FSA Summer Conference 2006
Volusia County Sheriff’s Office hosts one of the best-attended conferences in FSA history
See highlights, page 4
During the massive 24-hour manhunt that took place in Polk County September 28, many of us were glued to the television, radio and Internet waiting for updates. The incident, which started with a routine traffic stop, ended in the deaths of a deputy, his K-9 partner and the fugitive, as well as the injury of another deputy.

It thrust Polk County Sheriff Grady Judd and the community he serves in the spotlight and tested all aspects of his agency. The fact that they were able to demonstrate continued professionalism during such an emotionally charged incident, I think, reflects positively on all Florida Sheriffs. We continue to keep the deputies, their families, the Sheriff and his entire staff in our prayers.

Indications of increased danger

Unfortunately, this incident illustrates a dangerous trend in the actions of today's criminal. Law enforcement has noted that while in years past authority has meant something, today's criminal is more willing to fight, run and use deadly force to avoid justice.

As if the job of Deputy Sheriff or Police Officer wasn't dangerous enough, these men and women on the front line are, more often than not, forced into physical combat when trying to detain a suspect.

Law enforcement has always been a very dangerous profession. But this new breed of bad guy has begun to challenge our Florida Sheriffs in their recruitment efforts.

Thank God there are still brave individuals willing to put on a uniform each day and use their training to protect citizens like you and me. We should be doing anything we can to continue to provide them training and protection, including laws that support their efforts and allow them to execute their duties.

Training for survival

We truly cannot overestimate the value of training, as it has been credited repeatedly for preserving the lives of deputies and officers.

The last few Deputy Sheriffs of the Year and Corrections Officers of the Year have mentioned that the training they were provided made all the difference when they were faced with life-threatening situations.

I recall a comment made by our 2004 winner, Orange County Sheriff's Deputy Jennifer Fulford. She was the one who entered a home garage to check on three children and ended up in a shootout with two men, one firing from the front of the vehicle and the other from the rear. She said her first reaction was disbelief that anyone would shoot at a Deputy Sheriff. That defiance against authority was a shock. But her training quickly kicked in, and during a gun battle that lasted just 47 seconds, she survived injuries to her legs and shooting hand, used her weaker hand to keep shooting, and eventually killed both gunmen.

Fulford credited the training she had received— including how to shoot with her weak hand—for saving her life and perhaps the lives of innocent victims. While groups of citizens sometimes second-guess the use of force by police officers, I'm sure few would be willing to trade places with people like Deputy Fulford.

Calculating the risks

No doubt, Deputies must take risks every day, including risks to their own lives, but they are calculated risks that are made as a result of training.

In this issue of The Sheriff's Star, you'll see an article about high-speed pursuit legislation that was passed in the 2006 legislative session. The Sheriffs were successful in putting some reforms in place that are much more reasonable, allowing deputies to continue doing their jobs—while still protecting the interests of those involved. Again, training is emphasized as an important component of protection, and the Florida Sheriffs will play an integral role in providing that training.

Please don't forget that by supporting the Florida Sheriffs Association with your membership, you are helping to provide this critical training—training that literally saves lives.
Invisible Lines Help Protect Kids from Sexual Offenders

By Carrie Hoeppner
Public Information Officer
Seminole County Sheriff's Office

The Seminole County Sheriff's Office (SCSO) recently expanded its electronic monitoring system known as EMPACT (Electronic Monitoring Protection and Crime Tracking) into a tool able to track monitored sex offenders within the community. The goal of EMPACT is to supervise individuals through global positioning satellite equipment and reduce the fear of crime while protecting the community, especially the most vulnerable citizens—children.

The SCSO has utilized global positioning satellite technology to establish Exclusionary Zones (1,000-foot perimeters) around 270 identified schools and child-care centers within Seminole County. This new technology notifies members of the Seminole County Sheriff's Office that a monitored sexual offender has entered a protected area and provides vital information about the violation—including the length of stay in that area. The alert may prompt the SCSO to notify the offender’s probation officer and/or a Deputy Sheriff to determine if a violation occurred.

How does EMPACT work? As an example, on July 25, Seminole County investigators responded to a sexual battery report. EMPACT enabled SCSO Senior Crime Analyst Annette Best to conduct a "correlational search" of the crime scene location with the movement of monitored sexual offenders in the county. The result: Jerry Williams, a sexual offender monitored through EMPACT, was identified as a possible suspect. Best alerted Williams’ probationary officer and the investigators assigned to the case.

Subsequently, Williams was positively identified in a line-up by the victim and arrested.

EMPACT was launched in Seminole County in August of 2002, in response to the concern over recidivism rates—evidence shows that sexual offenders are likely to commit their crimes again. The program cross-references criminal offenders with recent crime-scene locations. EMPACT also has brought national recognition to the Seminole County Sheriff’s Office for being innovative in addressing the problem.

This program is another example of Seminole County’s commitment to children. SCSO is one of only six counties in the state of Florida to have assumed child protection investigations in place of the state’s agency, the Department of Children and Families. SCSO’s commitment to child protective services meant surpassing the expectation of the state’s standard response time to child-abuse victims. The state’s policy dictates that a child-abuse report, depending on the severity, must be commenced within three to 24 hours from the time the report is made.

During a meeting with Attorney General Charlie Crist, SCSO Capt. Greg Barnett offered this contrast: “Sir, we respond to a child when their bike is stolen within 20 minutes. So why wouldn’t we commence a child-abuse report with the same sense of urgency?” He said SCSO responds to every child-abuse report as if it were the most severe—significantly under the state’s minimum response time.

