



DECEMBER 2010

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A Message From Your Sheriff



The holidays are a time to enjoy family fun and traditions. It's also a time to think about what we can do to bring joy and happiness to others we encounter. Okaloosa County citizens have always been generous in their efforts to help their neighbors and the less fortunate. As we focus on reaching out to others and spreading holiday cheer, don't forget to also be alert to ways to keep yourself and your loved ones safe. The holiday safety tips we're sharing here are applicable year-round. We hope you have a safe and happy Christmas season!

Sheriff Larry Ashley

If you will be out of town for the holidays contact the Sheriff's Office to be put on our vacation watch list. Our 24 hour phone numbers are 651-7400 for South County and 689-5705 for North County.

Holiday Safety Awareness

Personal Safety.....

- Park in a well lit area and be alert
- Carry only credit cards you intend to use
- Don't leave visible packages or valuables in your car

Residential Safety.....

- Be extra cautious to lock doors and windows when you leave
- Put Indoor and outdoor lights on automatic timers.
- Do not display holiday gifts near windows or doors



Driving Safety.....

- Report aggressive or impaired drivers by dialing 651-7400 for South County or 689-5705 for North County.
- If you drink please designate a sober driver.

Protect your business:

- Keep business well lit especially around doors, windows, or other entry points.
- Remove expensive items from window displays at night.
- Don't keep large sums of cash on hand.
- Leave cash register open and empty after closing.
- Check parking lot for good lighting and unobstructed views.

245 195 260



OCSO LAUNCHES CRIMEREPORTS.COM



A **new online crime-mapping tool** allows you to track crimes in your neighborhood and it's free!

CrimeReports.com lets the OCSO share crime data with the public through new technology. The system is now available on our website at www.sheriff-okaloosa.org.

CrimeReports.com is the largest and most accurate online resource for up-to-date crime and sex offender information. Sheriff Larry Ashley said it's a win/win situation for the agency and the public. "The more people know about crime in an area, the more likely they are to take action to prevent it and improve their safety. It could be something as simple as keeping your car doors locked or turning on the outside lights at night."

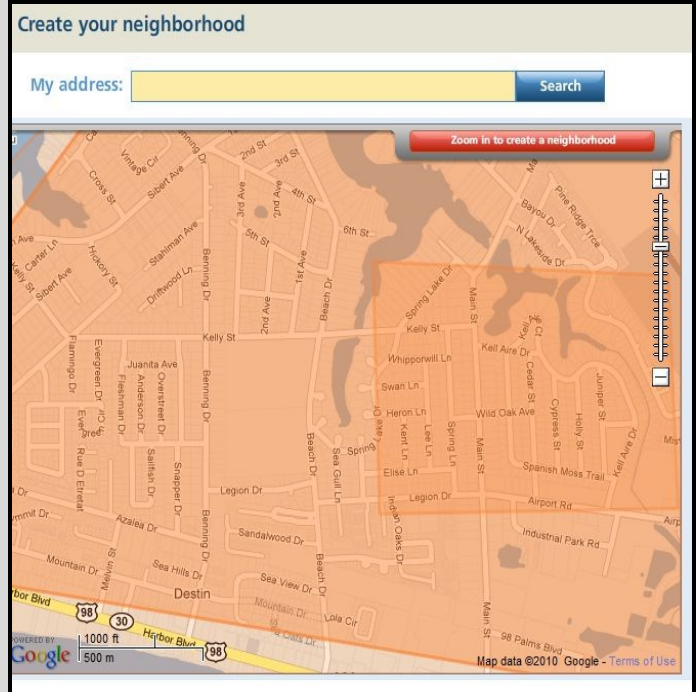
Another significant feature of CrimeReports.com is that it allows you to sign up for **free daily, weekly, or monthly e-mail crime alerts for your neighborhood**. There's a newly available free iPhone app so you can stay informed no matter where you go. In addition, CrimeReports.com publishes sex offender data for all fifty states and allows users to report a crime as well.

Sign up now!



Safer communities. One neighborhood at a time.

Get started now



Good Luck at the FDLE
To former Sheriff Ed
Spooner, new Special
Agent In Charge of
Field Services,
Investigative
Technology and High
Liability Training.





A NEW BEGINNING



TEN PROMOTED TO SERGEANT

The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office announces the promotions of ten sworn officers to the rank of Sergeant. The promotions become effective December 12th.

Those promoted to the rank of Sergeant are: Investigator Bill Jerard, Investigator Shannon Tait, Investigator DJ Folley and Investigator Ron Kimble along with Corporal Micah Redmon, Corporal Mark Raiche, Corporal Bill Griffith, Deputy Jeff Morgan, Deputy Jim Duval, and Deputy Jason Fulghum.

Sheriff Larry Ashley offered his congratulations to the new Sergeants saying, "Sergeants serve as the front-line field supervisors for the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office, functioning as organizers, problem solvers, and agency leaders. They are a critical link between the policies and directives issued by the Sheriff and Command Staff and the actual implementation and performance by our deputies."





ALL POINTS BULLETIN



BANK ROBBER CAPTURED IN QUICK ORDER

The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office has charged a Mary Esther man in connection with a bank robbery Thursday, November 19th in Florosa.

Tellers at First City Bank, 2090 Highway 98, say a white male wearing a black ski mask and blue jeans held up the bank at gunpoint around 3:45 p.m. and fled in a white two-door Buick. An Okaloosa County deputy spotted a car matching that description eastbound on Highway 98 and attempted a traffic stop.

The driver fled but then lost a tire in a marshy area on south Highway 98 east of the Hurlburt Field Gate. He ran from the car and deputies captured him a short time later on a small island in Santa Rosa Sound.

The defendant is identified as Bryan Douglas Rennels, DOB 6-2-1982, of 1650 Highway 98 in Mary Esther. When apprehended Rennels had in his possession a black ski mask and a large amount of money. He is charged with armed robbery, resisting arrest by fleeing/eluding, and being a habitual traffic offender.



**OCSO WINS YMCA
CHARITY
FIRETRUCK PULL!
60 FEET IN 19.7
SECONDS!**





INTEGRITY MATTERS



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

The holidays are here and it will soon be Christmas Day and the excitement of opening presents and the smells of pies and fresh bread will fill many homes across the county. Yet, the most important gifts are not under the tree but in our hearts. One of those priceless gifts is “integrity”. It is what people cannot see that determines what they do see. An article in USA Today (4/9/97) summarizes just how important integrity is.

Scientists now say that a series of slits, not a giant gash, sank the Titanic. The opulent, 900-foot cruise ship sank in 1912 on its first voyage from England to New York. Fifteen hundred people died in the worst maritime disaster of the time. The most widely held theory is that the ship hit an iceberg, which opened a huge gash in the side of the liner. But an international team of divers and scientist recently used sound waves to probe through the wreckage, buried in the mud two-and-a-half miles deep. Their discovery? The damage was surprisingly small. Instead of a huge gash, they found six relatively narrow slits across the six watertight holds. “Everything that could go wrong did,” said William Garzke Jr., a naval architect who helped the team with their analysis. Small damage, below the waterline and invisible to most, can sink a huge ship. In the same way, small compromises, unseen to others, can ultimately sink a person’s character.

Even what one may consider as small cracks in our integrity have the potential to cause great damage, to ourselves and others. There is no honorable vocation, no profession where integrity is an option.



OCSO Chaplain Larry Carter

