bonefish Grill. Proceeds from their grand opening benefited the Youth Ranches.



Michelle Ward



Sam Markham



Peter Francis



Laverne Evachek

COLUMBIA COUNTY – Presented by Columbia County Sheriff Bill Gootee to Michelle Ward, representing the Suwannee Valley, 4 C's; Sam Markham, representing the Columbia County School System; Peter Francis with Joye's Gems & Things; Laverne Evachek, One of A Kind, Unlimited; Wesley Evachek, on behalf of Evachek Tree Service; Shirley McManus, Christian Service Center; and Kim Combs.



Wesley Evachek



Shirley McManus



Kim Combs



LEVY COUNTY – Presented by FSyr's Joe McLeod (right) to Ed Oesterle of Yankeetown Marina, sponsor of a boat race benefiting the Youth Ranches.

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

Style # 4500
MEN'S GOLD BAND
Face No. 3

Style # 4200
WOMEN'S GOLD BAND
Face No. 3

Style # 4502
MEN'S TWO-TONE BAND
Face No. 2

Style # 4202
WOMEN'S TWO-TONE BAND
Face No. 2

NOTE: These water resistant, ETA Swiss quartz analog timepieces featuring a beautifully engraved "Sheriff's Star" in an all gold dress medallion, or a multi-colored sports style are available in both all gold or gold/steel two-tone as depicted. In addition to the gold and two-tone bands, we also offer all silver. Also displayed are the patriotic Flag watches. These are available in three background faces: Face 1 - Gold; Face 2 - Silver and Face 3 - Black. All watches carry a 6-year limited warranty from the date of purchase against failures due to defective materials or workmanship. Gold or two-tone bands can be purchased with either of the four available faces. Style 4500 denotes men's gold band; 4502 denotes men's two-tone band; 4503 denotes men's all silver band. Style 4200, 4202 and 4203 are the women's gold, two-tone and silver respectively.

Style # 4500
MEN'S
GOLD BAND
Face No. 1

Style # 4200
WOMEN'S
GOLD BAND
Face No. 1

Style # Flag
MEN'S
GOLD BAND
Face No. 1

NOT SHOWN
Style # Flag BLACK
Face No. 3

Style # Flag
WOMEN'S
TWO-TONE BAND
Face No. 2

MEMBERSHIP ITEMS ORDER FORM

Public safety is a concern to all citizens, and one way you can support public safety in your community is to show your pride in local law enforcement. To help you demonstrate your pride in crime-fighting efforts, the Florida Sheriffs Association has designed several items displaying the Sheriff's Star logo, and made them available to the general public. These quality items make great gifts too. Just fill in the order form and return it with your payment.

Please return the entire
back cover page with your order.
Sorry, no overseas orders

☐ Mrs. ☐ Ms. ☐ Mr. ☐ Miss

Name (Please print)

Shipping Address

City State Zip Code

Contact phone number

Please make check or money order payable to
FLORIDA SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 12519, TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32317-2519

I wish to purchase :

No. _____ *Golf shirts at \$30.00 each. \$ _____
Quantity _____ White (size S ☐, M ☐, L ☐, XL ☐, XXL ☐)
Quantity _____ Green (size S ☐, M ☐, L ☐, XL ☐, XXL ☐)
_____ *Honorary Member Lapel pin(s) at \$8.00 each. \$ _____
_____ *Belt buckle(s) at \$20.00 each. \$ _____
_____ *Watches at \$165.00 ea. Style No. _____ Face No. _____ \$ _____
Flag Style Watches Face: ☐ Gold-1 ☐ Silver-2 ☐ Black-3
_____ *Hats (☐ white or ☐ green) at \$12 ea. \$ _____
_____ *Coffee Mugs at \$13 ea. \$ _____
(postage & handling cost included in prices) Total \$ _____
* Please add 6% Sales Tax for membership items \$ _____
(Please allow 4 to 6 weeks for shipping) Total enclosed \$ _____
* Add .5%, .75%, 1% or 1.5% discretionary sales surtax, if applicable.

For credit card use

☐ VISA. ☐ MC. Card number

Name on card (please print)

Expiration date

Contact phone number

Total amount



GOLF SHIRTS
green or white with
multi-colored embroidered logo



BELT BUCKLE 3 1/2 x 2 1/2" solid brass



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



Honorary Member Lapel Pin
7/8" die cast metal with
5 color enameled finish



11oz. COFFEE MUGS
white color, with multi-colored
green bands listing all 67 counties