Attorney General Crist applauded the efforts of the Sheriff’s Office. “There is no question in my mind, the kind of effort that (Seminole County is doing) we ought to replicate throughout the state.”

For more information on EMPACT and other SCSO programs, contact Carrie Hoeppner via e-mail: choepner@seminolesheriff.org.
Volusia County Sheriff’s Office Hosts One of the Best-Attended Conferences in FSA history

By Julie S. Bettinger

The Florida Sheriffs Association’s annual summer conference is frequently a sell-out, as companies that service law enforcement plus officials from state and federal agencies attend to network with the Florida Sheriffs. In an election year, the event is even more popular, as political candidates compete to speak before the state’s chief law enforcement officers and perhaps win some votes.

Scheduled just four weeks before the primaries, the 2006 summer conference held at the Daytona Beach Hilton Resort boasted a record 57 Sheriffs, 134 exhibitors and hundreds of others including state politicians, spouses and Sheriffs’ Office staffers – making it one of the best attended conferences in FSA’s history.

The Sheriffs bid a bittersweet farewell to Alachua County Sheriff Steve Oelrich, a candidate for state senate. Many of his fellow Sheriffs commended him for the bold move, as there’s no better way to get the Sheriffs’ issues more thoroughly represented than to have ‘one of us’ among state lawmakers.

Marion County Sheriff Ed Dean provided an upbeat report on the reduction of cargo theft in the state. Calling it “economic terrorism,” he said while our numbers have fallen, other states are increasing. And because of Florida’s successful crackdown, trucking companies are asking the Sheriffs assistance in sharing their story, so highways in other states will be safeguarded, too.
Confession continued . . .

Business meeting matters

In the business meetings, Sheriffs typically receive reports on insurance programs, including workers' comp and the self-insurance fund. At this year's conference, the HRH Hunt Insurance Group helped to humanize the numbers by asking Citrus County Sheriff's Deputy David DiCarlo to tell his story about what insurance meant when he was injured on the job.

Deputy DiCarlo is a 19-year law enforcement veteran and has spent 14 of those years as a SWAT Team member, and four as the team's commander. In May of 2003, his team was executing a search warrant at 6:20 am. The person answered the door with open fire, hitting DiCarlo in the left shoulder and stomach - below his bulletproof vest. He returned fire, but then collapsed in a pool of blood, as his legs wouldn't move. Sheriff Dawsy arrived on the scene before DiCarlo was transported to the hospital and he told him he was signing him up to run the Disney marathon.

The deputy endured eight surgeries and had to learn to sit up and walk all over again. He said throughout the medical treatment and rehabilitation, "They didn't treat me like a social security number, but as a human being." He received compassion and assistance - including financial. Though it was one of the largest insurance claims in the history of FSA's Self Insurance fund, thanks to the treatment Deputy DiCarlo received and his "can-do" attitude, he not only ran a marathon, but finished a triathlon the week of the summer conference - three years after the shooting.

How illegals affect local law enforcement

Collier County Sheriff Don Hunter returned to the podium to report on his work with the National Sheriffs Association Immigration Committee. While the problems with U.S. immigration enforcement started receiving headlines this year, Sheriff Hunter sounded the alarm nearly three years ago - letting his fellow Sheriffs know that troubles were brewing. Sheriff Hunter said a large percentage of his jail population is made up of illegals, and eight of the 10 most wanted

Continued on page 6
Rebekah Beary and Bradford County Sheriff Bob Milner

Conference continued . . .

Criminals are illegal in his county.

Solutions are being sought, including additional enforcement for customs patrol. Sheriff Hunter's NSA committee is helping to network the agencies that will be responsible for implementing strategies in the future.

A big thanks

As is FSA's tradition, the Tuesday night banquet was also a time for the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches to recognize Sheriffs for all they and their agencies have done to support the youth. Debbie Crowder, Martin County Sheriff Bob Crowder's wife, was recognized for her "small project" that has returned huge dividends. After retiring from her teaching job, she started hiking the Appalachian trail to raise money for the Youth Ranches. Her goal of $10,000 was quickly surpassed. To date, her hikes have generated nearly $53,000.

All in all, Volusia County Sheriff Ben Johnson and his staff did a superb job keeping the Florida Sheriffs, their families and others attending happy during the 3-day conference. Some lucky winners walked away with valuable prizes that his staff were able to get donated including a $1,000 diamond pendant, won by Lorraine Fleming, wife of Flagler County Sheriff Don Fleming.
Long Time Coming:
High-Speed Pursuit Relief

By Ronald A. Mowrey, General Counsel, Florida Sheriffs’ Self-Insurance Fund

For the last several years, the decision of whether to pursue a fleeing suspect in a high-speed chase had been a lose-lose decision for Florida’s law-enforcement officers. If the officer were to allow the suspect to evade apprehension, then a dangerous criminal may be left to commit future harms on the community and citizenry. But if the officer pursued and, during the chase, the suspect injured an innocent bystander, then the local Sheriff’s Office would likely become embroiled in tort litigation with potential liability for millions of dollars.

Clearly, any law-enforcement officer faced with such a scenario had been forced to make an unenviable decision.

