

PUBLISHED BY THE FLORIDA SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION • NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2009

THE SHERIFF'S STAR



STOPPING THE VIOLENCE:

*Alachua County Using New Tools to
Make Domestic Cases Less Lethal*

From the desk of....

Gary Perkins

Executive Director

Florida Sheriffs Association

This is traditionally the time of year that we count our blessings, look back on the year past and try to get a sense of the one ahead.

All of these make me think of our members.

Despite the current economic climate, our members have continued to give generously. You have stepped up to the plate when we needed you most – especially following the destruction of our headquarters building last year. The encouraging letters we get, phone calls and e-mails help keep us going – and for that, we are thankful.

We are also thankful for the input we receive from so many of our members regarding our Florida Sheriffs. I assure you that we appreciate each letter from those of you who applaud us as well as those who may have a question or a concern.

Sometimes your correspondence is aimed at particular articles in this magazine. You will see on our "Letters" page that we have included a sample of what our readers expressed. You all have busy lives, so – again – thank you for taking the time to speak your mind.

Re-asserting ourselves

This past year was not without its challenges. We were still re-building our systems from the loss after the fire, and day-to-day discovering holes that required extra effort to find a replacement. I am happy to say that the Florida Sheriffs Association staff had the tenacity and the patience to keep going, when faced with many ob-



stacles and changes. We are grateful for your prayers and encouragement throughout these difficult months.

Of course, the Florida Sheriffs Association has also been affected by the budget cutbacks of Sheriffs' Offices. With travel severely restricted or suspended, we have been re-tooling our training programs to better accommodate their needs.

We are constantly trying to assess what we're doing and assure we are truly responding to the *real* needs of today's Florida Sheriff. That's a primary motivator behind strategic planning sessions that we hosted all over the state this year. Our purpose is to bring Sheriffs together in roundtable groups to get their ideas on what the association has been, what it is and what it needs to be. Once we have a comprehensive plan written, you can be assured that we will go to work meeting those needs in 2010.

This next year will likely be one full of partnerships, as well. The new economy dictates that we look at those who are like minded and see how we can combine our resources and brain power to be even more effective in carrying out our mission. This is happening on a local level between Sheriffs' Offices, police departments, plus state and federal law enforcement agencies. And we

expect to see it on the association level as well.

Raising our profile

You will likely notice a stronger presence of the Florida Sheriffs in this next year's legislative session. As you'll read on page 15, FSA has created a new position and hired veteran law enforcer Steve Casey to work closely with the Sheriffs and strengthen our communication with lawmakers. The climate at the law-making level has changed so drastically over the years – with influences such as term limits affecting relationship-building – that we felt the Sheriffs needed a stepped up effort in that arena. After you read Steve's credentials, I'm sure you'll understand why he'll be an asset to the Florida Sheriffs.

As we close one chapter in Florida Sheriffs Association history, and turn the page to a new one, I want to thank you for being such a devoted membership. On behalf of the Florida Sheriffs, please know – we appreciate you!

Have a great New Year.

Gary Perkins, Executive Director
Florida Sheriffs Association

*The Florida
Sheriffs
Association staff
wishes you a
Happy and
Healthy
New Year!*

Giving Teens a "Reality Check"

Anyone who has ever had a problem teenager in their home will agree – you can wear yourself out trying to find solutions to protect them from their own choices.

At times, it seems nothing works. You just hope and pray that they'll make it to 20 without serving time, killing themselves or somebody else.

One solution that claims a 70 percent success rate in turning around problem teens is a program called "Reality Check." In fact, the Brevard County Sheriff's Office believes so strongly in the program, the agency used \$4,500 in forfeiture funds (proceeds from the sale of assets forfeited by criminals) to purchase 500 DVDs for distribution.

Launched by Larry Lawton, who spent 11 years in some of the toughest federal prisons in the U.S., the Reality Check program shows teens and young adults what can happen when they make bad choices. Lawton, a tough-talking and well-tattooed New York native, narrates the video and talks about the consequences of decision making. He shows and tells what prison is *really* like, what you can lose when you serve time and how to avoid and dissolve relationships that might be leading you down that road.

Convicted of racketeering in connection with jewelry robberies, Lawton tells kids how he lost time, his family, friends and his freedom as a result – and that it just wasn't worth it.

In addition to the 67-minute DVD, Lawton uses other tools, including a Web site and hour-long Talk Radio show to reach parents, teens and young adults. His message is geared to helping change the way kids think. It's all about choices, he insists, and his passionate approach seems to be working. He manages to get through to teenagers and hold their attention long enough to get the message across.

Lawton says a lot of teens and young adults have issues with drugs, underage drinking, gangs, sex, violence, delinquency, dropping out of school, getting expelled, petty theft, shoplifting, stealing, robberies and just plain bad attitudes.

Still, the ex con says, "We deal with all kinds of kids, 'At risk' teens aren't the only ones who need this program. All kids need it."

Now a certified paralegal and founder and President of LL Research & Consulting, Inc., Lawton is successfully convincing adults as well, as his program has received endorsements from judges, Chiefs of Police, Sheriffs, non profits and a Weed & Seed program.

For more information visit Lawton's Web site: www.realitycheckprogram.org, or listen in at: realitycheckradio.org.

Identifying At-Risk Teens

(Find the full list online at: www.realitycheckprogram.org)

- Has the teen been suspended, expelled or truant?
- Have their grades dropped?
- Is the teen verbally abusive?
- Has the teen had problems with the law?
- Does the parent have to choose words carefully to avoid a verbal attack or even rage from the teen?
- Does the teen associate with a suspect peer group?
- Has the teen lost interest in former productive activities, sports, hobbies, or childhood friends?
- Does the teen seem depressed/withdrawn?
- Is the teen sexually promiscuous?
- Has the teen's appearance or personal hygiene changed?
- Has the teen been caught stealing from their family?
- Has the teen had violent outbursts?
- Do the parents feel powerless in dealing with the teen?
- Is the teen suspected of experimenting with drugs or alcohol?

THE SHERIFF'S STAR

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Florida Sheriffs Association

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Graphic Design Frank J. Jones

In memory of Carl Stauffer

Volume 53, No.6, November/December 2009

Published since 1929 by the Florida Sheriffs Association (founded in 1893)

The Sheriff's Star is published six times per year (January/February, March/April, May/June, July/August, September/October and November/December) by the Florida Sheriffs Association, a non-profit corporation, P. O. Box 12519, Tallahassee, Florida 32317-2519 (street address, 2617 Mahan Drive). The subscription rate is \$5 per year and the publication number is USPS 493-980. Periodicals postage paid at Tallahassee, Florida and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER Please send address corrections to *The Sheriff's Star*, P. O. Box 12519, Tallahassee, Florida 32317-2519. Copyright © 2009 by Florida Sheriffs Association. ISSN 0488-6186

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By Detective Sgt. W. Terry Crews, Jr.
Special Victim Crimes Squad
Alachua County Sheriff's Office

On August 1, 2006, Alachua County Sheriff's deputies responded to a report of a physical disturbance in progress. While enroute, deputies received updated information that the parties were leaving the area. Another caller reported that a vehicle had "run over" a pedestrian on nearby SR 24 and then fled the scene. The first deputy on scene discovered the form of an unresponsive, misshapen, pregnant female lying in the roadway. Other deputies responded to the victim's apartment only to find it unsecured, blood-stained and in a state of disarray. They were soon able to determine that the victim's ex-boyfriend had come to her apartment, stabbed her male companion and then chased her in his car as she fled from him – hitting and dragging her down the highway where she and her unborn child died on the scene.

This was not the couple's first violent incident.

Law-enforcement agencies have long understood that domestic violence has a profoundly devastating effect not only on the individual families involved, but also on society as a whole. Studies indicate that children who witness domestic violence experience trauma, regardless of whether they themselves are physically abused. The number of prison inmates with domestic violence in their past is disproportionately large, as is the number of women and children who are homeless or on welfare.

