

THE SHERIFF'S STAR STAR



K-9 Takes To The Air To Apprehend

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Boot Camp Days for Florida Sheriffs Explorers

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From the desk of . . .

**J.M. "Buddy" Phillips, Executive Director
Florida Sheriffs Association**

Finally! Churning Dirt

On this page, I have tried to keep members updated on the progress of the Florida Sheriffs Association's headquarters expansion. With this letter, I thought I'd send proof through a photo. After all, a picture is worth a thousand words.

A group of our Sheriffs gathered in an official "churning dirt" ceremony to mark the start of construction this past October.

Progress is slow, but steady. Our membership services department hopes to be in their new offices by spring 2000. It won't come too soon, as FSA's membership continues to grow. You can be proud to know you are a part of the oldest and largest law enforcement organization in the country. Of course, we like to think the most effective, too.



Increasing our effectiveness

As we enter this new millennium, I'd like to invite you, our members, to tell us what you believe are the most pressing needs in law enforcement today. As you know, the Florida Sheriffs meet twice annually to discuss the issues that have surfaced in their own communities and to look at the big picture of law enforcement across the state. Our next meeting is the end of January in Destin.

Although we will be getting the views of Sheriffs at this meeting, we would like to hear from our Honorary Members of the Florida Sheriffs Association, too. Since creating our "letters to the editor" page in this magazine, a recommendation of St. Johns County Sheriff Neil Perry, we have opened the door to your views. It seems many of our members welcome the opportunity to share what they have learned – through crime prevention efforts and perhaps even law enforcement service.

So consider this a special invitation to talk to your Florida Sheriffs, by mailing, e-mailing or faxing your correspondence. Let us know how you see law enforcement changing in the coming years. Talk to us about what's happening in your community. Tell us what your Sheriff's Office is doing to combat crime. We want to know.

Send your views to: Editor, The Sheriff's Star Magazine, P.O. Box 12519, Tallahassee, FL 32317-2519; E-mail to: jbettinger@flsheriffs.org, or Fax them: 850-878-8665. We reserve the right to edit for space considerations.

We look forward to creating great programs to serve the state of Florida's law enforcement needs in the future.

Buddy

J. M. "Buddy" Phillips
Executive Director

10 Ways To Fight Hate Crimes



Every hour someone commits a hate crime. Every day eight blacks, three whites, three gays, three Jews and one Latino become hate crime victims. Every week a cross is burned.

Hate crimes are very real. And though not all receive the type of notoriety as the dragging death of a black man in Jasper, Texas, they continue to claim innocent victims.

The Southern Poverty Law Center, a non profit organization that fights hate, intolerance and discrimination, has created a community response guide offering 10 ways to fight hate. These are 10 ways that every day citizens can play a role in reducing the incidence of hate crimes in their community.

There is something on this list for each one of us.

1 - ACT. Don't tolerate an action of hatred. Apathy is interpreted as acceptance.

2 - UNITE. If you note an increase in hate crimes in your community, organize a group of allies from churches, schools and civic organizations to speak out against them.

3 - SUPPORT THE VICTIMS. Hate-crime victims are especially vulnerable, fearful and alone. Let them know you care.

4 - DO YOUR HOMEWORK. Determine if a hate group is involved in a crime or series of crimes. Research its symbols and agenda. Seek advice from anti-hate organizations and get the information out to the community.

5 - CREATE AN ALTERNATIVE. Do not attend a hate rally. Hold a unity rally or parade, instead. Create a news hook such as a "hate-free zone."

6 - SPEAK UP. All of us have First Amendment rights. Use them to expose hate through ads and news conferences. Help news organizations achieve balance and depth in their reporting.

7 - LOBBY LEADERS. Persuade politicians, business and community leaders to take a stand against hate. Early action creates a positive reputation for the community. Unanswered hate will eventually poison business.

8 - LOOK LONG RANGE. Create a "bias response" team. Hold annual events such as a parade or culture fair to celebrate your community's diversity and harmony. Create a website.

9 - TEACH TOLERANCE. Bias is learned early, and usually at home. Children can still be influenced by school programs and curricula. Hold contests that celebrate diversity and target youths who may be tempted by skinheads or other hate groups.

10 - DIG DEEPER. Look into issues that divide us: economic inequality, immigration, race. Work against discrimination in housing, employment, education. Look inside yourself for prejudices and stereotypes.

For more information on how to fight Hate Crimes in your community, visit the Center's website: www.splceter.org



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K-9 Takes To The Air

To Apprehend

*By: Sgt. Mark Olive, K-9 Supervisor and
Dep. Charles O'Daniel, Crime Prevention Unit
Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office*

Welcome aboard Air K-9, providing non-stop service to the farthest reaches of Hillsborough County in pursuit of burglars, robbers, car thieves or any other fleeing felon.

Please fasten your seatbelt and secure your leash as we prepare for immediate departure from Vandenbergh Airport. Your pilot has turned on the "No Barking" sign.

The marriage of the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office Aviation and Canine units has had dire consequences for the bad guys. To date, there have been nine "catches," resulting from a helicopter "airlifting" a police dog and his handler quickly to the scene, rather than relying on ground transportation.

Unofficially, their motto could be: "Flying In to Apprehend" or "Dogs From Above."

Moving the Canine Unit into office space in the aviation hangar at Vandenbergh Airport was originally proposed as a temporary measure. Designed to free up much-needed office space at the Sheriff's Operations Center in Ybor City, the unforeseen benefits have turned into a permanent arrangement.

Helicopter pilots and canine handlers traditionally have been dispatched to many of the same events. Placing them together in an office environment has resulted in sharing information about the calls they worked together. This inevitably led to a better understanding of one another's thoughts and actions. The resulting informational after-action reports and critiques served to increase the efficiency of the units' combined crime-fighting capabilities.

The greatest benefit for the move is the practice of flying canine teams to distant crime scenes when timeliness is essential to the capture of a felony suspect, known to K-9 as a "catch."

Just ask Deputy Greg Mitchell and his partner, Wolf. They have made four "catches" while flying with Air K-9. "To Wolf, it's just like riding in the car, only he's 500 feet in the air. It's the ultimate car ride. He loves to ride in the helicopter. He gets in, looks out and leaves little nose prints on the glass."

Those apprehended by Wolf & Company include one man who had an outstanding warrant and ran from

Wolf is ready to ride. Helicopter pilots and canine handlers traditionally have been dispatched to many of the same events. The Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office started pairing the two and the result has been higher capture rates of fleeing felons.



Hillsborough County Sheriff's Deputy Greg Mitchell (left) and Wolf prepare to hitch a ride with Pilot, Deputy Kevin Johnson. Other members of the Hillsborough County K-9 Unit include: Rick Armstrong and Nero; Corporal Mike Conigliaro and Bruno; Sgt. Mark Olive and Dredd; Gary Herman and Scooby; Don Wright and Arc; Howard Wooden and Axel; Ed Shea and Max; Chris Grecco and Razor; Jerry Ray and Turbo; Jim St. Pearre and Ninja; Terry Dixon and Nitro; and Matt Hall and Rico.

deputies; two car-theft suspects; and one fellow who broke into Trapnell Elementary Schools, south of Plant City.