This unfortunate dilemma was created by the Florida Supreme Court case of City of Pinellas Park v. Brown. The plaintiffs in that case were the parents of motorists killed in an accident with a traffic violator who was fleeing no fewer than 14 pursuing law-enforcement vehicles at speeds up to 120 mph. During the high-speed chase, the county Sheriff’s Office advised its deputies to abandon the pursuit, but the officers ignored the department’s instructions. The court found that the officers, who initiated the pursuit that resulted in the fleeing vehicle fatally colliding with the bystanders’ automobile, owed a legal duty to the victims. The court further explained that the law-enforcement officers were not protected by sovereign immunity since the pursuit was operational in nature, and thus not necessary or inherent in policy or planning. Afterwards, the plaintiffs brought a claims bill before the Florida Legislature, which directed Pinellas County to pay the surviving parents $1.6 million.

The fiscal consequences of the Supreme Court’s decision were felt almost immediately, as the amount per claim paid by the Florida Sheriffs’ Self-Insurance Fund for damages in high-speed pursuit cases doubled. In fact, between 1992 and 2006, the Florida Sheriffs’ Self-Insurance Fund paid a total of $10,414,993. In the past 10 years alone, Sheriffs have paid $7,608,829 as a result of special claims going before the Legislature. This involves cases in which the amount of damages sought by a plaintiff exceeded the Sovereign Immunity cap of $100,000, or the total amount of any claim or judgment exceeding $200,000.

In 2002, we wrote an article in this publication calling on the Legislature to provide guidance and protection for those individuals whose duty it is to preserve law and order, by passing legislation to eliminate law-enforcement liability for injuries caused by those fleeing apprehension. Thus, it is a great pleasure to follow up that article with a report that the Legislature has taken action on a bill endorsed by the Florida Sheriffs Association to protect Florida’s law-enforcement officers.

The bill, signed by Governor Bush, eliminates law-enforcement liability for injury, death or property damage caused by a person fleeing from a law-enforcement officer in a motor vehicle if: (1) the pursuit is carried out in a manner that does not involve conduct by the officer that is so reckless or wanting in care as to demonstrate a disregard of human life, safety or the property of another; (2) the officer reasonably believes, when the pursuit is initiated, that the suspect has committed a forcible felony (defined by statute); and (3) the pursuit is conducted according to a written policy that has been adopted by the employing agency, and on which the officer has received instructional training. The employing agency’s policy must contain specific procedures concerning the proper method of initiating and terminating high-speed pursuits.

In essence, the new legislation strikes a reasonable balance. Florida’s law-enforcement officers now have more protection from legal liability when apprehending suspects that pose a serious danger to the public. The innocent victims of pursuit collisions may continue to recover damages from the law-enforcement agency for injuries caused by law-enforcement recklessness. The training required by the bill also will help ensure that pursuits are conducted in a manner that best effectuates public safety. Of course, nothing in this new law precludes or inhibits litigation against the person who is truly responsible, the fleeing felon.

An unrelated, but nonetheless significant, piece of legislation has also become law in Florida that will impact law-enforcement liability: Florida has abolished joint and several liability in tort cases. Liability for damages now depends upon the percentage of fault attributed to the party causing the damage. The effect of this change is such that even in cases where the agency does not obtain pursuit immunity, liability to pay damages would be allocated by the percentage of fault for each party, including the injured party and the perpetrator.

For 14 years, Florida’s law enforcement has been forced to make lose-lose decisions by the

Continued on page 8
judiciary's denial of sovereign immunity will allow officers to apprehend the criminals who pose the greatest danger to our communities. The specific training, a prerequisite to receiving the liability protection, will ensure that officers receive proper instruction on how and when to instigate and terminate pursuits. Finally, after years of intense litigation and public scrutiny, Florida's law-enforcement officers are more able to enforce the law in a manner that best serves the interests of everyone.

Ronald A. Mourey, an attorney with Mourey & Biggins, P.A., practices law in Tallahassee. He specializes in bankruptcy, local government law and civil and commercial litigation. Contact him by phone (850) 222-9482 or email: firm@mowreylaw.com. Stephen E. Mitchell, Esq. and Rick A. Savage contributed to this article.

Kids Safety in the Internet and MySpace Age

By Sue Livoti
Marion County Sheriff’s Office
Information Services Division

Children face many dangers while using the Internet. And, since the MySpace (www.myspace.com) craze, they are more vulnerable than ever. By posting specific personal details about themselves on MySpace pages, they are unintentionally giving predators an open invitation to contact them. It's a known fact that predators are using this and other sites on the Internet to establish relationships with children and arrange face-to-face meetings.

In addition to online solicitations, these predators send inappropriate or obscene materials to the child. Photos posted to an individual's site also are being altered to suggest pornographic scenarios, and are then being distributed.

Since MySpace allows content to be specific, some children are using the Web site to harass and bully other kids. In addition, students have developed sites with inappropriate information about their teachers, creating a hostile atmosphere in the classroom.

This is not a small problem, as many without proper supervision. Approximately one in five has received a sexual solicitation; one in four has been exposed to sexually explicit pictures, and one in 33 has received an aggressive sexual solicitation.

Tracking and tackling
Unfortunately, not all kids are reporting these incidents. About 25 percent of children who have encountered a solicitation or been approached have told a parent, and less than 10 percent of these solicitations have been reported to authorities.

To combat this growing problem, the Marion County Sheriff's Office recently created the Marion Youth Internet Crimes Unit (MYICU) to educate the community on the dangers the Internet can pose for children and to proactively investigate online offenses that may lead to arrests.

Sergeant Chris Vorisek, a 15-year veteran of the Marion County Sheriff's Office, was appointed to oversee the unit. Sgt. Vorisek has an extensive background in major crimes investigations and has received specialized training for Internet crimes against children and online undercover investigations.