Seeking solutions

When Alachua County Sheriff Sadie Darnell was elected in 2006, one of her missions was the enhancement of domestic violence services in the community. She insisted that a new, focused ap-

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proach be developed for domestic violence incidents that required a major overhaul in the way the Alachua County Sheriff's Office provided services. The first priority in this new mandate was to assemble community resources and determine what level of services could be provided to victims once law enforcement stepped in.

As with other Florida agencies, most of the Alachua County Sheriff's Office domestic violence investigations were conducted solely by road patrol deputies. While our agency had progressive policies in place that advocated a pro-arrest response to domestic violence incidents, we were admittedly deficient about follow-up or lengthy investigations. If the primary aggressor was on-scene when law enforcement arrived and probable cause existed for an arrest, then the aggressor was promptly removed and taken to jail. However, if the suspect fled prior to our arrival, then the affidavit of probable cause was forwarded to the State Attorney's Office – along with the incident report – for prosecution. The case was closed with the sworn complaint and the agency moved on.

For the ACSO to be above the norm, as Sheriff Darnell desired, then things would need to change.

Searching out training

Trauma Intervention and Special Services Bureau Chief Laura Knudson was tasked with identifying innovative training and finding a way to bring it back to the agency and community partners. And she had to do it on a very limited budget. Knudson obtained training grants and managed to bring Johns Hopkins University's Dr. Jacquelyn Campbell, a world-renowned expert in Domestic Violence Lethality Assessment, to Gainesville for a two-day seminar outlining her research on Intimate Partner Violence Risk Assessment and certification in Danger Assessment. Additionally, the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence brought Dave Sargent and Michele Pentony to train the county's first responders in the Domestic Violence Lethality Assessment Program, an 11-question instrument based on Dr. Campbell's research that predicts domestic violence-related danger to a high degree.

Coordinating community response

Many community leaders were brought together for a series of workshops to determine the guidelines for how services would be delivered. Law enforcement and victim advocate-representatives

from all of the law-enforcement agencies in Alachua County participated as did those from the Office of the State Attorney, 8th Judicial Circuit, Peaceful Paths Domestic Abuse Network, Florida Department of Children and Families, Partnership for Strong Families, University of Florida, Guardian Ad Litem, Meridian Behavioral Resources, Three Rivers Legal Services and many others. They identified how each community partner was to be involved in delivering services to the victims. The Alachua County Sheriff's Office was determined to lead the way in this endeavor.

Funding for positions

As the immediate supervisor for detectives assigned to follow-up on Special Victims Cases – sex offenses, child abuse, domestic violence and missing persons – I am always evaluating the best allocation of investigative resources. Generally, the unit has more cases to investigate than detectives to assign to them. Our agency sought and was awarded grant funding for two additional detectives to specifically investigate high lethality domestic violence incidents so the victims could be referred to intensive community services. The grant – called Intimate Partners Violence Enhanced Services Team (InVEST) – required a major rewrite of our agency's domestic violence policy. Our new domestic violence policy statement reads, "To reduce the incidence and severity of domestic violence, protect victims of domestic violence, provide them with support through a combination of law enforcement and community services and build strong cases against suspects for the purpose of successful prosecutions and reduced recidivism."

As a part of the InVEST Program, the ACSO has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the local certified domestic violence shelter – Peaceful Paths – and developed a written protocol on how services will be delivered with the InVEST Domestic Violence Advocate. We have also begun having daily reviews on new cases and weekly follow ups with the InVEST Advocate on the acceptance of cases into the InVEST program. Detec-

tives now aggressively follow up with arrests and victim contacts, and hold perpetrators accountable for protective order violations.

The Lethality Assessment Protocol (LAP) for First Responders is the primary screening tool used to determine which victims are referred into intensive services provided by Peaceful Paths. Community partners attended a "train-the-trainer" session. Our Training Bureau developed a lesson plan that could be delivered in about an hour during our regular monthly in-service training and follow-up training sessions during roll calls. A "go-live" date was set for September 1, 2009 – after all of ACSO's deputies had received LAP training. The Lethality Assessment Protocol and LAP screening questionnaire were published and made available to all sworn deputy sheriffs, the primary users of these documents.

The plan and benefits

Deputies now apply the LAP protocol to the circumstances when they respond to a domestic violence incident. The LAP screening questionnaire is completed if the incident meets the following guidelines: First, an intimate partner relationship must exist – not simply sibling or other similar familial relationship. Second, the deputy must be able to articulate one of the following:

- an assault/battery has occurred
- the potential for danger is high
- the names of the involved parties or location are repeat names/location; or
- the deputy simply believes one should be conducted (totality of circumstances)

During the LAP screening, the patrol deputy records the victim's responses to each of the questions. A pre-determined threshold (number of positive responses) indicates the victim's risk level. If the victim is determined to be at high risk, they are immediately informed of their status

and told that persons in their position have been killed in the past. The victim is immediately referred to the domestic violence hotline. The victim may refuse to speak to a domestic violence counselor, but the deputy is

required to make the call anyway, and give the victim time to refuse over the phone.

Victims who would normally

not seek services are oftentimes convinced to receive them when confronted by the results of the LAP. The patrol deputy stands by while the victim talks to the hotline counselor. The lethality screen and phone call to the hotline should take no longer than 10 minutes. This is a significant departure from previous practice. Many victims are not at a place in their violent relationship where they see a need for this type of service. But research shows that if more victims received intensive services before they recognized their danger, the frequency and severity of domestic violence incidents could be reduced.

Work in progress

Since, September 1, 2009, 44 LAP screens have been completed with eight victims being referred into intensive services. Time will reveal how successful this program will be in meeting our long-range goals, which are to reduce Domestic Violence frequency and severity; reduce homicides; to get victims into services faster; and to build stronger relationships with Peaceful Paths.

As a result, the Alachua County Sheriff's Office will be one community partner that is assessing those victims of domestic violence who are at the greatest risk of being killed, connecting them to services, and thus making a difference by helping to reduce the devastating effects of domestic violence on its victims and their families.

Sgt. Crews supervises the Special Victim Crimes Squad investigating Missing Persons, Domestic Violence, Sex Offenses and Child Abuse crimes. For more information, contact Sgt. Crews via e-mail, tcrews@alachuasheriff.org, or Bureau Chief Laura Knudson, lknudson@alachuasheriff.org.

"Research shows that if more victims received intensive services before they recognized their danger, the frequency and severity of domestic violence incidents could be reduced."

Law Enforcers Win Statewide Honors

FDLE Special Agent Named Retail Officer of the Year; Runners-Up Named From OCSO and Naples PD

Special Agent Terry Corn is a consummate professional whose integrity, ethics and commitment to criminal justice have contributed significantly to his success in solving crimes. This past year, in addition to other duties, he directed two multi-jurisdictional cases involving complex organized theft rings that accounted for millions of dollars in retail losses within the state. His diligence helped substantially fracture organized retail theft in Central Florida and earned him the distinction of being named the 2009 Florida Retail Federation (FRF) Law Enforcement Officer of the Year (LEOY).

Special Agent Corn received a check for \$3,000 and an attractive custom-crafted medallion and plaque during the FRF's annual awards banquet on November 10, 2009. His name also was added to a plaque that lists each LEOY recipient since the program's inception in 1974. Dan Doyle, senior vice president of Beall's, Inc., and chairman of FRF's LEOY committee, made the presentation on behalf of FRF's near-



ly 10,000 member companies. From left, Master Officer Steve Walden, Naples Police Department; Deputy Antwan Daniels, Orange County Sheriff's Office; Special Agent Terry Corn, Florida Department of Law Enforcement; and Dan Doyle, Chairman of the Florida Retail Federation Law Enforcement Award Selection Committee, and Sr. Vice President of Beall's, Inc.

ly 10,000 member companies.

Two officers also were selected as runners-up from the field of deserving nominees that represent various law enforcement entities throughout the state. They are Orange County Sheriff's Office Deputy Antwan A. Daniels and Master Officer Steve Walden with the Naples Police Department. Each officer received a memento designating the honor and a certificate of commendation for their work.