"The school burglary was interesting," recalled Deputy Mitchell, "because we landed behind the school. Patrol deputies had set up a perimeter, so the helicopter went back up and the pilot saw the guy run out a side door and jump a fence. He wouldn't stop, so I let the dog go." The rest is history: "Suspect in custody."

Wolf, who is 7 years old, used to wear earphones when they flew, said Mitchell, a K-9 handler for 3-1/2 years. "That is, until they broke. And he doesn't bark when in flight."

The flying police dog idea goes back to 1981 in Hillsborough County. During a canine patrol school held that year, many teams were taken on short rides in the small, two-seat Hughes 300 helicopter owned by HCSO. Those rides were provided to see how the dogs would react to air transport, should the need arise.

The Hughes 300 was small and cramped when occupied by a pilot, dog and handler, but it was deemed "doable." Research revealed that in 1982, canine handler Bob Unger and his partner, Magnum, tracked and captured a burglary suspect after being flown to the crime scene in the Hughes. This was a novel idea then, but no further incidents of airborne canine captures were noted.

Fast forward to 1999. A once-novel concept is now the norm.

What started as a simple invitation from a pilot ("Why don't you guys save yourself some time and fly with us?") has become almost standard procedure. When a call comes in and the scene is miles away, you can bet if a canine team is at the hangar, they are heading for the chopper.

Recognizing that this was becoming a regular part of business, Pilot Jeff Brunnell constructed a platform that can be put in the seat of the Jet Ranger helicopter now used by Aviation. This provides a more comfortable seating arrangement for the dog while in flight and puts less wear and tear on the upholstery.

So what about fastening the seatbelt? A prototype restraint was designed by the Canine Unit to keep the dog secured in the event the handler has to ride "front seat" to balance weight distribution in the airship.

For the dogs, it's just another joy ride. Plenty of wind in their face and to top it all off, when the flight touches down they get to do another favorite activity: hunt!

The canine handlers extol the benefits of flying. Not only does it result in rapid deployment, it gives them a bird's eye view of the terrain prior to having to track the suspects.

So secure all carry-ons, as Air K-9 heads out for another "catch."

Retired Sheriff's Office Lieutenant Authors "Crossing The Chalk Line"

How many times does a law enforcement officer say in his or her career, "I need to write a book." Their experiences are just so unbelievable sometimes, so incomprehensible to the non law enforcement officer, they feel the need to write it down so they might be able to understand it better, and help other people see what they deal with every day.

Steven H. Richardson, a part-time grant writer for the Clay County Sheriff's Office and 25-year veteran of law enforcement, took the necessary next step: He not only realized



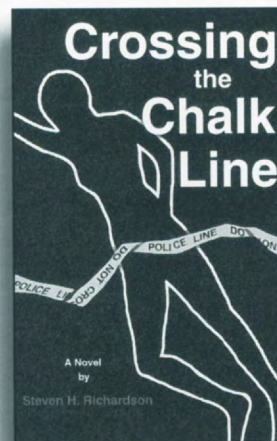
Steven Richardson

his experiences would make a good book, he sat down and wrote that book and then found a publisher.

Set in rural north Florida, "Crossing the Chalk Line" is a fictional account of Deputy Mark Jacobs' frustration with the criminal justice system in helping to put a cop murderer behind bars.

The book's jacket says, "Crossing the Chalk Line is closer to reality than fiction in describing what happens when police do the wrong thing for the right reasons. The deputies know that inside the killer's house is everything they need to build their case. Citizens call it personal belongings. Police call it 'evidence.'"

"With the evidence available in and outside the house, they know they can put the killer at any crime



scene in the country."

Richardson uses southern colloquialisms to add to the realism of the story. As the events twist and turn, readers will find themselves pondering what police can do, what they should do and what they cannot do.

The author clearly uses his front line experiences – in numerous positions with the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office from 1971 to 1996 – to

realistically portray life as a cop. The chapters include details that only a person who has walked in the shoes of an evidence technician, burglary and homicide investigator, and patrol officer could know.

"Crossing the Chalk Line" is available through Otter Creek Press, phone: 904-264-0465 or on the web: www.otterpress.com.

Letters to The Editor

Editor:

I'd like to express my appreciation for the beautiful job on the Barbara Smith story. The layout was terrific: simple, professional and well done.

Thanks again.

Mark Weinberg

St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office

Editor:

Your article, "Don't be shy! Say GOODBYE!" (July/August 1999), was very interesting. As a retired professional law enforcement officer (Sgt. with the Nassau County Police Department, NY), I too advised many seniors of the pitfalls of telemarketing scams while I was on active duty. Even now, as a senior myself, I still advise my fellow seniors of the scams. One of the best ways that I found to avoid these telemarketers was to be placed on a "no solicitation" telephone list which is published quarterly. Believe me, it really works and my daily 5-6 calls were reduced to only 2 in the past six months. I reported both of them and they were sent letters of reprimand.

All one has to do is contact the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services, Division of Consumer Services, 227 No. Bronough Street, Ste. 7200, Tallahassee, FL 32301, or call 1-800-HELP-FLA. Ask for the application "No Sales Solicitation Calls." The original application is to be accompanied with a \$15 first year fee. The annual renewal cost is just \$5.

I realized that you mention the telephone number in your article, but this letter covers a bit more in the way of explanation.

Keep up the good work and I look forward to receiving your magazine every two months.

Robert G. Burdewick

Editor:

I am sending 37 checks to the Florida Sheriff's Youth Ranches in honor of (Lee County) Sheriff John McDougall. These checks were given because of Sheriff McDougall's stand for Pro-life in our community. Our Sheriff gets blasted in the media locally and nationally at times for being outspoken and we wanted to let him know and the Florida Sheriff's Asso-

ciation know that we are proud of his bold stand.

How much evil has been done in the world because people did not speak up. Sheriff McDougall is speaking up for the unborn child and all 37 of us are speaking up for him.

F.H., Ft. Myers

HAVE A COMMENT?

"Letters to The Editor" is a new feature of the Florida Sheriffs Association, *The Sheriff's Star* magazine. 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 them: jbettinger@flsheriffs.org. While we are not able to publish every letter, or answer them personally, we will to our best to get your comments represented in these pages. We reserve the right to edit for space considerations. For privacy reasons, we will only publish the initials and city or county of the writer unless authorization is given.

Drug Busts Benefit Monroe County S.O. In A Big Way

The Monroe County Sheriff's Office recently received checks totaling \$232,000 from two joint drug investigations, plus another \$25 million for the SO's participation in a seven-year money laundering probe.

The larger amount represented half of a \$50 million seizure from a marijuana smuggler – the largest single currency seizure made by U.S. Customs, according to the agency.

"This is a culmination of several years of hard work on the part of Customs and Monroe County Sheriff's Office," said Customs Commissioner Ray Kelly. "This is the largest amount of money that's ever been given to a local law enforcement entity by the federal government."

Seized funds are deposited into a special law enforcement trust fund that can only be used for certain types of purchases, such as new equipment for undercover drug investigations and other law-enforcement functions; educational materials and programs to promote drug prevention; and on behalf of crime prevention programs. The money is not allowed, by law, to be used for any type of replacement equipment (such as autos and office equipment), salaries or any other regularly budgeted items.