"The Internet is a powerful resource of valuable information," he says, but it's also filled with dangers. He says his team will work to ensure the children of Marion County are protected and parents are made aware of the problems.

Entering "their" space
MYICU's initial focus has been to train School Resource and DARE Officers about MySpace and the other online Web sites that pose risks. Checking these sites is part of their daily routine, and they are required to have a MySpace profile to give students an opportunity to discretely contact them and report problems. Once approved by the Marion County School Board, these deputies also will be teaching a program on Internet safety to students.

MYICU investigators are currently reviewing Internet "social meeting sites" to identify Marion County youth who may have posted information that puts them at a greater risk to be victimized. In addition, investigators are targeting those offenders who victimize children through online solicitation or through the possession and/or promotion of child pornography. The unit also is available to offer informative presentations for adults and youth members of church, civic and other groups.

MYICU is a member of the North Florida Task Force for Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC). The ICAC Task Force program was created to help state and local law-enforcement agencies enhance their investigative response to offenders who use the Internet, online communication systems or other computer technology to sexually exploit children. The program is currently composed of 45 regional task force agencies and is funded by the Office
“Ride for the Ranches”

Richard A. Purdy loved the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches and he loved his motorcycle. When he died four years ago, the law offices of Purdy, Jolly & Giuffreda, PA, and friends re-named the motorcycle ride fundraisers that Purdy established to include his name. It’s now called the “Richard A. Purdy, Esq. Memorial Ride for the Youth Ranch,” and takes place at FSA’s summer and winter conferences. On the Sunday of the conferences, Sheriffs, their staff members and members of the business community who support the Florida Sheriffs gather – rain or shine – and ride their personal or official bikes in formation. At this year’s summer conference, more than 40 bikers were given a special treat – taking a loop around the Daytona International Speedway. They also raised $1,365 for the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches.

We’re including some highlights that were captured on camera thanks to coordination by Volusia County Sheriff’s Office Lt. Chico Mandzha and Terry Meek, Florida Investigative Services.

Seminole County Sheriff Don Eslinger

Bradford County Sheriff Bob Milner

Riders in formation, main street downtown Daytona Beach

Riders from the Summer 2006 Richard A. Purdy, Esq. Memorial Ride for the Youth Ranch
Editor:
Thank you so very much for your Sheriffs Star magazine, I read it cover to cover and look forward to receiving it. I get very emotional about the children that you have made whole and the men and women in uniform and the duties that they perform. If it wasn’t for your magazine I probably wouldn’t be an 11-year member. I only wish that every state had a program and a magazine that you have and maybe it would be a much better country.
Thank you for what your program is doing for the children.
T.D., Sarasota County

Editor:
I read every issue of my Sheriffs Star from cover to cover and enjoy each and every article. Your May/June 2006 issue featured an article titled, "Say goodbye to handwritten tickets," which was especially interesting to me.
I am an instrument engineer and retired from the automobile industry. I have to compliment Ray Dils for his achievement of providing patrol cars with the latest technology in computer accessory instrumentation.
This was an excellent article and I am looking forward to others in your coming issues.
Sincerely,
DLG, Auburn Hills, MI

Corrections from Last Issue
Our apologies for three errors misidentifying people in photos. The corrected photos and captions appear below.

From left, FSA President Orange County Sheriff Kevin Beary, former Pinellas County Sheriff and State Rep. Everett Rice (R-Indian Shores), Pinellas County Sheriff Jim Coats.
OSCEOLA COUNTY – 25-year certificate presented by Osceola County Sheriff Bob Hansell to Fred Hatfield.
PALM BEACH COUNTY – 25-year certificate presented by Palm Beach County Sheriff Ric Bradshaw to Walter W. Marr.

Editor:
I read the letter of one of the members published in the July/August 2006 issue of The Sheriff’s Star, in which it is mentioned that they do not read the magazine and put it immediately in the recycle bin.
Well, perhaps some people feel this way. As for me, I am delighted to receive The Sheriff’s Star magazine, and can hardly wait to receive the next issue. I find the magazine wonderful, very informative, and I truly appreciate all the beautiful color photos in it. It is a pleasure to receive!
I also saw, on the last page of the magazine, that there are some membership items available, and I am going to order the beautiful Florida Sheriffs Association’s hat, which I will wear proudly.
Keep up the wonderful job!
All the best,
Christiane Tourtet, B.A., Tallahassee, Florida

Editor:
Today (10/3/06) Polk County Deputy Vernon Matthew Williams was buried with the "cremains" of his K-9 partner, Diogi. You most likely heard of their tragic deaths following a traffic stop in Polk County. Today there were more than 3,000 at their funeral.
I watched the funeral service on a library computer/streaming video during which time Deputy Williams’ supervisor delivered a eulogy about Diogi and how he came to be Matt’s partner. It was a very moving story that spoke of the trust and relationship that K-9 partners have.

The Sheriff’s Star – July/August 2006
Other members of the Polk County Sheriff’s Office spoke of Matt’s sense of humor and how well liked he was – I am glad that I watched, because I almost feel as through I knew him personally.
Attached is a photograph of Matt and Diogi.
Sincerely,
J.C., Lifetime Honorary Member,
St. Petersburg, Florida
Five Laws That Shouldn’t Be Ignored

By Sgt. Rick Hord
Okaloosa County Sheriff’s Office

Not all laws are created equal. Virtually everybody supports and obeys the laws against theft, murder and child abuse.