"The Florida Retail Federation is proud to continue its 36-year tradition of recognizing Florida's finest law enforcement professionals and to highlight the outstanding efforts of Special Agent Corn as well as Deputy Daniels and Master Officer Walden," said Richard A. McAllister, FRF president and chief executive officer. "Each of these officers contributes significantly to the retail community as well as to Florida's citizens as a whole. We are extremely grateful for their efforts."

About Special Agent Terry R. Corn, FDLE

In the fall of 2008, Special Agent Corn was called upon to coordinate an investigation with loss prevention representatives from multiple retail chain stores as well as various law enforcement entities following the arrests of several individuals involved in a baby formula theft ring in Polk County. Through evidence review, surveillance and other techniques, several mini-warehouses were identified as "stash" locations for stolen baby formula. An Orlando-area theft ring organizer also was identified, which ultimately led to the ring's primary organizers who were located in another state.

In March 2009, after countless hours of investigation, 15 individuals were arrested in the Orlando area for charges relating to Organized Scheme to Defraud and Organized Retail Theft. Over 2,000 cans of baby formula were seized. All 15 individuals plead guilty and were subsequently deported.

In May 2009, Special Agent Corn identified a second organized theft

ring that was stealing health and beauty products – primarily razors and razor blades – from major retail chain stores in a five-county radius. The products were then sold to a pawn shop owner, who knowingly resold the stolen goods at a lesser price than the retailers. It is estimated that these actions resulted in more than \$300,000 in losses to area stores. After successfully making several undercover transactions, both the owner and manager of the pawn shop were arrested on charges related to Grand Theft and Dealing in Stolen Property. In addition, the main “booster” responsible for recruiting other participants in the scheme also was arrested.

Special Agent Corn is currently assigned to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement’s (FDLE) Tampa Bay Regional Operations Center. He has worked in law enforcement for 33 years and has been with the FDLE for more than 14 years.

Special Agent Corn joins 39 previous LEOY recipients who represent various branches of law enforcement including Police Departments and Sheriffs’ Offices, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, the Florida Highway Patrol and the former Florida Marine Patrol.

About Runner-Up Deputy Antwan A. Daniels, OCSO

Whether it’s apprehending a gun-toting shoplifter, cracking retail theft rings, or spending hours comforting a lost child, Deputy Antwan Daniels’ desire to help people has translated into a successful law enforcement career that benefits many.

Deputy Daniels has worked for the Orange County Sheriff’s Office for five years. For the last two years, he has been assigned to the Florida Mall where he is responsible for 270 retail stores, 1.87 million square feet of retail space, The Florida Mall Hotel – with 510 guest rooms – and an even larger parking area. He handles retail theft, auto burglary and auto theft

cases on a daily basis, investigating each incident thoroughly to ensure a conclusion whenever possible. In the past year, he answered 753 calls for service at the mall and made 269 arrests.

Deputy Daniels is lauded for his proactive approach to crime prevention and working in partnership with retail loss prevention specialists and other mall employees. From local residents to scores of international tourists who visit the Florida Mall annually, to crime victims and even criminals, Deputy Daniels is known for treating everyone he encounters with courtesy and respect. Corporal Chris Greenier of the Orange County Sheriff’s Office nominated Deputy Daniels.

About Runner-Up Master Officer Steve Walden, Naples Police Department

A member of the Community Policing Unit, Master Officer Steve Walden is currently assigned to an area that includes the Coastland Mall. All retailers located in the mall benefit from his dedication to thwart retail theft. This includes his successful efforts to educate mall store employees and work with retail loss prevention teams regarding “booster bag” thefts that were occurring this past year. Employees were trained to identify booster bags (foil-lined bags designed to block anti-theft devices), and then quickly notify police officers through cell phone contact, which resulted in the arrest of numerous booster bag perpetrators. Master Officer Walden is always looking to identify crime trends, such as the booster bag thefts, and then arranges training programs for retailers, other police officers, and even representatives from the State Attorney’s Office as warranted.

Master Officer Walden’s diligence also creates a safer shopping environment for patrons. He works cooperatively with representatives from the mall management team

and road patrol officers as well as staff members from the high school and a park that borders the mall. These proactive crime prevention initiatives – and many others – have contributed to a nearly 20 percent reduction in calls for service at the mall this past year, and an overall reduction for the past three years.

Master Officer Walden has been a member of the Naples Police Department for 14 years. Detective Sergeant John Barkley of the Naples Police Department nominated him.

Congratulations to the LEOY winner and runners-up. The retailers and the shopping public all benefit from your efforts.

The LEOY Program

The Florida Retail Federation Law Enforcement Officer of the Year program has been an annual event since its inception in 1974. The purpose of the program is to support and encourage outstanding law enforcement work throughout the state, and to recognize the important contributions made by Florida’s law enforcement professionals in promoting safety and security. The program’s time-tested campaign theme, “Often taken for granted, they never stop serving ...because they care,” remains as relevant today as when LEOY was first introduced.

The Florida Retail Federation is a statewide trade association that represents the retailing industry. It has served as “The Voice of Florida Retailing” since its inception in 1937. Florida retailers pay more than \$35 billion in wages annually, provide one out of every five jobs in the state, and collect and remit approximately \$22 billion in sales and retail-related taxes for Florida’s government each year.

For more information on the awards event or the LEOY program, please contact Brenda Grindstaff, awards coordinator, at 1.888.357.3824 or FRFAwards@frf.org or visit FRF’s Web site at www.frf.org.

New Law to Expand DNA Analysis Must Be Funded

By Brevard County Sheriff Jack Parker

In June of this year, Florida Governor Charlie Crist signed into law what may be one of the most important law enforcement initiatives in years. The law provides for an expansion of DNA analysis. Florida now joins many other progressive states that have a law allowing DNA testing at the time of arrest in lieu of having to wait for a conviction for those accused of felony offenses. This expansion will help law enforcement officers across our state put many more murderers and rapists behind bars where they belong.

There is just one problem...it was not funded.

Prior to the law being passed, a DNA sample could only be taken following an actual conviction. A conviction usually takes many months and can sometimes take years. To force officers to wait for a conviction before we can collect DNA samples results in long delays before we can compare them against DNA gathered from other unsolved crimes. Complicating matters, criminals are often free on bond awaiting trial, many times committing new offenses. If law



enforcement officers have the ability to quickly compare the DNA of those arrested for serious crimes with

evidence from unsolved crimes, criminals could be immediately rearrested if out on bond. Better yet, they could possibly be arrested while in jail before bailing out. This would not only help us solve hundreds, if not thousands, of unsolved crimes, it would help us prevent new crimes from occurring. This DNA

expansion could also help us clear certain suspects from suspicion – if their DNA does not match up with crime scene evidence – allowing officers to focus their attentions on more probable suspects.

The new law as proposed by State Senator and retired Sheriff Steve Oelrich is very well thought out and creates a "10-year phase in" so that only a portion of it would be funded each year. The law is supposed to allow a small fraction of arrested felons – those arrested for the most severe offenses – to provide their DNA to the state this first year. Each year after that, additional felony acts will be added until 2019 when all felonies will be included. The thought behind the transition was to make it as affordable and as easy as possible for the agency doing the DNA analysis – the Florida Department of Law Enforcement.

I have spoken personally to the FDLE Commissioner, Gerald Bailey, who has expressed that he strongly favors the new law and believes it

will solve many crimes. However, there is concern among FDLE personnel that if FDLE expands DNA testing without being funded to do so, it could delay other critical DNA analysis requested by police agencies. I understand that limitation and that concern, but I know I speak for all law enforcement officers when I say that *it is a limitation that must be overcome*.

I am concerned that if FDLE does not get the needed funds to expand the DNA analysis to assure compliance with the new law, we may lose the opportunity to do so in the future. Laws that are passed that are not funded are sometimes rescinded after a period of time. This law is much too important to allow it to be put on a shelf or worse yet, rescinded.