In the larger of the three cases, Customs seized money from convicted smuggler Paul Edward Hindelang in July 1998. Hindelang operated one of the largest marijuana smuggling organizations in the United States between 1975 and 1981, according to Customs.

Hindelang was an associate of marijuana kingpin Julio Nasser David, who along with his wife, Sheila Arana de Nasser, amassed millions during drug smuggling operations in the 1970s and 1980s.

Hindelang was convicted in 1981 and sentenced to 30 months in prison for his part in smuggling 500,000 pounds of marijuana into the south-



Monroe County Sheriff Rick Roth, at center, receives a check from (from left) U.S. Customs Associate Special Agent in Charge Jesus Torres, U.S. Customs Resident Agent in Charge Steve Mocsary, U.S. Customs Special Agent in Charge Frank Figueora and U.S. Customs Resident Agent in Charge Tom Howell.

eastern U.S. At the time, he forfeited only \$640,000. In early 1992, Customs agents learned that Hindelang may not have forfeited all the cash he earned from smuggling. Their investigation – Operation Cash Extraction – ran from 1992 through 1998.

Investigators discovered that Hindelang had hidden money in offshore bank accounts and corporations. He used the accounts and corporations to purchase property and businesses in Montana, California, Colorado, Texas, Oregon and Costa Rica.

Since the investigation was conducted by Customs agents and Monroe County deputies, the Sheriff's Office was entitled to the funds. The money will be used for a new radio system and a new juvenile detention center and juvenile programs building.

Small, but only by comparison

The second case involved an undercover drug smuggling operation investigated jointly by the Sheriff's Office High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) group and the Drug Enforcement Administration. The operation involved cocaine smuggling by longshoremen operating in Ft. Lauderdale. An undercover operative solicited the longshoremen to smuggle a large amount of the illegal substance from Columbia to the U.S. The investigation resulted in multiple arrests and the seizure of a large



Monroe County Sheriff Rick Roth, far right, receives a check from DEA Special Agent Edward H. Fields. Joining them is Major Joel Widell, former commander of the Monroe County Sheriff's Office High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area.

amount of assets. More asset forfeitures are expected in the future from the case.

In a third case, the HIDTA joined forces with other state and federal agencies to investigate a 1995 Upper Keys drug smuggling operation.

On December 30, 1995, 58 bales of cocaine – a total of 3,756 pounds – were seized on Anne's Beach, Lower Maticumbe Key. Ultimately, six people were arrested and indicted in connection with this smuggling operation and two vessels (one 18 foot, the other 30 foot) were seized.

Through subsequent investigation, a 256-foot freighter, "Patricia Star" was identified as being the mother ship for this smuggling organization and the Star was seized on the Miami River on November 18, 1996.

Boot Camp Days for Florida Sheriffs Explorers

By: Sgt. Barbara Smith
Senior Advisor
St. Lucie County Sheriff's
Office Explorer Post 400

"Cadets! Fall in!" yells a tough guy in uniform. But the young men and women he's directing aren't military recruits. They're teenagers in Florida Sheriffs Explorer uniforms, and they're in Ocala at the Florida Elks Youth Camp for an annual boot camp.

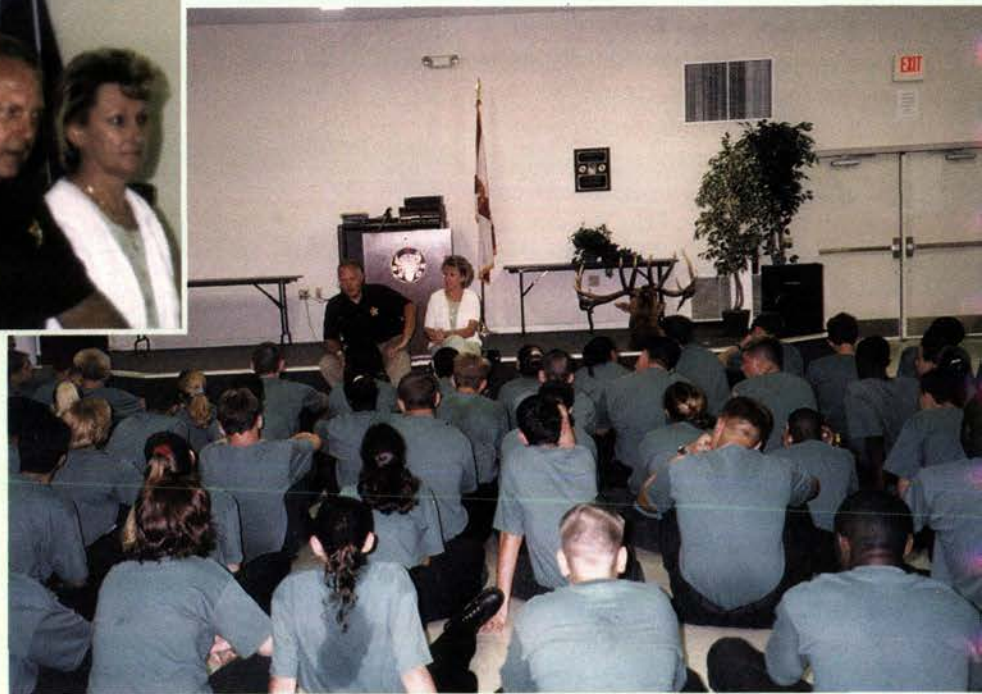
Hosted by the Marion, Orange and Manatee County Sheriffs' offices, the event took place October 1-3. One hundred seventy law-enforcement Explorers from around the state participated in the classes and training. Despite the rigorous schedule, they showed courage, discipline, endurance, enthusiasm and confidence – all the traits that make a great law-enforcement officer.

During the domestic violence and traffic stops, Explorers wore protective equipment to keep from being hit by simunition firing (paint balls). The Explorers were placed in situations where they had to decide in a split second whether to shoot or not shoot.

During crime scene investigation, Explorers reviewed evidence of a case involving a male and female fighting in a car. The female was shot. Bloody shirts, a shot gun and beer bottles were on the ground. Explorers used crime scene tape to secure the area, wore latex gloves, dusted for fingerprints, took shoe impressions and interviewed bystanders as witnesses.

Vehicle maintenance was a real experience for many of the Explorers. They had to check air pressure in tires, change the oil and change a tire.

Explorers cooled off during water rescue training, as they learned how



Marion County Sheriff Ed Dean and his wife, Sarah, shared a warm Sunday morning message with the Sheriffs Explorers during their boot camp training.

to handle a person in the water with a neck injury by using a back board.

Protective shields and batons were brought out to demonstrate riot control tactics. Explorers used these techniques during a riot the advisors initiated by throwing tennis balls and water balloons at them.

At 5:00 a.m. Explorers were in formation for physical training. Sit-ups, push-ups, monkey jumps, more push-ups, jumping jacks, push-ups again, running, push-ups and even more push-ups. The kids easily worked up an appetite and entered the chow hall on command.

"First platoon. Second platoon. Third platoon. Fourth platoon. Dismissed to the chow hall!"

Not that being dismissed meant they could go back to being informal, as the instructor marched along side, "Straight line, hands in parade posi-

tion and no talking."