Some laws are controversial and have been the subject of public debate for many years. More than just a few laws are archaic, obscure or arcane, and are seldom or never enforced. One from 1905, for example, sets the pay for any Sheriff or Deputy Sheriff at $2 per day for providing security at automobile race meets.

Other laws are well known but not always obeyed. Most drivers have exceeded the speed limit or committed a "rolling stop" due to inattentiveness, or maybe because they believed the laws were not important.

On the other hand, quite a few laws deserve to be better known, obeyed and enforced. They probably would be, except most people don’t know they exist. Let’s try to correct that. Here’s my personal top-5 list of important, but ignored, laws:

**5- The Bicycle Helmet Law.**
Up to the age of 16, anybody riding on a bicycle must wear a safety helmet. The law also applies to kids riding in a trailer pulled by a bicycle. It appears the publicity from several years ago may have worn off.

**4- Driver License Requirements.** Are you visiting Florida? If so, your home state driver license will do. If you are employed in Florida or engage in any trade, profession or occupation in Florida, or if you enter a child in a Florida public school, you are driving illegally unless you obtain a Florida driver license within 30 days. Active duty military personnel may enter kids in school without triggering the DL requirement, but getting a civilian job (even an on-base one) does mandate a Florida license.

**3- Bicycles are Vehicles.** When a bike is on a public road, it must follow the same rules as if it were a car. That means stopping at stop signs and red lights, driving on the right side of the road, and obeying speed limits and other laws. Yes, the DUI law applies to bicyclists.

**2- Stop When Traffic Obstructed.** The law says you must not enter an intersection unless it’s clear to go all the way through. That means stopping for a green light when traffic is backed up. The obvious intent of this law is to prevent gridlock.

And my No. 1 most ignored law:

**1- The "Move Over Law."** This is another one that entered with fanfare just four years ago, although nobody seems to know about it now. When an emergency vehicle or a wrecker is parked by the side of the road with its emergency lights flashing, traffic in that direction must move over, out of the lane closest to the stopped patrol car, fire truck, ambulance, or wrecker. On a two-lane road, traffic must slow way down... to 20 mph less than the posted limit. This is an important law: Florida averages one emergency worker per day injured when struck by traffic while performing his or her job.

Send your crime prevention and personal safety questions to Rick Hord, c/o Okaloosa County Sheriff’s Office, 1250 Eglin Parkway, Shalimar, FL 32559-1234 or via email: rhord@sheriff-okaloosa.org.

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**Kids Safety in the Internet and MySpace Age**

of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention.

**Marion taking the lead**
The Marion County Sheriff’s Office has been a frontrunner in keeping the most up-to-date information available on sexual offenders and sexual predators living in the community. For example, in response to the abduction of Jessica Lunsford and the other tragedies that occurred in 2004, the Sheriff’s Office prepared the first-ever printed address listing of offenders and predators who reside in Marion County. To support that information and keep it active, the MCSO Web site has a section listing the same information as the printed guide.

Parents are advised to use other resources for information. The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children provides online safety information designed for youth and adults. This agency operates the CyberTipline where individuals can report the sexual exploitation of children. Other resources for safety information are:

- www.getwise.org
- www.missingkids.com
- www.netsmartz.org
- www.safekids.org

The most important step every parent should take to safeguard their children is to monitor Internet use – this includes surfing the Web, posting to Web sites like MySpace, exchanging e-mail and text messaging. Many of the Web sites above can show you how.

Contact Sue Livoti, Marion County Sheriff’s Office Information Services Division, at 352-368-3598, or visit the MCSO Web site at www.marionso.com.
Volusia Investigator Helps Bring Murderer to Justice After 17 Years

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

It started as an investigation into the November 2004 rape of a 24-year-old woman who was an admitted prostitute.

That a prostitute would bother to report the crime to law enforcement was in itself, a little unusual. But nothing about this case was routine for Volusia County Sheriff’s Investigator Cindy Gambrell.

The investigation lasted nearly two years and took numerous twists and turns along the way. But the unlikeliest twist of all would come from the seizure of DNA evidence recovered from a partially smoked marijuana cigarette found inside a blue van. The DNA would lead to the arrest of the prime suspect, a trucker and carpet layer named Mark Francis Elder, who had settled in Volusia County. The arrest cleared the November 2004 sexual assault and at least eight others just like it, most of which had gone unreported. But it also would lead to a more heinous discovery, linking Elder to a grizzly, 17-year-old unsolved murder in San Diego, California.

Gambrell's tenacity and dogged determination resulted in Elder's conviction this June for the 1988 stabbing death of a 27-year-old woman in San Diego. And it also resulted in the awarding of a Commendation Bar to Gambrell, who was honored by Sheriff Ben Johnson during a recent awards ceremony.

"I'm real proud of you," Sheriff Johnson told Gambrell. "You did a great job."

Reported sexual assault was key

The Volusia County Sheriff’s Office launched the initial investigation after a prostitute reported that she had been picked up along A1A in Daytona Beach on the evening of Nov. 6, 2004. Instead of driving the victim to her hotel as promised, the suspect took the victim down a deserted dirt road in the New Smyrna Beach area and sexually assaulted her in the back of his van. Afterwards, the man drove a short distance, then stopped the van, shoved the victim out of the vehicle and sped off. The victim flagged down a passing motorist, who drove her to the police department to report the attack.