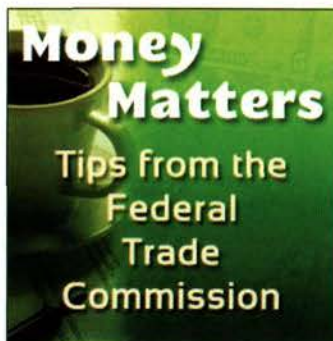
If the state of Florida does not provide the funding FDLE needs to comply with the law, many unsolved crimes will remain unsolved. And worse, criminals who should be in prison will unnecessarily victimize more innocent people. We cannot allow that to happen.

Please contact your local state representatives and state senators and let them know that Florida needs to comply with this important law and they should do everything possible to assist FDLE to make our communities safe and get dangerous criminals off of our streets.

To find contact information on representatives, visit www.myfloridahouse.gov. The corresponding senate Web site is: www.flsenate.gov, or you may call: 850-488-4371.

DeSoto SO: Avoid Money Scams

The DeSoto County Sheriff's Office is warning citizens to beware of the increased financial scams during the recession. DeSoto Sheriff Will Wise recommends visiting the Federal Trade Commission Web site called, "Money Matters." The site is



filled with tips and warning signs for consumers about scams. The FTC especially wants people to be aware of businesses that promise to help homeowners from foreclosure. The Web site has information on scams, credit cards, managing money, dealing with debt and individuals jobs.

Find it at: <http://www.ftc.gov/moneymatters>.

Skeet Shoot Raises Funds for Kids in Nassau County

*By Angela Spears
Public Information Officer
Nassau County Sheriff's Office*

There was a slight chill in the air, but that didn't stop volunteers from putting up sponsorship signs and getting the stations ready at a shooting range tucked in the woods of Yulee, Florida. With everything in place, the participants then started pouring in to test their skills against Nassau County's top law enforcement officer, Sheriff Tommy Seagraves.

Sheriff Seagraves sponsored a clay sporting tournament called "I Shot With the Nassau County Sheriff" on November 6, 2009. All of the proceeds went to "Cops and Kids," a program that allows disadvantaged youth in Nassau County to get school supplies or shop for Christmas presents with a deputy.

The inaugural event was a huge success. More than 70 people brought their shotguns and went from station to station to shoot at the targets. There were two-person and four-person teams. Every team member had four shots at each location. One participant didn't miss a beat. He hit 70 out of 70 targets.

Sheriff Seagraves was pleased with the turnout for the benefit tournament. "I am so grateful the community is willing to help children in Nassau County," he said, "even in these tough economic times." He said the community poured their hearts into the event and into helping the kids.

Sheriff Seagraves started Cops and Kids in 2006. Since then, deputies and staff with his agency have been able to help almost 600 children. They have raised more than \$59,700 in donations from the com-

"I Shot (With) the Sheriff"



Started by Sheriff Seagraves in 2006, the program has raised nearly \$60,000 from the community and helped close to 600 children.



munity.

The program is part of the Sheriff's Foundation of Nassau County, Inc. The goal of the foundation is to promote public safety through education, public awareness and charitable activities.

Donations for "I Shot With the Nassau County Sheriff" are still coming in, but the preliminary total raised is \$14,000. The Nassau County Sheriff's Office will be able to help almost 300 children this year shop for Christmas presents. Instead

of toys, some kids buy items they desperately need like clothing and undergarments. They will shop with Sheriff Seagraves and deputies from the Nassau County Sheriff's Office on December 10.

For more information, contact Nassau County Sheriff's Office PIO Angela Spears via e-mail aspears@nassaucountysheriff.com or phone 904-548-4050. You may also visit the Sheriff's Office Web site: www.nassaucountysheriff.com.

Volunteer Civilians Testing Their Fitness

By Kevin Doll
Public Information Director
Pasco Sheriff's Office

Pasco Sheriff Bob White's latest innovative concept is generating a lot of buzz – and sweat – among the Sheriff's Office civilian members.

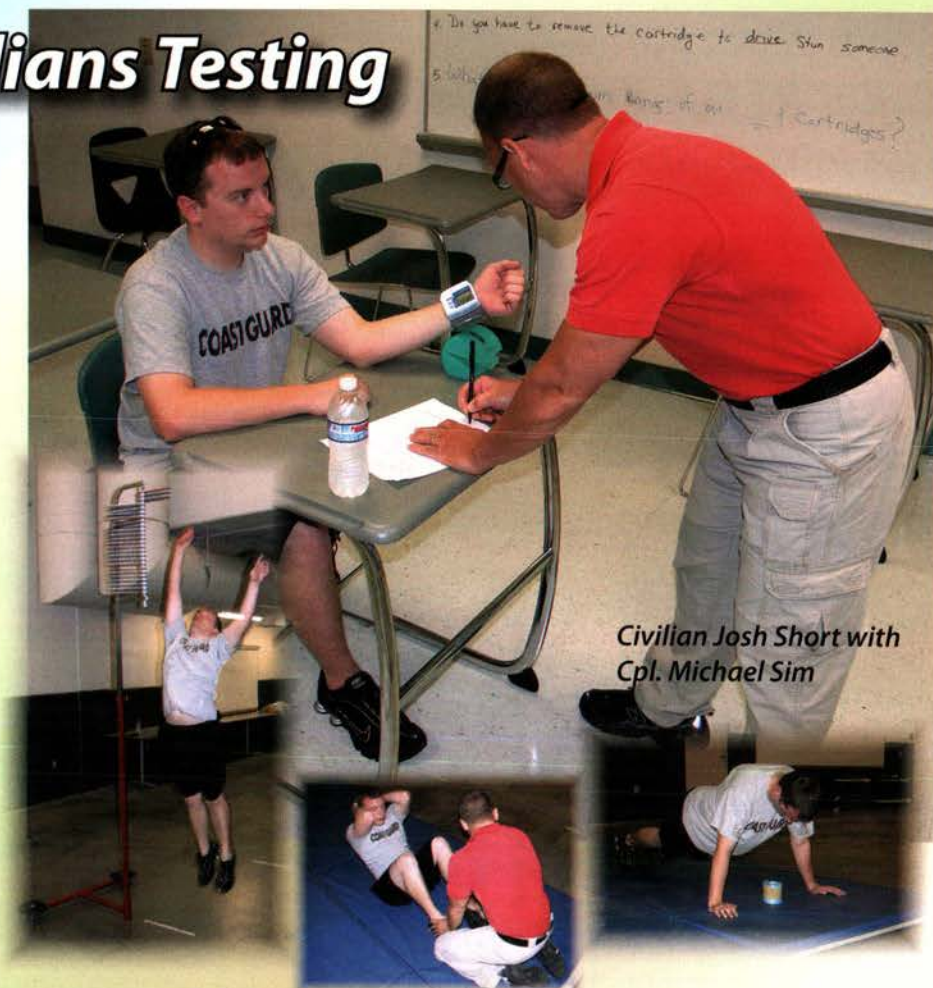
In September, the agency began a voluntary fitness assessment program for its civilian employees. Since 2005, sworn PSO law enforcement and detention deputies have had to meet annual mandatory fitness standards. Prospective sworn applicants must also meet the assessment standards before being hired.

Now, civilian members are also being put to the test. Those who meet the standards are awarded one day of paid leave. They can take the assessment every fiscal year and receive the leave incentive. The civilian assessment is actually the mid-level fitness category that sworn members can achieve (for which they receive a ribbon to wear on their uniform) and includes the following:

- 21 push-ups
- 29 sit-ups
- A 1.5-mile run in a time not exceeding 14:46
- A vertical leap of at least 17.5 inches
- A 300-meter run in a time not exceeding 64 seconds

Healthy Changes

"We're hoping that increased fitness and better health is a common goal of all our members throughout the agency," said Training Section Lieutenant Joe Gleaton. "It is a goal that can now be shared and rewarded to both certified and civilian members."