"Are you talking in line? Give me 20 push-ups."

Of course, the boot camp had its quieter, more reflective moments, too. Marion County Sheriff Ed Dean and his wife, Sarah, held church services for the bunch on Sunday morning.

What is Explorers?

The purpose of Law Enforcement Exploring is to provide young adults with an effective program designed to build positive character traits, develop personal and mental fitness as well as promote active citizenship.

Law Enforcement Exploring can further each member's education, encourage participation in rewarding and productive service activities and enhance preparation for future roles as citizens and community members.

Boot Camp provides Explorers



One Explorer strikes a pose during a simulated shoot out.

with more interactive "hands-on" experiences and training dedicated to preparing them for law-enforcement careers.

Following the boot camp experience, the Explorers expressed their favorable and not-so-favorable impressions on paper:

"I don't like standing in formation for a long time," said one participant. "The D.I. yelled in my face and I felt like decking him," said another, "but for some reason nothing could please me more than pleasing him."

And a fellow Explorer exuded, "I like having to get up early and doing those push-ups," as another chimed, "I like it. . . I love it. . . I want more of it."

Florida Sheriffs Explorers fall in, marching to their day-long training at the Florida Elks Youth Camp during annual boot camp. Reviews were mixed from exhilaration, "I like it . . . I love it. . . I want more of it," to impatience, "I don't like standing in formation for a long time."



Part of the boot camp training required water rescues. Pictured here, the cadets assist in the "rescue" of a fellow cadet with a simulated neck injury.

Martin County Cracks Down On "Deadbeat Drivers" – Adults Who Fail To Buckle Up Children

Spurred by the success of automobile child restraint laws – a dramatic increase in use of child restraints and a 12.3 percent decrease in child fatalities – the Martin County Sheriff's Office created their own version of Operation ABC Mobilization: America Buckles Up Children. Stepped-up enforcement of child passenger safety and seat-belt laws began November 22 and continued through the Thanksgiving holiday weekend.

Every day children are needlessly injured and killed on our state's roadways because an adult failed to buckle them up. Six out of 10 children who die in crashes are completely unrestrained. Traffic crashes remain the leading cause of death to children ages 5 – 14 in America.

Studies have shown that adults who don't wear seat belts are not likely to buckle up children, either. Buckled drivers are three times more likely to restrain their child passengers than drivers who don't buckle up.

U.S. transportation officials credit the mobilizations with helping raise awareness among adults, decrease child fatalities and increase restraint use among toddlers by as much as 87 percent over the last two years. In Florida, fatalities have decreased over the same period.

"The Martin County Sheriff's Office urges Zero Tolerance when it comes to child restraint," says MCSO Lt. Richard Youngblood. "No one should look the other way when they see a child at risk." Youngblood, who supervises the Sheriff's Office Traffic Unit, says, "Everyone must make sure their neighbors, friends and relatives understand that letting a child ride unbuckled – no matter how short the ride – is always life threatening and never worth the risk."

Heart Attack Hasn't Phased Martin County Sheriff

Martin County Sheriff Robert Crowder is "back in action," following a five by-pass heart surgery performed September 20, according to Sheriff's Office spokesperson, Deputy Jenell Atlas. Doctors have credited Sheriff Crowder's excellent health prior to his heart attack for promoting speedy recovery, she says.

Sheriff Crowder's active lifestyle – riding along side (and most of the time in front of) the MCSO Bicycle

Unit and competing in 100-mile cycling events – helped the Sheriff get back to work quickly. Predisposed to clogged arteries because of genetics, Sheriff Crowder isn't taking any chances and doing everything he can to stay in good health.

Congratulations, Sheriff Crowder. We're glad to have you back in the (bicycle) saddle again.



Sheriff Crowder

Heroic Sheriff Among Us

Lee County Sheriff John McDougall didn't spurn his duties while traveling outside the state earlier this year. Driving down Interstate 95 in Clarendon County, South Carolina, during a blinding rainstorm, Sheriff McDougall happened upon a tragic automobile accident involving a woman and her 9-year-old grandson.

Sheriff McDougall was returning from a charitable event in Washington, D.C., when he saw that the car had hydroplaned and run into a tree. He had to back his car up nearly one mile on the



Sheriff McDougall

shoulder of the road to reach the scene. Upon arrival, he noticed the child – dazed from head injuries – on the pavement of the Interstate frantically trying to get help for his grandmother. Sheriff McDougall quickly scooped the boy up to safety and called for assistance.

The accident proved fatal to the woman, Mrs. Jean B. Parks, but the boy, Kendall Cogdill of Pinewood, South Carolina avoided serious injury or death because of Sheriff McDougall's quick action.

The South Carolina House of Representatives and Senate and the General Assembly expressed their sincere gratitude in a formal resolution sent to Florida Governor Jeb Bush.

The Florida Sheriffs would like to thank Sheriff McDougall for reflecting positively on this state through his Good Samaritan act.

The Sarasota County Chapter of Crime Stoppers has taken to the streets to get their crime-fighting message to the public. With funds provided by the Sarasota county Sheriff's

Office forfeiture accounts, they were able to vinyl-coat their colorful Crime Stoppers logo on a 30-foot Sarasota County Area Transit bus. Crime Stoppers is a non-profit organization that relies upon the tips given by anonymous callers to help solve crimes. Since its inception in September 1985, over 14,000 tips have been called in, a total of 2,200 crimes have been solved and almost five million dollars worth of stolen property and narcotics have been reclaimed/seized.