Headed by Gambrell, the investigation led to the streets of Daytona Beach in search of other known prostitutes in the area who might be able to help identify the short, stocky attacker who drove a blue van. Using a mixture of tact and tenacity, Gambrell managed to earn the trust of several prostitutes who proved to be critical to the investigation. And through her interviews, Gambrell would quickly learn that the 24-year-old woman who sparked the investigation wasn't the only victim. At least eight other prostitutes had been attacked by the same man. In fact, one victim said the attack was so violent that she feared she was going to be choked to death. Most victims failed to report the attacks, either reluctant to get the police involved or fearful that they wouldn't be taken seriously.

About six months into the investigation, the case picked up steam when Gambrell learned from FDLE lab analysts that DNA recovered from the victim in the November 2004 sexual assault matched DNA that had been recovered from a 1988 murder scene in California. While it was crucial information, investigators on both coasts didn't know who they were looking for.

As the investigation progressed, Gambrell and Sheriff’s Investigator Larry Meeks teamed up to conduct surveillance in the Daytona Beach area in a search for the man in the van. Gambrell also enlisted the aid of Daytona Beach Police officers, and their efforts paid off. In July 2005, Daytona Beach Police stopped a blue van matching the description provided by Gambrell. Elder was inside the van, and so was a partially smoked marijuana cigarette with Elder's saliva. That evidence which provided the critical missing link connecting the suspect's DNA to both the sexual assault in Volusia County and the murder in California.

Florida-California connections

The original sexual assault case in Volusia County wasn't prosecuted. But Gambrell, along with several of Elder's alleged victims, traveled to California in June of this year to provide key trial testimony about Elder's violent past. Elder was convicted of first degree murder and sentenced to 26 years to life, which brought great relief and satisfaction to Gambrell for a job well done.

"I felt a great sense of accomplishment knowing that I helped send a dangerous man to prison," said Gambrell. "I was also very glad that the family of Elder's California victim finally got some justice and satisfaction after 17 years of waiting and wondering."

Gambrell has filed criminal complaint affidavits against Elder in the other sexual assault cases that she uncovered during the investigation. Even if the cases aren't prosecuted, Gambrell is satisfied that Elder is behind bars and the victims know that someone looked into their cases and took them seriously.

For a few of the victims, their encounters with Elder proved to be life-changing. "No matter what happens, Elder is in jail, where he can't hurt anyone else," said Gambrell.
Charlotte County Sheriff Implements “Fresh Start” Program for Troubled Teens

Story and photos by
Bob “Carp” Carpenter
Public Information Officer
Charlotte County Sheriff’s Office

Charlotte County Sheriff John Davenport announced implementation of a new program called “Fresh Start” for first-time juvenile offenders and at-risk juveniles before they become delinquent. This new program is operated in conjunction with the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) and the Charlotte County Sheriff’s Office School Resource Officers (SROs) for youths ages 12 to 16. They tested the program Aug. 5 in the Charlotte County Jail using five members of the Sheriff’s Explorer Post 29.

Deputy First Class Larry Langston, who heads the Sheriff’s Serious Habitual Offenders Comprehension Action Program (called SHOCAP), presented the idea to Sheriff Davenport. The proposal is a spin-off from a program started many years ago in Rahway State Prison in New Jersey, called “Scared Straight.” It became nationally recognized and was a measuring stick for using shock reality with first time juvenile offenders and at-risk teens.

“That program was very effective and changed many youth’s lives who were heading in the wrong direction,” says DFC Langston. “I was a Correctional Officer for eight years at Riverfront State Prison in Camden, New Jersey, before coming to CCSO. I observed this program in action and saw the impact it made on youth.”

Meeting offenders behind cell doors
The Fresh Start program being implemented in Charlotte County involves an organized visit to the Charlotte County Jail for local troubled youth. It is designed to deter these participants from committing future offenses by providing a first-hand look at prison life and supervised interaction with adult inmates.

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As a trial run, the five Explorers went through the entire booking process— they were placed in a holding cell, searched, fingerprinted, photographed, and put in black and white striped uniforms. They took a two-hour tour, including the inmate living facilities called "Pods." Next, they met with two inmates who gave their account of what it's really like behind bars, in very specific, and at times shocking, terms.

One of the inmates, age 22, is married, has two children, and is serving out his sentence in the County Jail. DFC Langston said he knew this inmate when he was a troubled 14 years old juvenile offender.

"He didn't pay attention to what I said then, and now he is here in the County Jail," Langston says. The other inmate who has served time in a New York state prison, told the group, "This is not cool; nothing about being in jail is cool."

He asked the youth what their plans were for the future and then told them, "Follow the right path."

Try college. That's a great idea." Both inmates emphasized getting an education. They also told the youth, "You think you'll never get caught, you're wrong!" and "You can't have a friend in jail, they'll always turn on you," and "You have no idea what it is like to give up your freedom to go where you want, not being with your family and friends, and living in such a confined space."

DFC Langston says Charlotte will have its first real juvenile offenders and at risk youths into this program very soon. "Hopefully, it will be a fresh start for them and they will not be where these two inmates are today."

Contact Charlotte County Sheriff's Office PIO Bob “Carp” Carpenter by e-mail: Robert.Carpenter@ccso.org.

Hotel Owner Who Helped Deputies Catch Sex Offender Is Recognized

By Mark Weinberg
Public Information Officer, St. Lucie County Sheriff’s Office

Bobby Dixon, owner-manager of the Waterfront Motel, in Fort Pierce, was named Citizen of the Year by the Florida Missing Children’s Information Clearinghouse Advisory Board of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, according to St. Lucie County Sheriff Ken J. Mascara.