Civilian Josh Short with
Cpl. Michael Sim

The new civilian fitness assessment is the latest part of a series of programs, general orders, and improvements aimed at increasing the overall health of all Pasco Sheriff's Office employees.

This includes:

- a fitness assessment for sworn members that was implemented in 2005.
- a no-tobacco use policy for all new hires that was initiated in 2005.
- a Weight Watchers program provided free of charge to members during 2007-2008.
- numerous success stories from members' healthy lifestyle changes; employees lost weight that totaled hundreds of pounds
- thousands of dollars in improvements to the three agency weight rooms that members have access to 24 hours a day; (now open to the spouses of employees as well.

Deputies from the PSO Training Section coordinate both the civilian and sworn member assessments. These deputies are first trained at the internationally renowned Cooper Institute in Dallas, Texas. It is there that they receive a scientific-based education on fitness and nutrition and are certified as personal trainers.

"We will all feel better when we have attained a condition of wellness manifested through exercise and healthy eating habits," said Training Section Cpl. Michael Sim. Corporal Sim also teaches a class on health and wellness during the mandatory annual in-class training that civilians attend, which includes topics such as sexual harassment and substance abuse.

Harder than it looks

The civilian assessment is given twice a month at the Training Section located at Pasco-Hernando

Community College (PHCC) in Dade City. Civilian employees are allowed to attempt the assessment once per year while "on the clock." Any additional attempts must be on their own time.

During a recent humid morning in October, Records Unit Clerk Josh Short showed up to give it a try. Short has been a civilian employee for more than two years, and is also a Pasco Sheriff's Office Explorer. The 20-year-old Dade City resident is scheduled to attend the Law Enforcement Academy at PHCC in March. He is currently a sophomore attending St. Leo University working towards his bachelor's degree in criminal justice. Short has long had a goal of becoming a law enforcement officer and he plans on applying to the Pasco Sheriff's Office upon completion of his academy and passing the state certification requirements.

Before the assessment, Short was first given a blood pressure check administered by Cpl. Sim. That was followed by a three-minute step test to measure his "heart rate recovery," or how much the heart rate falls during the first minute after peak exercise. Both of these tests

can discover unknown health risks. Some agency members have been found to have high blood pressure that they didn't know about before being tested.

Short began the assessment with the vertical leap, and easily passed with inches to spare. He next tried the sit-ups, where he came up just short by one sit-up during the one-minute time frame allotted for this portion of the test.

Undaunted and perhaps even more motivated, Short sped through the 300-meter dash with plenty of time to spare. But the toll of that part of the assessment would weigh upon him for the rest of the day. He successfully completed the push-ups exercise, but it was evident his strength was ebbing. He began the last portion of the assessment, the 1.5-mile run, but had to stop due to dizziness.

"That 300-meter dash just killed me," he said later. "But now I know what I have to work on, and I will also have to train completing all parts of the test together. It is definitely harder to do than I thought it would be."

Two members of the agency's

Child Protective Investigations Unit can claim bragging rights to be the first civilians to both attempt and pass the assessment. Todd Bennett and Jodi McCain work for the Sheriff's Office investigating allegations of child abuse and neglect. Bennett, 32, is a former professional minor league hockey player who continues to stay fit by playing in an ice hockey league and coaching both ice and roller hockey teams for teenage boys.

Payoff

Now that both civilians and sworn members of the agency can be rewarded for fitness, it is hoped that more members will improve their overall health by making better food choices and participating in regular exercise. It can have financial rewards too, as members were recently provided with a refund from the agency's health insurance company due to lower service claims.

"Unhealthy habits are not learned overnight," said Sheriff White. "Becoming more healthy is something that can take time, but we are making noticeable progress."

E-mail writer Kevin Doll at: kdoll@pascosheriff.org, or phone (727) 844-7759.

STAR BRIEFS

Polk County CAP Named 2008 Crime Prevention Program of the Year

At the October Florida Crime Prevention Association meeting in Cocoa Beach, the FCPA recognized the Polk County Sheriff's Office Citizen's Assisted Patrol, or CAP, program as the State's 2008 Outstanding Crime Prevention Program of the Year.

Keith Strickland, FCPA president, presented the award to Polk County Sheriff's Office Volunteer Supervisor Robert Groover and Office of Communications Director Scott Wilder, who accepted the award on the agency's behalf.

The PCSO's CAP program includes over 2,100 volunteers and represents 35 communities. In 2008, the program completed 16,090 patrols and logged over 62,800 hours, which represents a cost savings of over \$1 million for the agency.

Polk County Sheriff Grady Judd said, "It is an honor to be recognized by a state organization for the great work we are doing to prevent crime in Polk County, and for setting an example for other counties across the state. I am proud of the commitment and teamwork that our volunteers display every day. They are truly an invaluable resource."



Volunteers like James and Joan Hannon help save the Polk County Sheriff's Office more than \$1 million annually. James Hannon is the CAP coordinator for the Saddleback Lake Resort, Lake Wales.

LETTERS

Editor:

I was rather disappointed in your response to H.S. and his question of automatic license scan.

For purposes of background, I have lived in South Florida for many years. During that time, I have suffered three accidents (none my fault) resulting in the eventual loss of three vehicles. In no case was the other driver insured! The more expensive the insurance becomes, the less people buy it. It is said that if you count five passing cars on the road down here, two will have no insurance.

This is clearly a fault that needs to be laid at the feet of law enforcement. Modern computer technology makes surveillance an ease. The database you spoke of should be made up of INSURED motorists who will then be easily disregarded. Cancellations of insurance must be immediately reported and tags confiscated (as in New Jersey). Tag scanning could be "farmed out" and law enforcement introduced only when an offender is verified.

With more participation in the insurance pool, rates will come down. When I moved (to Florida) in 1963, my uninsured motorist coverage was \$4 a year. It is now in the hundreds. Proper vigorous enforcement would bring much needed relief to responsible drivers.

G.L.R.

Editor replies:

You'll be happy to know that the letter writer connected with a gentleman in New Jersey who explained how it's being done there...then he wrote a letter to the Chairman of a major insurance company in Florida. We'll all wait to see what comes of it. It's good to have readers who are activists.

Take care, and thank you for writing.

Editor:

I received the September/October 2009 issue of *The Sheriff's Star* today. One of the letters to the editor suggested the use of plate scanners to identify vehicles without insurance.

I retired from the Westchester County Police in New York last year. At

the time of my retirement we were using three plate scanners for just such a purpose with outstanding success. The scanners are useful in identifying unregistered vehicles, suspended registrations along with vehicle not having the proper insurance. It is always useful in identifying stolen vehicles or vehicles of wanted subjects. In Westchester County there are 43 police agencies and many are using this technology very successfully.

Watch this video:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ENGY1CD9y_4

D.A., Indian River County

Editor:

In the latest issue of *The Star*, a reader asked about using license scans to locate the uninsured. Your reply was right on.

Florida should do what New York and many other states do. Every agent who sells auto insurance in that state has a link to the Department of Motor Vehicles. If I fail to pay my premium today, tomorrow a Trooper, or other law enforcement officer will come by and remove the plates from my car!

Down here they are called "tags," up north they are "plates."

It seems to work very well, but is unable to catch those from out of state.

In today's electronic world, it should be easy to do.

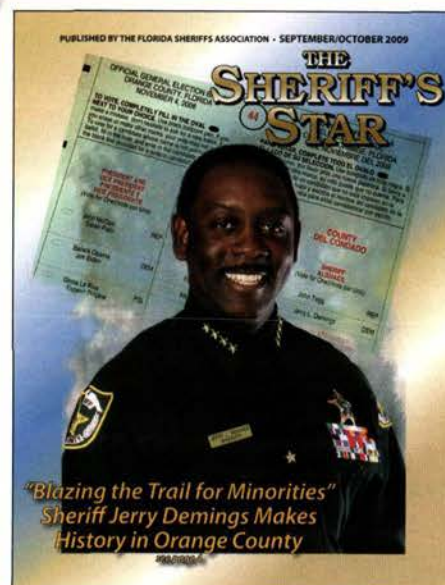
Sincerely,

D.R., Okaloosa

Editor:

We received our copy of *The Star* today and the article about Sheriff Demings and his beautiful wife was so inspiring, oh, boy. If ever a positive movie of a black couple should be made, this is one. I will save and treasure this edition of *The Star* and hope that this is in the works.