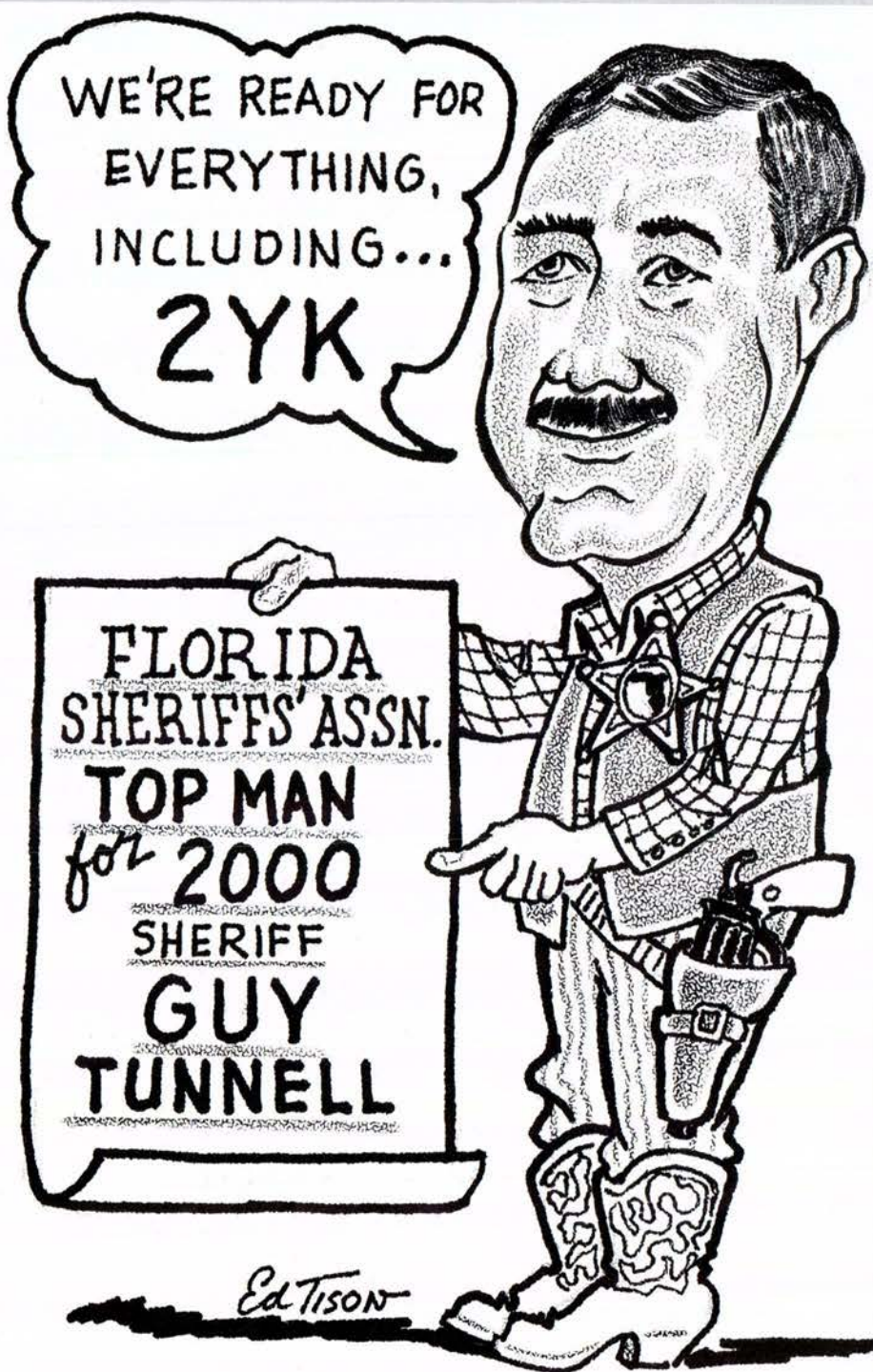
One Member's Perspective

At the Florida Sheriffs Association, we're used to getting letters to the Editor, phone calls, faxes and e-mails about the work of the Florida Sheriffs. But this one caught us by surprise.

"Retired" cartoonist, Ed Tison, was so inspired by a recent issue of *The Sheriff's Star* that he sent a caricature of FSA President, Bay County Sheriff Guy Tunnell. And he sent it all the way from his home in Newport News, VA.

"When I'm not in Virginia, I'm usually in New Smyrna Beach or Sanford, where I grew up and graduated from high school," Tison tells us.

Thanks for the entertainment, Mr. Tison. We hope to see more of your artistry in the future.



Keeping Florida (Safe And) Beautiful

Sheriff David Harvey Receives Award From Keep Florida Beautiful (KFB)

Wakulla County Sheriff David Harvey received the 1999 Keep Florida Beautiful Board of Director's Award for helping to reduce litter, promote recycling and determine the sources of trash problems in Wakulla County. Sheriff Harvey donated office space to the Keep Wakulla County Beautiful office, an affiliate of Keep America Beautiful. He also put the "Keep Wakulla County Beautiful" name and logo on 26 of his Sheriff's cruisers.

"A clean, taken-care of community is a safer community," says Sheriff Harvey. "Statistics are showing a correlation between clean neighborhoods and a lower crime rate." Because of this knowledge, Wakulla County neighborhood crime watch volunteers are now involved in clean-up activities, he says.

The Wakulla County Sheriffs Office has two Litter Control Units, a joint effort between law enforcement and Keep Wakulla County Beautiful to remove litter from area roads. The Sheriff's Office is also partnering with the USDA National Forest Service to decommission and revegetate illegal roads within the National Forests.

Sheriff Harvey is one of a growing number of law-enforcement officials working to reduce crime by combating illegal dumping and neighborhood blight. Highlands County Sheriff Howard Godwin reported in a letter to Gov. Jeb Bush this year that clean-up in targeted neighborhoods reduced crime in those areas by as much as 80 percent.

Keep Florida Beautiful honors Floridians who are taking greater responsibility for their community environments. They cited Sheriff Harvey's partnership with KWCB as a model for effectively reducing litter



Wakulla County Sheriff David Harvey, far right, receives the 1999 Keep Florida Beautiful Board of Director's award for helping to reduce litter, promote recycling and determine the sources of trash problems in his county. Pictured with him are Marj Jacques (left), executive director of Keep Wakulla County Beautiful, and Frank Walper, executive director of Keep Florida Beautiful.

and illegal dumping through grass roots, community-based programs.

Metro-Dade Law Enforcement Receives Keep Florida Beautiful Award

The Metro-Dade Police Department's Environmental Investigations Unit (EIU) and Officer David Comesanas were recognized for their efforts to enforce litter laws and reduce the incidence of graffiti in Metro-Dade County.

The Environmental Investigations Unit (EIU) received the 1999 KFB Litter Law Enforcement Award for their efforts to combat illegal dumping. The EIU was created to combat illegal dumping, mainly in cooperation with Miami-Dade Solid Waste Management's Illegal Dumping Unit (IDU). The EIU and IDU work jointly to investigate, arrest and prosecute violators of environmental laws. In 1998, there were 86 felony and 21 misdemeanor arrests, 901 investigations, and 248 citations totaling \$96,650. Offenders must also make restitution and be personally involved in the clean-up process.

Community Service Officer David

Comesanas was presented the 1999 KFB Litter Law Enforcement Outstanding Personal Achievement Award for his "one-man assault on graffiti in his district." He linked himself with the Kendall Community and has organized numerous community paint-outs involving schools, churches and civic organizations. During 1997, 389 locations were identified and painted. During the first six months of 1999, Comesanas painted more than 420 locations—volunteering hundreds of hours of his own time. He also established a district graffiti hotline so that citizens can report incidents or concerns. To speed up the "paint over" process, Officer Comesanas carries overalls and paint in his police vehicle and stops whenever necessary to paint over newly "decorated" surfaces. In July of 1998, he was selected Police Officer of the Year by the Citizens' Crime Watch of Miami-Dade County.

For more information about cleaning up your community, contact Keep Florida Beautiful, 2615 N. Monroe Street, Suite 200, Tallahassee, Florida 32303-4027; telephone 850-385-1528; or visit their website: www.KeepFLbeautiful.org.

Real Life Heroes

While on routine patrol in the early-morning hours of May 8, 1999, Hernando County Deputy David Lewis saw smoke and flames coming from a house. Deputy Lewis quickly called the fire department and joined deputies Scott Card, Brian Mott, James Terry and Brandon Ross to check the house for occupants.

When they heard banging and moaning inside, they immediately broke in. The smoke was so thick that Deputies Card and Terry had to crawl across the floor with light from the flames as their only guide.

The men discovered a victim, who was bloodied and surrounded by what was later determined to be oxygen bottles. Card and Terry pulled the wounded man to a window and passed him through to other deputies.

Within minutes after the officers were able to get out, the oxygen bottles exploded – destroying parts of the house.