“I nominated Mr. Dixon for his quick thinking the morning of Jan. 4, when he identified the 28-year-old sex offender who had abducted the 9-year-old daughter of the offender’s female companion,” Sheriff Mascara said. Dixon had become suspicious when Bruno Andre of Fort Pierce came into the hotel trying to rent a room. Dixon looked outside and saw the girl in his car and demanded an explanation. After hearing it and questioning further, Andre got back in his car.

"Before he drove away, Mr. Dixon wrote down the license tag of the car and called 9-1-1," Sheriff Mascara continued. "The girl was located at a county elementary school, and deputies arrested Andre in Fort Pierce."

Deputies charged Andre with interference with child custody, lewd and lascivious battery on a child under 12 years old and false imprisonment of a child under 13 years old. The girl was returned to her mother.

"I brought Mr. Dixon the good news and again thanked him for his service to the community," Sheriff Mascara said. Dixon was honored by the FMCIC in September at a ceremony at the state Capitol in Tallahassee.

The Advisory Board’s criteria for the award-winning activity are: “The activity can be determined to be exceptional, extraordinary, outstanding, or heroic and that such activity resulted in the prevention of a child abduction or the recovery of a child from a situation of imminent danger.”

Reach Mark Weinberg by phone: 772-462-3308 or e-mail: weinbergm@stluciesheriff.com
Sheriffs In the News

The Sheriffs' agencies in Florida have been in the spotlight a great deal lately, recognized in many ways for the work they're doing. Here are a few we heard about recently:

Charlotte County Sheriff's Office

Charlotte County Sheriff John Davenport's office was recognized for having the "Best Overall Traffic Safety Program in Florida," in the category of agencies with 75 to 250 law-enforcement officers. The International Association of Chiefs of Police awarded his agency a trophy during the 2005 Florida Law Enforcement challenge this past August.

Categories evaluated in the traffic safety competition included efforts to enforce traffic laws, public education for seat belt usage, impaired driving enforcement (DUI) and speed enforcement.

As first place winner, the Sheriff's Office received $15,000 in new equipment, including three Stalker DSR 2X radar units valued at $3,500 each, four handheld Talon II radar units valued at $1,000 each, and $500 worth of barricades to be used with DUI enforcement set-ups.

Sheriff Davenport told reporters at a press conference announcing the award that the highest threats to public safety in Charlotte County are traffic related. When elected two years ago, he committed to enhancing the traffic unit and being more aggressive in enforcement.

He says he sees the awards as confirmation of their success. In 2005, traffic accidents dropped 13 percent and for the first half of 2006, there were 339 fewer accidents reported.

Congratulations to Sheriff Davenport and the CCSO traffic unit.

Indian River Sheriff's Office

The Indian River County Sheriff's Citizen Auxiliary Patrol (CAP) unit won "The Best Uniform" and "Most Unique Vehicle," at the National Association of Citizens on Patrol conference in July.

Indian River County Sheriff Roy SherifS

Indian River County Sheriff's Office "Most Unique Vehicle," winner - a PT Cruiser - is pictured at the center of their fleet.

Raymond recognized the agency's volunteers for helping to make their Community Service Unit "one of the best in the United States."

In 2005, Indian River County volunteers logged more than 34,000 hours through CAP, performing house checks, business checks, traffic enforcement, school crossing services, funeral escorts, parking citations, transports, court security, victim assistance, crime-scene work and more. Volunteer Clarence Newton, alone, served 10,664 subpoenas. The time the volunteers provide save taxpayers thousands of dollars annually and free the deputies to perform sworn duties to serve and protect the citizens of the county.

The Lake County Sheriff's Office Team shows off their new uniforms.

Lake County Sheriff's Office

The Lake County Sheriff's Office Police Activities League (PAL) Lake Louisa Juniors Classic, held in August, brought youths of all ages out for competitive cycling. The Lake County PAL team looked sharp in their new uniforms and their Sheriff, Chris Daniels, participated in the event by presenting awards.

The Police Activities League is a youth crime-prevention program that uses educational, athletic and other recreational activities to forge a bond between police officials and youth in the community. Lake County's PAL was established in 2004.

Find out more on the Lake County Sheriff's Office PAL Web site: www.lakecountypal.com.

Lake County Sheriff Chris Daniels poses with award winners in the Girls Under-10 race.

THE SHERIFF'S STAR  ♡  SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2006
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 $2,500 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
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**

**MANATEE COUNTY** - Presented by Manatee County Sheriff Charlie Wells (right) and FSYR Director Bill Brown (left) to Peter Hjorth.

**SARASOTA COUNTY** - Presented by Sarasota County Sheriff Bill Balkwill (in uniform) to William V. Zeman, Dr. William C. Morgan, Mr. & Mrs. Albert Chesbrough, Mr. & Mrs. Phillip Sciortino and Carolyn Wolf.

**NASSAU COUNTY** - Presented by FSYR Chairman, Sumter County Sheriff Bill Farmer Jr. (right), to Nassau County Sheriff Tommy Seagraves and his wife Elizabeth, in recognition for personal giving.

**HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY** - Presented by Hillsborough County Sheriff David Gee to W. Glenn Couch, James E. Clark and Donna Colbourne with Jim DeFrancesco, representing SANWA Growers.

**CHARLOTTE COUNTY** - Presented by Charlotte County Sheriff John Davenport (right) to Mr. & Mrs. Victor R. Kroll and Lawrence Cox.