I am so inspired, I keep looking and reading about this young man and his wife and sigh in awe of (their) achievements. I do hope the authors of the "History of Florida Sheriffs" book will feel the worth and accomplishments



The Sheriff's Star
September/October 2009 cover

of this beautiful couple and will write a book and plot a movie after them.

With tears, I humbly salute their lives and want to say how blessed they are.

S.S., Hernando County

Editor:

My wife and I enjoy receiving *The Sheriff's Star*. And we support the fine work being done at the Ranches. But separately we both read the article eulogizing Sheriff Jerry Demings with serious concern. He is to be congratulated on his substantial achievements, and we are pleased to note he is godly man.

However we are also pleased that we do not live in Orlando where the two chief law officers are husband and wife. This cannot be right and should not be allowed. It is a recipe for corruption. Who is checking on them?

Given that Florida has a revenue vs. spending gap of 22 percent, serious

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

consideration will have to be given to removing the duplication of services in places like Orlando where they have a town Police and county Sheriff. It is inefficient and wasteful, and keeps property taxes too high – one of the main reasons the state is seeing population decline.

We need less law enforcement employees as population decreases, especially at management levels.

Let Sheriff Demings run the whole show and for his wife to step aside. She will still get a larger pension than most folk in Florida earn.

Yours,
G.W.G., Brevard County

Editor:

Why in the world do you need to make the very divisive point out of the race of Sheriff Jerry Demings? By that very act, you have labeled yourself "racist." I find the title "Blazing the Trail for Minorities" offensive and racist.

For those interested in Sheriff Demings' race, that would have been an

easily observed feature based upon his photograph(s).

Sheriff Demings should be embarrassed by the article; you have gone out of your way to call attention to his race and make him a "hyphenated" American. There is no room in this country for hyphenated Americanism. But a hyphenated American is not an American at all.

This is just as true of the man who puts "Native" before the hyphen as of the man who puts German or Irish or English or French before the hyphen. Americanism is a matter of the spirit and of the soul. Our allegiance must be purely to the United States.

The above is a quote by President Theodore Roosevelt. You may view President Roosevelt's full comments at:

<http://www.theodore-roosevelt.com/trquotes.html>
A.L., via e-mail

Editor:

The cover and the article caught my eye "Blazing the Trail for Minorities."

Isn't it time to quit putting hyphens with people's ancestry? It was an article about a man and his wife who have accomplished a heck of a lot on their own. It had nothing to do with Africa.

Glen Beck had an audience from Harlem on his show. All – not some, not most, but *all* agree that they are Americans and had nothing to do with Africa. It seems that when someone associates with the media they automatically become politically correct.

Best regard,
C.R.R.

Editor replies:

As a writer I try to take the lead from the person I'm interviewing. If Sheriff Demings had responded like the audience from Harlem that you describe, I would have used that tone in the article. In this case, the Sheriff and those I interviewed for the story used the terms "African-American" and so I stayed true to their terminology. We appreciate hearing from our readers – thank you for writing!

STAR BRIEFS

A+ for Fiscal Management in Highlands

During these challenging economic times, the Highlands County Sheriff's Office gets an A+ in fiscal management. Sheriff Susan Benton announced that her agency was able to reserve and return \$1.4 million in unspent budgeted funds. Over the past four years, the Sheriff's Office has sent \$5 million of unexpended funds from the budget back to the Board of County Commissioners, helping to fund the county's reserve for contingency.

The agency has also been a money maker for the county: during the same four years, \$6.7 million in revenue was collected for services and/or grant and project funding.

Inmate medical expenses have fallen 27 percent, due in part to cooperative working agreements with local medical providers and the cost



per day for inmate meals have decreased 18 percent as well.

Congratulations, Sheriff Benton and staff. We can all learn from your example.

Miami-Dade Director Retires

Miami-Dade County Director Robert L. Parker announced his retirement November 1, 2009. James Loftus, Investigative Services Assistant Director, was appointed Interim-Director.

A native of Monticello, Florida, the 56-year-old Parker has been with the Miami-Dade Police Department for almost 34 years. He has served as Director of the agency since 2004.



New Fusion Center Forms

Collier County Sheriff Kevin J. Rambosk has been named governing board chairman for the Region 6 Fusion Center. The Fusion Center,

which is scheduled to be operational in March 2010, will be an informational hub for public safety agencies in a 10-county area that includes Collier County. Its goal will be to enhance public safety by serving as a hub to gather, digest and compare data from across the region. The Region 6 Fusion Center will address domestic security, all crimes and all hazards, and will be made up of law enforcement, fire, emergency management and other public health and safety entities and representatives from the private sector in Collier, Lee, Charlotte, Sarasota, Manatee, Highlands, Glades, Okeechobee, Hendry and Desoto counties.

The Region 6 Fusion Center will be tied into other regional fusion centers in the state and the state-wide and national fusion centers.

Currently, there are 72 fusion centers in the United States, including Miami, Orlando and Tallahassee. The Region 6 center will be housed in Fort Myers.

Florida Sheriffs Need You to Build for the Future

After the Florida Sheriffs Association lost its Tallahassee headquarters to fire in 2008, the Sheriffs have launched an effort to re-build. The new two-story building design will overlook the existing Florida Sheriffs Law Enforcement Memorial.

While we are fortunate to be able to re-build at the same location – which means no land purchase is necessary – the construction costs are over and above the association's current operating budget. And because the previous building was more than 25 years old, insurance is covering only a fraction of the cost to replace it.

In order to offset costs, the Florida Sheriffs Association is turning to you – our loyal members – to ask for a little extra help.

If you ever visited the FSA offices in Tallahassee, you have witnessed the efficient operations of the association staff. This new headquarters building will allow even greater efficiencies and will strengthen the office of Sheriff by allowing expanded training and joint operations that could never be accommodated in the previous building.

As you know, the Florida Sheriffs Association has a stellar reputation for effectiveness in spending. Charitable watchdog groups say that at least 65 percent of a group's annual budget should go to the purpose for which the money was raised. The Florida Sheriffs Association's record exceeds that – more than 70 percent of the FSA budget goes right into the programs that enhance law enforcement in all counties throughout the state. We hope that we can count on you to help us continue that record for efficiency.

To make it easier for donors, the Sheriffs have designed several levels of tax-deductible support:

\$25 for "Friends of FSA"

\$50 for "FSA Benefactors"

\$100 or more for "FSA Star Supporters"

Benefactors and Star Supporters will have their names published in a future edition of *The Sheriff's Star* magazine. Some members have expressed an interest in making larger donations and we are arranging to recognize them in a special way – perhaps using an on-site commemorative plaque.

So please consider this a special invitation to be part of an exciting new chapter in the Florida Sheriffs Association's rich 117-year history. Your Florida Sheriffs want to continue serving the law enforcement needs of the 67 counties in this state using the most efficient ways possible. Your donation will help us reach that goal.

Since time is of the essence – as we have just broken ground – we've included a quick reply form for your convenience below.

Florida Sheriffs Request

____ YES...I want to help with the construction of the new Florida Sheriffs Association headquarters building to replace the one destroyed by fire. Please accept my tax-deductible donation for the following level:

____ \$25 – Friends of FSA

____ \$50* – FSA Benefactor

____ \$100* or more – FSA Star Supporter

____ Other** – amount: _____



*Benefactor and Star Supporter donors will have their names published in a future edition of *The Sheriff's Star* magazine.