Because of their keen observations, quick reactions, calmness in the face of grave danger and concern for the safety of others, Hernando County Sheriff Tom Mylander awarded Medals of Valor to Deputies James Terry and Scott Card. He gave Medals of Distinction to Deputies David Lewis, Brian Mott and Brandon Ross.



In a formal ceremony, Hernando County Sheriff Tom Mylander recognized some of the real life heroes in his agency. From left, Sheriff Mylander commends Deputies Scott Card, David Lewis, Brandon Ross and Brian Mott (not pictured: James Terry), for their efforts in saving a victim of a house fire; and Sgt. Craig Baxley, Sgt. Mike Owens and Deputy Cinda Moore for their continuous professionalism, dedication and leadership while performing daily duties.

"These officers exemplify the highest form of bravery and courage in those who are called upon to pro-

tect and serve our citizens," Sheriff Mylander said.

Brevard County Sheriff Phil Williams found himself in a sea of "Beanie Babies" following a recent charitable drive for the Camp Chance Kids Program. The Training Unit of the Brevard County Sheriff's Office made an appeal to employees, businesses and through the internet to collect 550 Beanie Babies for Santa to give out to children at the Second Annual Camp Chance Christmas party. Not only did the group reach their goal — they exceeded it. Extra Beanies were donated to the Florida Sheriff's Youth Ranch.



eLert Keeps Citizens On the Alert

**By: Steve Olson, Public Information Officer and Pete Robinson, Special Projects Coordinator
Seminole County Sheriff's Office**

"You've got mail," the computer says. The user points and clicks the mouse to see what this incoming message is all about. Is it from the boss? Is it from a friend or relative? Or, is it some unwanted advertisement from one of those sell-you.com businesses? "Better be something good," the user mutters to himself. The message opens. It's good, very good and useful.

In recent years, community policing has meant getting out of central headquarters and into neighborhoods. Police Chiefs and Sheriffs have set up district offices and apportioned their cities and counties into community service areas. Stores have offered space for officers to fill out reports and use the telephone. Deputies and police officers were encouraged to get to get out of the car, walk around and be involved. Citizens were encouraged to form Neighborhood Watches or join Citizens on Patrol. It remains one of the best ways to do business and fight crime.

But in these days of "Global Community," the way of reaching people is changing. In Florida, the Seminole County Sheriff's Office is taking Citizen Involvement to the next level: to the internet.

The computer screen glows as webmaster Pete Robinson hovers over his keyboard. A pile of reports, loaded with faces and facts about folks with felony records is being loaded into the Seminole County Sheriff's Office web site. Just when Robinson gets the pile almost finished, another pile is dropped on his desk. It's like ocean waves breaking on the beach. Only these waves are the latest felony suspects set free from Florida's prison system. The community needs to know who these people are and where

they will live. That's where the eLert system comes in.

eLert is an electronic alert subscriber list. eLert sends information via e-mail to subscribers about sex offenders, sexual predators or registered felons who have moved into the neighborhood. It offers crime alerts about traveling criminals, people with active warrants or others about whom the Seminole County Sheriff's Office believes the public should be aware. The Seminole County Sheriff's Office web site has a search engine that allows a user to search by characteristics, words or phrases. For example, a search for "burglary" will bring up a summary of each posting that refers to a burglary. The search engine then provides a link to that posting.

Getting on to the eLert system is a relatively straightforward and easy process. The computer user logs into the Seminole County Sheriff's Office web site at: www.seminolesheriff.org. On the main page is a listing, which says "E-LERT, Stay Updated by the Sheriff." The user points his mouse to a dialog box that says, "JOIN." The user clicks and the eLert questionnaire opens. They are asked to follow some simple instructions and provide a password as well as some demographic information such as name and zip code. eLert then sends back a message to verify the user is who they say they are. Once that's done, they become subscribers.

The computer user at home peers at his screen. "Hmmm, what do we have here?" Today's eLert tells of several registered felons, a sex offender or two and warns homeowners that bands of traveling criminals are moving through Central Florida. The computer user lives in zip code area 32707. By reading the eLert listing, the computer user sees a registered felon has moved into his neighborhood. If he wants to see what the registered felon looks like, he just points,

clicks and is immediately linked to a site that shows a color photo as well as the criminal record of the individual in question.

"We've actually had subscribers check up on people who do painting or maintenance work," says Pete Robinson. "In some cases, the homeowners have denied registered felons admission to their homes, all because they remembered them from eLert. And I understand that some of the Code Enforcement folks use it to see who is living in some of the homes which they must visit so they're forewarned, and hence prepared if a felon lives there."

eLert is just one part of the Seminole County Sheriff's Office award-winning web site. The Seminole County Sheriff's Office Special Projects Division assumed control of the web site from the Florida State Attorney General's Office in December 1997. Since then, visits to the site have increased from less than 500 per month to almost 6,000 per month. As of November 1, 1999, there were nearly 95,000 visits with total visits expecting to top 100,000 in December.

The web site has been showcased at the annual conference of the National Association of Bunco Investigators in St. Louis, Missouri, for the past two years. The work that has been done on the web site about traveling criminals and felons was also showcased this year at the National Association of Bunco Investigators' annual conference on Virginia Beach, Virginia. Other police agencies nationwide have used information from the site to solve crimes. For example, the Dallas (TX) Police Department uses the website — and in particular, the Traveling Criminals section — as part of their intelligence base. The Virginia State Police have asked us to post one of their 10 most wanted on our website in an effort to assist in locating one of their scam artists. Fredericksburg (VA) Police

Department has asked us to do likewise. Seminole County residents can even e-mail the Sheriff directly with their concerns.

To date, the Seminole County Sheriff's Office eLert system has close to 850 subscribers. According to Pete Robinson, some 30 new subscribers sign up per month. The system has been available since March 1998.

"The most significant thing we can do about crime is prevent it," says Seminole County Sheriff Don Eslinger. "It's very important we communicate efficiently and effectively with members of our community. One way is to empower our citizens with information."

Information is what eLert is all about. It's community policing using the information superhighway in that global neighborhood called the internet.

For more information about eLert, contact Pete Robinson at 407-665-6741 or via e-mail at probinson@seminolesheriff.org. The web site address is: www.seminolesheriff.org.

Seeking Solutions to School Violence

The Florida Sheriffs Association joined the Florida School Boards Association to create the "Select Commission on School Safety," with the goal of identifying effective strategies to control and reduce significant school safety problems.

Chaired by former Florida Governor Bob Martinez, the 32 commission volunteers included school board members, Sheriffs, police department representatives, teachers, students, superintendents,



Governor Martinez

school security personnel, county commissioners, principals and representatives from the Florida Department of Education and Florida PTA.

FSA's outgoing president, St. Johns County Sheriff Neil Perry, was vice chairman. Hillsborough County Sheriff Cal Henderson and Bay County Sheriff/FSA president Guy Tunnell were also active on the commission. FSA executive director Buddy Phillips was an ex-officio member.

"The safety of all our children is the most important goal of all Floridians," Martinez wrote in a letter on behalf of the commission. "This goal was the initiative that led us to convene."

The commission's members represented those who are on the front line every day. The group worked over a period of nine months to create the recommendations, and released a 15-page report in November.