**MARION COUNTY** - Presented by Marion County Sheriff Ed Dean to Dr. Mike Jordan, Marion County Children's Alliance.

**NEW LIFETIME HONORARY MEMBERS FROM 8/19/06 TO 9/29/06.**

Daphne Clark, Inc.
Ms. Ruby Davis
Dep. Sheriff Garret Dozier
Mr. Jerome T. Freeland
Mr. Herbert B. Goldberg
Ms. Jackie C. Normman
Sheriff and Mrs. Francis M. O'Loughlin
Mr. Bruce L. Parker
Miss Amal A. Remno
Mr. and Mrs. William J. Schickler
Mr. Barda S. Sizemore
Mr. and Mrs. Richard L. Taylor
Mr. Lee Van Tassel
Wal-Mart Store #528
Capt. David E. Walker
Lt Col and Mrs. John B. Wilson
Mr. and Mrs. Bob Zook

**W. Glenn Couch**

**James E. Clark**

**Donna Colbourne with Jim DeFrancesco, SANWA Growers**

continued on next page
**New Lifetime Honorary Members**

Mr. & Mrs. Peter Ernst
PALM BEACH COUNTY – Presented by Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office Col. Michael Gauger to Mr. & Mrs. Peter Ernst, Mr. & Mrs. Edward Young, Mr. & Mrs. Graham Jacks and Edward Chance, Jr.

Mr. & Mrs. Edward Young

Mr. & Mrs. Graham Jacks

Edward Chance, Jr.

Mr. & Mrs. Carl Golgart
LEVY COUNTY – Presented by Levy County Sheriff Johnny Smith to Levy County Sheriff's Office Human Resource Manager, Candis Turner.

SUMTER COUNTY – Presented by Sumter County Sheriff Bill Farmer to Mary B. Tidmore.

ST. JOHNS COUNTY – Presented by St. Johns County Sheriff David Shoar (far left) and FSYR President Roger Bouchard (far right) to former Sheriff Francis O'Loughlin and his wife Marjorie.

Mr. & Mrs. Donald Vogel

ST. JOHNS COUNTY – Presented by St. Johns County Sheriff David Shoar (green shirt) to Mr. & Mrs. Donald Vogel.

Mr. & Mrs. Carl Golgart

Robert D. Hancock

Todd Maufroy

FLORIDA SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION

COLLIER COUNTY – 25-year certificate presented by Collier County Sheriff Don Hunter to Michael Schatzl.

COLLIER COUNTY – 40-year certificate presented by Collier County Sheriff Don Hunter to Dr. Phillip B. Smith.

SARASOTA COUNTY – 30-year certificate presented by Sarasota County Sheriff Bill Balkwill (left) and FSYR Director Bill Brown (right) to Dr. John L. Moore.

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY – 40-year certificate presented by Indian River County Sheriff Roy Raymond to Col. Robert H. Andresen (right).

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY – 30-year certificate presented by Indian River County Sheriff Roy Raymond to James Higgins (right).

OSCEOLA COUNTY – 40-year certificate presented by Osceola County Sheriff Bob Hansell to Andy Anderson.

Joseph Pendrak
CHARLOTTE COUNTY – 25-year certificates presented by Charlotte County Sheriff John Davenport (right) to Joseph Pendrak, retired USN Commander; L.H. Chalfour, retired USAF CMSGT and wife, M.L. Chalfour, retired USAF Lt. Col.

L.H. and M.L. Chalfour

THE SHERIFF'S STAR • SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2006
Want to Reach
Law Enforcement Readers?
The Florida Sheriffs Association’s All Points Bulletin reaches law enforcement personnel where they live and work. APB is direct mailed to the homes of FSA Law Enforcement members and quantities are sent to all 67 Sheriffs for distribution to their personnel.

Advertising in APB reaches Deputy Sheriffs, Correctional Officers and civilian employees, as well as members of the law enforcement and corrections community – including police officers, state law enforcement officers and state prison officials.

If you have a promotional message for law enforcement readers, request our 2006 Advertising Rate Card.
Contact:
All Points Bulletin, 850-877-2165 or e-mail: info@ffsheriffs.org.

Florida’s Charity for Florida’s Children
www.youthranches.org

Our apologies to members and friends who placed orders for the new tag frame, introduced in our last issue of The Sheriff’s Star. Alert readers let us know about a law passed in recent years that make it illegal for frames to cover certain parts of the tag.

Though evidence on the roads suggest otherwise on other organizations' tag frames, we don’t want our FSA members to be non-compliant. We are no longer offering the frame for use on the rear of vehicles and are providing refunds to those who placed orders.

Because of the high interest, we are designing a new custom tag that can be used on the front of vehicles with the frame. Look for it in a future issue of The Sheriff’s Star.

Attention Members:
Has your address changed? Please send us . . .

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: membership@ffsheriffs.org
Or call us at (800) 877-2168
Web site: http://www.ffsheriffs.org

NEW ADDRESS: □ Permanent or □ Temporary
Name__________________________
Address________________________
City/State/Zip____________________
Area code/phone__________________

. . . 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:

THE SHERIFF’S STAR  ★ SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2006  19
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 above and return it with your payment.

I wish to purchase:

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<tr>
<th>Item Description</th>
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<th>Price</th>
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<td>Golf shirts at $30.00 each.</td>
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<td>Honoraty Member Lapel pin(s)</td>
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<td>Hats (white or green) at $15 ea.</td>
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<td>Coffee Mugs at $13 ea.</td>
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Please return the entire back cover page with your order. U.S. delivery only.

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For credit card use

VISA, MC, Card number

Name on card (please print) Expiration date

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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.