**This level may include use of an on-site commemorative plaque.

Please make checks payable to: The Florida Sheriffs Association

Name _____

Address _____

State _____ Zip _____

For donations using a credit card, please use our online form at www.flsheriffs.org/building

Mail this "Florida Sheriffs Request" with your gift to:

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

Casey Appointed Assistant ED

Steve Casey was recently appointed as Assistant Executive Director for Operations at the Florida Sheriffs Association. Casey retired in June as Director of the Florida Criminal Justice Executive Institute at the Florida Department of Law Enforcement.



He has nearly three decades of public service experience, serving as the Deputy Secretary of the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, the Chief Deputy of the Monroe County Sheriff's Office, the Director of Security of the Florida Lottery and as Special Agent Supervisor with the Florida Division of Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco.

In addition, Casey has served as a member of the Florida Violent Crime and Drug Control Council, the Florida Supreme Court Taskforce on

Treatment Based Drug Courts, the Florida Criminal Justice and Juvenile Justice Information Council and the Florida Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission Regional Council.

"The first time I realized there was a Sheriffs Association in Florida was when I worked for the Washington County Sheriff's Office in 1978," Casey said. "Our Sheriff, Fred Peel, ended up on the cover of *The Sheriff's Star*." That's when he started learning about the association and its efforts to support law enforcement and the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches.

After retiring from his last post at FDLE at age 50 – "way too young to be really retired" – Casey considered his options. He said he wanted to continue to contribute to criminal justice, either through the private sector or nonprofit.

The Florida Sheriffs Association was conducting a national search for the newly-created E.D. position, and Casey's 12 years experience in a Sheriff's Office tipped the scales

in his favor. He began his career in a small Sheriff's Office in North Florida, with about 30 sworn deputies, and also worked in a large one with over 700 sworn, including corrections and reserves in South Florida so he understood the demands placed on both.

In this position, Casey said his goal is to assist the Sheriffs in communicating their legislative agenda in Tallahassee. He plans to tap resources and use creative tools that will get their message across, support the constitutional office of Sheriff and make it even stronger. In addition he will be involved in a number of other system improvement projects and operational issues.

Casey has a Master's degree in management from Troy University and is a graduate of the FBI National Academy and the Harvard University Senior Executive Program for State and Local Government and the Florida Criminal Justice Executive Institute, Chief Executive Seminar # 41.

Assistant Executive Director Steve Casey can be reached via e-mail: scasey@flsheriffs.org.

This Cell Dog Comes With a Treadmill for Rehab

By Bob Carpenter
Public Information Officer
Charlotte County Sheriff's Office

Charlotte County Sheriff Bill Cameron accepted another Animal Welfare League (AWL) canine for the Jail's "Cell Dog" program, but this one came with a twist. Instead of obedience training, this well-mannered, 14-month-old dog will be going in for rehabilitation from an injury and use a treadmill.

AWL Executive Director Dee Ann Roberts delivered the red female mixed Pitt Bull to the CCSO Headquarters to let Sheriff Cameron meet her. Named "Molasses," she quickly took on a shorter – but still sweet name – "Suga."



Charlotte County Sheriff Bill Cameron greets the newest cell dog, "Suga."

Roberts said the dog had been hit by a car in the hind legs and has problems sitting and walking. Following the meeting with Sheriff Cameron, Roberts took the dog and the

treadmill to the inmate Work Release building to begin her treadmill rehab. When completed, Suga will be put up for adoption.

The "Cell Dog" program is coordinated by Lt. Jessica Long, CCSO Jail Administrative Services Commander. Lt. Long said, "Suga was found with both back legs broken. She had surgery about two months ago, has healed, and is ready to continue her rehab process on the treadmill." Suga

still favors her legs and is somewhat unsteady on them at times. She was placed on the male side of the Work Release building and was assigned to an inmate handler.

Lt. Long said Suga will get five or six workouts on the treadmill every day, about 10-minutes at a time.

On Aug. 27, three other AWL dogs were brought into the Cell Dog training program. Retired Lee County Sheriff Captain Tom Weaver set up the original program in the County Jail and continues to train inmates on how to handle their dogs. The AWL provides the dogs that come to them that are spared from being euthanized. This is the second group of Cell Dogs, as the first ones graduated July 27.

Contact Bob Carpenter via e-mail: rcarpenter@ccso.org, or phone: (941) 575-5252. You may also visit the Sheriff's Office Web site at www.ccso.org.



FLORIDA SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION

HONORARY & BUSINESS AWARDS



PUTNAM COUNTY – 40-year certificate presented by Putnam County Sheriff Jeff Hardy to Clinton R. Snyder, Jr.

These awards programs give 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 \$5,000 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



PUTNAM COUNTY – 25-year certificate presented by Putnam County Sheriff Jeff Hardy to Mr. and Mrs. Paul J. Rogers.

The Gift That Goes Beyond

If you want to recognize a family member or friend in a special way, you can enroll them as a member of the Florida Sheriffs Association. An Honorary Membership is just \$25/year and includes two publications, a window decal and an ID card. Find out more at: www.flsheriffs.org/. Choose "membership info."



BROWARD COUNTY – 25-year certificate presented by Broward Sheriff Al Lamberti to James Sanders.



Marion Offers Crime Prevention Tips

The beginning of the year is a great time to consider changing habits – and that includes habits that put you and your family at risk of being a victim of crime.

The Marion County Sheriff's Office offers safety tips, including those that will protect your home and business.

The more time it takes a burglar to break into your home and/or business, the greater the chance he'll move on. Most burglaries are committed by amateurs. They can be deterred if you take these basic security measures seriously.

- **Lighting:** It is important for your home and/or business to be properly lighted inside and out. Outside, there should be lighting near all doors and windows, illuminating all entry ways. Motion sensor lights are a useful deterrent, as well as leaving on a porch light during the night. Cut back shrubbery to discourage burglars from hiding near window and doors.
- **Windows/Doors:** For business - the most vulnerable parts of any business are glass areas. In more than half of business burglaries, entry is made by breaking the glass. All rear and side windows should be replaced or covered with iron bars of 26 gauge (or stronger) wire

mesh screens. For display windows, smash-resistant window film should be considered. For home – make sure the windows in your home secure with a lock and heavy screening. Windows and sliding glass doors should be secured with auxiliary locks. Special door pins, available at home improvement stores, can prevent your sliding doors from being lifted from their tracks during a burglary attempt. Deadbolt locks should be used on all exterior doors (single or double cylinder with a minimum one inch throw is recommended). Install a peephole in the front door.

- **Securing Belongings:** Store important documents, firearms, jewelry and other valuables in a safe place such as a lock box or safe. Keep photos and inventory of belongings including receipts and serial numbers for insurance purposes.

Closing/locking up at night:

For business - leave cash register empty and open. Turn off all computers.

For home - turn off electronics and computers.

Finally, secure and check all doors, garage doors, windows, and locks and set alarm before leaving or going to bed.

For more information, visit the Marion County Sheriff's Office Website www.marionso.com, "safety tips" tab.



FLORIDA SHERIFFS YOUTH RANCHES

HONOR ROLL



POLK COUNTY – Presented by FSYR President Roger Bouchard (right) and FSYR alumnus Bill Riggins (left) to Mark Peters representing the American Legion Post #3.

Error Last Issue

Two captions were transposed for photographs in our last issue. Our apologies! Here are the correct captions.



ST. JOHNS COUNTY – Presented by FSYR President Roger Bouchard to Diane Ham.

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 through their gifts to the Youth Ranches. Each Lifetime Honorary Member receives a plaque, a membership card, a Youth Ranches magnet, lapel pin and lifetime subscriptions to *The Sheriff's Star* and *The Rancher* magazines. Lifetime Honorary Membership with the Florida Sheriffs Association is reserved for those individuals who give \$5,000 or more to the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches. Additional stars are awarded to recognize additional giving in increments of \$5,000 up to \$25,000.

New Lifetime Members

Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Pavluk
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Clark



CLAY COUNTY – Presented by Clay County Sheriff Rick Beseler to Albemarle Blache, Jr.

Thanks for Supporting the Kids!