"We believe that our schools should be a safe and secure place in which our students learn and school employees work," the report states. "To insure that Florida's schools are safe, the Select Commission identified effective strategies to use to control significant school safety problems."

The Commission's recommendations will be made to local schools, school districts, law-enforcement agencies, students and families and the state Legislature.

"Now efforts must shift to the local level," Martinez said. "School safety is everyone's business and everyone in the community must commit to form a partnership that ensures the safety of our total community."

In his appeal to all citizens, Martinez added, "Your involvement and your dedication are needed to continue to make Florida even better. Our schools are safe – our efforts are to

make them even safer."

Executive Summary of Recommendations:

- School Crisis Plans should be in place in every school in Florida.
- All personnel should be thoroughly trained in crisis procedures.
- Plans should be coordinated with all local law-enforcement officials and emergency medical personnel.
- School boards should have proper policies in place to allow implementation of crisis plans.
- Law-enforcement personnel should be involved in training for school personnel on all aspects of crisis plans.
- School personnel and law-enforcement officials should conduct a safety check of every school in the district on an annual basis.
- A toll-free "hot line" should be available for all students to anonymously report suspicious behavior, weapons, crimes, sexual harassment, abuse, etc.
- A curriculum should be established that incorporates students' responsibility for safe schools.
- Students and parents need to be fully aware of all rules and regulations of their schools.
- Students and parents need to understand the "consequences" of their actions and all administrators need to apply all rules and regulations in an equitable and consistent manner.
- School Resource Officers should be employed at every middle and high school in the state.
- School Resource Officers should be involved in teacher training – all teachers should be totally familiar with the program.
- "Safe School" designs should be a priority of all school boards bidding on new schools, renovations and remodeling.



FLORIDA SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION

HONOR ROLL

This honor roll gives special recognition to individuals who have demonstrated their commitment to progressive law enforcement by supporting the Florida Sheriffs Association as honorary members for 25 years or more.



James Rackley



Melba George



Kendrick Folsom



Burl E. Glass, Jr.



Joseph Fussell



Earl L. Daniels

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY - 25-year certificate presented by Hillsborough County Sheriff Cal Henderson to James Rackley, Ret. Capt. Melba George, Burl E. Glass, Jr., Kendrick Folsom, Joseph Fussell, Earl L. Daniels and Hector E. Figueroa.



Hector E. Figueroa.



Felix Gomez



Gary Gondek



GILCHRIST COUNTY - 30-year certificate presented by Gilchrist County Sheriff David Turner (r) to Mr. & Mrs. Samuel B. Marion.



BRADFORD COUNTY - 30-year certificate presented by Bradford County Sheriff Bob Milner (r) to Bobby Autry.



John Mardis

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY - 30-year certificate presented by Hillsborough County Sheriff Cal Henderson to Felix Gomez, Gary Gondek, John Mardis and William Downs.



William Downs



BRADFORD COUNTY - 30-year certificate presented by Bradford County Sheriff Bob Milner to Mr. and Mrs. Martin Gallion.



WASHINGTON COUNTY - 25-year certificate presented by Washington County Sheriff Fred Peel (r) to John and Becky Dougherty.



PALM BEACH COUNTY - 25-year certificate presented by Palm Beach County Sheriff Robert W. Neumann (r) to Nathan Fleischer.



PALM BEACH COUNTY - 30-year certificate presented by Palm Beach County Sheriff Robert W. Neumann (r) to John Hagler.



FLORIDA SHERIFFS YOUTH RANCHES

HONOR ROLL

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.



T. LUCIE COUNTY – Presented by St. Lucie County Major David G. Walters to Mariko Heimer.



HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY – Presented by Hillsborough County Sheriff Cal Henderson (r) to Mr. & Mrs. Blake Makinson.



COLUMBIA COUNTY – Presented by Columbia County Sheriff Frank Owens (L) to Lloyd Adams, President CNB and Mr. and Mrs. Whitaker.



Mr. and Mrs. Whitaker

New Lifetime Honorary Members

Mr. and Mrs. Estes Altman
Mr. Fred Arnold
Mr. Ronald T. Aussner
Miss M. Luzona Barnett
Mr. Kenneth E. Beal
Mr. and Mrs. William G. Benisch
Mr. Chris Benzing
Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Bridle, Sr.
Mr. and Mrs. Oliver J. Brown
Mr. Luther Butler, Sr.
Cash America Pawn Orlando
Mr. Michael J. Clare
Mr. and Mrs. Norman G. Clothier
Mr. and Mrs. John A. Connell
Mr. and Mrs. Wallace C. Cooley
Cooley Construction, Inc.
Mr. and Mrs. Gary J. Cornwell
Mrs. Muriel L. Covington
Mr. and Mrs. Alfred R. Croft, Jr.
Mr. Joseph A. Croughan
J. Fred Danker Family Foundation, Inc.
Mrs. Lucille Davis
Dr. and Mrs. Jim Dickert
Mr. and Mrs. Fred DiMartino
Eagle Buick-GMC Truck, Inc.
Homosassa
Capt. Joseph A. Fontana
Gateway Girl Scout Council
Brownie Troop 1058
Lake City
Mr. and Mrs. Jack L. Gaylord
Mr. and Mrs. William H. Gentzlinger
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Gravius
Mr. and Mrs. Jimmie Green
Mrs. Marilyn Greenwald
Mrs. Dorothy B. Harrelson
Mr. and Mrs. John T. Hartwell
Mrs. Mary Agnes Heath
Hon. Harry G. Hinckley, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Donald James Hood
Mr. and Mrs. Francis Hull
Jansport
Mr. and Mrs. A. Kenneth Jensen
Mr. Carl Johnson
Mr. and Mrs. Gene Johnson
Mr. and Mrs. Larry Kelly
Ms. Helen Kenyon

Ms. Lisa Koball
Mrs. Morgan M. Kraan
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur C. Locke
Loyal Order of Moose
#1903 Land O'Lakes Lodge
Mrs. Mabel W. McAfee
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel McInenly
Mr. James D. Miller
Mr. and Mrs. Raymond A. Miotk
Mr. Sherwood Murphy
Mr. Christopher C. Nast
Mr. Mike Nathanson
New England Electric
Mr. Michael Newman
Capt. and Mrs. Daniel J. O'Leary
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Parker
Mr. Warren A. Peirce
Mrs. Mary H. Pressley
Mr. and Mrs. Steven Primo
Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Reddin
Mr. Francis Reid
Mrs. Martha Reiter
Mr. and Mrs. Franklin J. Rogers
Mrs. Margaret A. Sanders
Mr. Harry Scheiblin
Ms. Cathi Schultz
Mr. and Mrs. Karl Seith
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Sun Groves, Inc.
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Mr. Eugene L. Thompson
Mrs. Irma D. Thorsen
Tommy Thomas Chevrolet, Inc.
Trinity Services Group, Inc.
Mr. and Mrs. John Unangst
Mr. and Mrs. L. D. Vaillancourt
Mr. John Vogelpohl
Mr. and Mrs. Theodore A. Von Glahn, Jr.
Walgreen #1189 Palm Harbor
Mrs. Novell G. Ward
Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Weinstein
Mr. and Mrs. Yale Wells
Mr. Mario Williams
Mr. and Mrs. Don Worthington



HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY – Presented by Hillsborough County Sheriff Cal Henderson to George Steinbrenner, Nabisco Biscuit Co. and Mr. & Mrs. James Adair. Pictured from left: Philip McNiff, representing George Steinbrenner; Sheriff Cal Henderson; Caylor Wood, representing Nabisco Biscuit Co.; Mike Eurich, Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches and Mr. & Mrs. James Adair.



Evan Baslow



Tony Benincasa

MARTIN COUNTY – Presented by Martin County Sheriff Robert L. Crowder to Evan Baslow, Tony Benincasa, Joan Craddock, and Dr. and Mrs. Maghraj Thanvi.



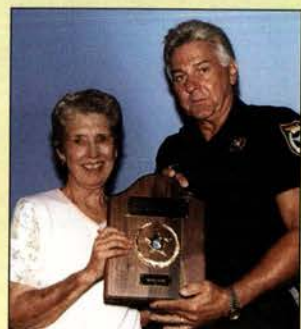
Joan Craddock



Dr. and Mrs. Maghraj Thanvi



ST. LUCIE COUNTY – Presented by St. Lucie County Undersheriff, Dennis M. Williams (left) to Paul Girouard.



MANATEE COUNTY – Presented by Manatee County Sheriff Charlie Wells to Helen Quinn.

YOUTH RANCHES HONOR ROLL CONTINUED ...



Robert Hoerle

PALM BEACH COUNTY - Presented by Palm Beach County Sheriff Robert W. Neumann to Robert Hoerle, William Plum, Susan Baum, Alan Sweetbaum, Richard House; and Doris Cohen with Lou DeMeo.



William Plum



Susan Baum



Alan Sweetbaum



Richard House



Lou DeMeo and Doris Cohen



Mr. and Mrs. Jack Bond



Mr. and Mrs. Murphy and daughter, Molly

ORANGE COUNTY - Presented by Orange County Sheriff Kevin Beary (right) and Youth Ranches Development Officer, Sandy Phillips (left) to Jack Bond and his wife, Linda Latuschka of Airline Support, Inc. and Christopher and Kristina Murphy and daughter, Molly.



John Brown



Robert Hook



Jan's Optical



Minard Mumaw

CITRUS COUNTY - Presented by Citrus County Sheriff Jeff Dawsy and Youth Ranches Development Officer Frank Kenny to John Brown, Robert Hook, Jan Ledsome representing Jan's Optical, Minard Mumaw, Scott Twyman representing Time Warner Cable, and Mrs. John Watkins.



Time Warner Cable



Mrs. John Watkins

SEMINOLE COUNTY - Presented by Youth Ranch staff to Joseph Tuvelle and his wife, Nancy (not pictured).



DUVAL COUNTY - Presented by several Youth Ranchers and Development Officer David Kritzmacher to Wilma McDonnell.

Attention Members:

Are you moving south for the winter? Please send us . . .

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

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. Just cut out the current label, paste it on the outline below, then write your new address next to it and return it to:

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

Or, if you prefer, fax it to: (850) 878-8665

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Area code/phone _____

VINE To Help Victims of Violent Crime in Broward County

This past October, Broward County Sheriff Ken Jenne announced a new program available to victims of violent crime in Broward County. It's called VINE: Victim Information and Notification Everyday. VINE is a computer system that's linked to the booking computer at the Broward County main jail. If a crime victim is registered with VINE, its computer will call them whenever their attacker is being transferred to another facility or is being released from jail. The

victim can also call VINE anytime day or night to check on their attacker's whereabouts. VINE gives victims peace of mind, and time to take action, in case they and their families need to take shelter.

Broward County is one of only two counties in the country that offers this service in English, Spanish and Creole. That means Haitian-American crime victims can get this critical information in the language they understand best. VINE is completely confidential and is free. No tax money is used to pay for VINE's operation as it is funded by a federal grant.

Sheriff Jenne also announced a related program called the Victim Assistance Cellular Telephone Pro-



Sheriff Ken Jenne

gram. Thanks to a partnership between the Broward Sheriff's Office and AT&T, crime victims are carrying refurbished cell phones programmed to call two numbers: VINE and 911. No matter where a crime victim is in Broward County, they can check on their attacker, or call 911 in an emergency.

While these two services are provided by the Broward County Sheriff's Office, they are available to every law-enforcement agency in Broward County, and to every victim of violent crime, regardless of where they live in the county.

Identification Bracelets Help Orange County Lawmen Identify Individuals With Special Needs

By: Jim Solomons
Public Information Officer
Orange County Sheriff's Office

During the early morning hours on May 14, a terrified 82-year-old woman made a frantic 9-1-1 call to the Orange County Sheriff's Office. A man was breaking into her home. Within minutes two deputies arrived at the scene and confronted the suspect who was still on the front porch of the house.

The deputies identified themselves and repeatedly ordered the man to put his hands up. He did not. Instead, the suspect turned and ran towards the two deputies in the pre-dawn darkness. Showing tremendous restraint as the six foot, 225 pound suspect charged towards them, the deputies physically brought the suspected burglar to the ground and, after a physical struggle, were able to restrain and arrest him. When the suspect *refused* to identify himself or answer any of the deputy's questions he was transported to jail and booked as a "John Doe." He sat there for nearly 36 hours until it became apparent that Mr. Doe was mentally challenged.

Mr. Doe was actually Curtis McFarley. He is developmentally disabled and functions on the level of a five-year-old. McFarley had walked away from his home late one night and became confused when he attempted to return. He had gone to the wrong home, thinking it was his, where the deputies confronted and arrested him. During the confrontation and struggle, McFarley became increasingly frightened, confused, and was not able to tell the deputies anything about himself.

Curtis McFarley's brush with the law served as the catalyst for the Med-



Orange County Sheriff Kevin Beary presents Curtis McFarley with the first Medical Security Program identification bracelet. McFarley's inadvertent brush with the law served as the catalyst for the new program that will benefit developmentally disabled citizens living in Central Florida.

ical Security Program (MSP). One of the first programs of its kind in the nation, the MSP is a collaborative effort between the Orange County Sheriff's Office and the Mental Health Association of Central Florida, Orange County Corrections, Pathways Drop-In-Center, Lakeside Alternatives, Inc., and Florida Hospital.

MSP offers free registration for residents of Orange, Lake, Seminole, Osceola, and Brevard Counties who, for reasons relating to mental disabilities, may wander, come in contact with law enforcement, or fail to return home when expected. Registered individuals will be given a bracelet with an identification number engraved on it and, if requested, an identification card.

A nine-digit number on the bracelet identifies MSP participants. Law enforcement officers coming into

contact with a person wearing one of the bracelets will quickly be able to determine who the person is, what type of special needs they may have, and their emergency contact information through their communications centers. "This program has proven to be relatively simple to implement, cost-effective, and has the potential to benefit a large number of people we come into contact with day in and day out," said Orange County Sheriff Kevin Beary. "It serves as a prime example of how the public and private sectors can identify a potential problem that affects the community and work together to produce a viable solution to quickly resolve it."

To learn more about the Medical Security Program or for registration information call the Mental Health Association of Central Florida at 407-843-1563.