Thank you, FSA Members, for your generous support of "Florida's Charity for Florida's Children," the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches, Inc.

www.YouthRanches.org



VOLUSIA COUNTY – Presented by Volusia County Sheriff Ben Johnson and FSYR Donor Relations Officer Debi Girard to Mr. and Mrs. Charles Odag.

Collier Introduces New Features on Web site

The Collier County Sheriff's Office has revamped its Web site to provide more information and services to the community. The improvements to <http://www.colliersheriff.org/> include a crime-mapping section that is updated every four hours; a Kids Zone where children of all ages can find safety and crime prevention tips; and user-friendly navigation that enables visitors to easily zero in on the information they need.

The improvements are the result of input Sheriff Kevin J. Rambosk heard from the community when he conducted a series of meetings around the county in March.

"Our Collier County residents and visitors are our partners in public safety," Sheriff Rambosk said. "They told us clearly when we met with them the features they wanted to see incorporated into our Web site to help them stay informed."

The new crime mapping feature allows site visitors to search for crimes by the address, zip code, type of crime, date or distance from a specific location. Visitors can also do a crime map search that will show them the photograph, description and address of registered sex offenders who live in Collier County.

The Kids Zone features separate sections for elementary, middle school and high school students. Each section offers age-appropriate information and safety videos about everything from bicycle safety to the dangers of texting while driving.

Sheriff Rambosk said site improvements are ongoing. The public will soon be able to report certain crimes online through <http://www.colliersheriff.org/> instead of calling CCSO and waiting for a deputy. This feature will not only make it more convenient for citizens to report incidents like lost property and vandalism, it will free deputies up to respond to other calls for service.

Members: You Can Now Renew Online

By popular demand, the Florida Sheriffs Association has just launched "online membership renewal" for existing members.

When you receive your annual renewal form, just go to the Florida Sheriffs Association Web site: www.flsheriffs.org/. All you will need is your membership number (located above your name, on the address panel on the

back of this magazine) and a valid credit card. You'll enter your last name with member number to access your membership record, then fill in the renewal request.

In addition to renewing, you'll have the opportunity to order tags – all in one place.

Look for the Membership Renewal link on the front page at: www.flsheriffs.org and renew today!

Introducing....

FSA Membership at a Whole New Level...or Two!

Your Florida Sheriffs recently voted to expand the Florida Sheriffs Association Honorary Membership program to better accommodate the needs of supporters.

In addition to the traditional \$25 **Honorary Member** level, we're offering **Honorary Silver** (\$50) and **Honorary Gold** (\$100) levels (available to new members or as an upgrade).

Here's what's included:

Honorary Member (\$25 annually): Honorary Member card, window decal, bumper sticker, plus annual subscriptions to *The Sheriff's Star* and *The Rancher* magazines.

Silver Honorary Member (\$50 annually): Honorary Member card, window decal, bumper sticker, annual subscriptions to *The Sheriff's Star* and *The Rancher* magazines, PLUS an official Florida Sheriffs Association license tag and lapel pin your first year of membership.

Gold Honorary Member (\$100 annually): Honorary Member card, window decal, annual subscriptions to *The Sheriff's Star* and *The Rancher* magazines, PLUS an official Florida Sheriffs Association license tag and tag frame your first year of membership.

Find more information online at: www.flsheriffs.org, choose the "Membership Info." icon.



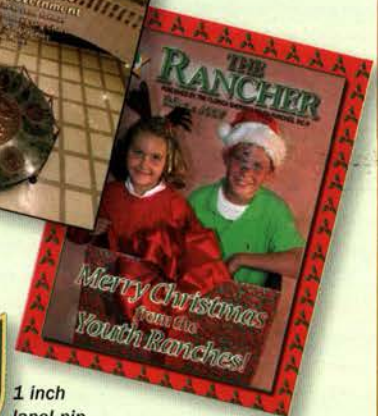
window decal



license tag



Magazines



1 inch
lapel pin



tag
frame

Man "Drops Into" Pawn Shop, Steals Firearms

If it wasn't for the unusual setting you would think this burglar was training on an obstacle course. He rappelled, ran, jumped, tried to scale a wall and even fell in his effort to steal several firearms from a Lauderdale Lakes pawn shop.

Surveillance cameras were rolling inside the People's Pawn in Lauderdale Lakes on December 4, as they captured the athletic thief at work. Detectives say the suspect climbed onto the roof of the store. He cut a whole

in the roof and threw a rope down into the store to make his descent. The man is seen on video rappelling into the pawn shop. He quickly runs toward the area where the firearms are stored, cuts the lock with his bolt cutter and proceeds to reach, jump and climb the wall trying to grab the weapons on display. He fled the scene with three rifles and two shotguns. *Report by Keyla Concepcion, PIO, Broward Sheriff's Office. Visit the BSO Web site for more information: www.sheriff.org.*

Attention Members:

Are you moving? Please send us . . .

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

NEW License Tag Frame Now Available!

The Florida Sheriffs Association is offering another opportunity for you to show your support for law enforcement in your community through a newly-designed License Tag Frame. Unlike many tag frames on the market, this handsome frame conforms to the Florida Statute 316.605 licensing of vehicles requirements, by not covering type or numbers on the face of the tag. The tag frame will fit most any style vehicle. Demonstrate your support for FSA and the crime fighting efforts of Sheriffs by ordering your License Tag Frame today. And don't forget: These frames make great gifts, too!



SPECIFICATIONS: These high quality frames are zinc metal with black imprint and standard four-hole mounting. Frames are for use with your official license tag on the rear of your vehicle. Please pre-measure before ordering. Size of frame: 6-1/2 x 13-1/4 inches. Not guaranteed to fit all vehicles.

TAG FRAME ORDER FORM

Please return the entire back cover page with your order. U.S. delivery only

☐ 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 ____ Tag Frames
@ \$25 each \$

(postage & handling cost included in prices)

* Please add 6% Sales Tax Tax \$

(Please allow 4 to 6 weeks for shipping) TOTAL \$

* 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



Florida Sheriffs Association
P. O. Box 12519,
Tallahassee, Florida 32317-2519
(street address, 2617 Mahan Drive)

It's here! Introducing the Florida Sheriffs Association "Member Store"


For all of our members who have been anxiously awaiting our new Florida Sheriffs Association online store – it's here! We've expanded the choice of items and made ordering simple. Just visit our Web site at: www.flsheriffs.org and click "store."

You'll find hats, mugs, caps, shirts, bags and more – all with the distinctive Florida Sheriffs Association member logo.

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 **FLORIDA SHERIFF'S ASSOCIATION
MEMBERS STORE**

Search: Advanced Search




FSA Members Store

CATEGORIES

- HEADWEAR
- OUTERWEAR
- POLO SHIRTS
- PROMOTIONAL PRODUCTS
- T-SHIRTS
- WOVEN SHIRTS

HELP

- CONTACT US
- SHIPPING RATES
- SIZE CHART
- SITE & ORDERING INFORMATION

ONLINE MERCHANDISE STORE

Ordering is **Easy**

- 1 Select a Color
- 2 Select a Size
- 3 Select a Logo
- 4 Select a Quantity


To begin shopping simply click on the categories on the left.

Welcome to the Florida Sheriff's Association online merchandise store offering high-quality apparel and accessories.

Items Ship Within 3-5 Days Directly to You.

Many Colors to Choose From.




Secure Online Ordering.




HEADWEAR

Sort by: Product Price

CAP: 5 PANEL BRUSHED COTTON CAP: 6 PANEL BRUSHED COTTON CAP: 6 PANEL CAMO

See Details Our Price: \$15.00 See Details Our Price: \$15.00 See Details Our Price: \$15.00






See Details Our Price: \$15.00

OUTERWEAR



Sort by: Product Price

ALL WEATHER JACKET LADIES ALL-WEATHER JACKET LADIES TOURNAMENT JACKET

See Details Our Price: \$50.00 See Details Our Price: \$50.00 See Details Our Price: \$42.00

TOURNAMENT CREW FLEECE TOURNAMENT JACKET

See Details Our Price: \$37.00 See Details Our Price: \$42.00