



**NOVEMBER
2011**



A Message From Your Sheriff



During this special time of year we all like to reflect on what's important in our lives and to cherish the time we have to celebrate the Christmas season with family and friends.

I also want to reflect on the vital contributions of our deputies who will be on patrol while others are enjoying the holiday at home.

We have many things to be thankful for in this wonderful community, including the dedicated men and women who serve our public safety mission every day of every year.

Merry Chistmas to all!

Sheriff Larry R. Ashley

**RIDE ALONG AND
GET TO KNOW US!**



**Okaloosa County
Sheriff's Office
Sheriff Larry Ashley
Citizens Academy**

**January 3 through March 27, 2012
Tuesdays nights from 6p.m. to 9p.m.
At the Okaloosa County Sheriff's
Administrative Building**

The Sheriff's Citizens Academy Includes:
Crime Scene
Sexual Predator Unit
Fugitive Warrants
Criminal Investigations
Narcotics Enforcement
Traffic & DUI
Domestic Violence & Sex Crimes
Ride along with a deputy, tour of the court house,
Tour of communications, and going to the firing range
(and more!!!!)

**For more information contact:
Ashley Bailey
Crime Prevention Specialist
(850)651-7153 or e-mail abailey@sheriff-okaloosa.org
www.sheriff-okaloosa.org**





DAYS ON THE RUN OVER FOR DESTIN MURDER SUSPECT



Courtesy the US Marshals Office and Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office:

A Crestview man on the run nearly two weeks following a murder in Destin Nov. 15th is behind bars now in Okaloosa County. 23 year old Deaundros Blackshear is accused of shooting to death 21 year old Junior Ferguson of Jamaica. Investigators say Blackshear and co-defendant Arderius Warren of Crestview set up a deal with Ferguson and Peter Frazier to buy marijuana. During the exchange, Blackshear is accused of pulling out a gun, killing Ferguson and wounding Frazier. Warren was arrested on drug charges by the OCSO Nov. 16th and charged the next day with murder and armed robbery.

Okaloosa Deputies began pursuing Blackshear throughout North Florida and South Alabama after the incident. The US Marshals Florida Regional Fugitive Task Force was contacted by Okaloosa investigators after getting information Blackshear may have fled to Madison County, Florida. Task Force members working with the Madison Sheriff's Office identified several family members and known associates of Blackshear in that area and eventually pinpointed a home on Anderson Pond Way. **Officers surrounded the residence and found Blackshear hiding in a room with two small children. He surrendered after a brief standoff.** 18-year old Reginald Bradshaw of Shalimar meantime also faces a murder charge in connection with the case. He is accused of driving Blackshear and Warren to the site of the drug deal.



Warren



Bradshaw



Blackshear



CHECK OUT CHARITIES BEFORE GIVING



Are your mailboxes filling up with year-end solicitations for charitable donations?

Deciding to whom to give is not always easy. There are no laws that require charities to use a specific percentage of your donations on charitable purposes. It is up to each of us to make sure our charity giving is used wisely for those in need, instead of lining the pockets of for-profit fund raisers and questionable organizations.



The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office recommends:

- Make an annual charitable giving budget and list – and stick to it! Keep your list to a manageable number of charities.
- Don't judge a charity by an impressive sounding name. Many organizations have names similar to other well-known charities.
- Ask for a written description of programs, staff, finances, and tax deductibility of the charity, such as an annual report.
- Most telephone appeals are made by salespeople employed by professional fund raisers. Most of your donation goes to the fund raiser, not to the charity.

For detailed reports that rate charities and tell you how your donations will be used, go to these national charity watchdog resources on the Internet:

www.give.org

www.charitynavigator.org

For information on local charities, contact the Better Business Bureau:

www.bbb.org or call your local BBB at 850-429-0026.



OPERATION TWINKIE & MORE!



OPERATION TWINKIE!



Army Ranger School training is an intense, sleep-deprived two-month course designed to teach soldiers light infantry skills and leadership. Those that finished the program on Friday December 2nd and were heading back to camp around 10:30 at night however were met by a group of folks who wanted to say thanks for your contributions and sacrifices. **Members of the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office, local FBI, First Baptist Church of Fort Walton Beach, First Baptist Church of Niceville, Chaplain Charlie Shields and others showed up with cases of Twinkies and words of encouragement for the exhausted troops.** "Operation Twinkie" was a small gesture with a big message! Thanks to our military for your service.



Thanks to Crystal Beach Development's Jay Odom for his donation of \$5000 to help fund the teen driving safety program, "Teen Driver Challenge"!



**Thanks also to Florida Youth Ranch Supporters!
Larry McManus -Distinguished Service Award—30 years
Billy Gartman - Distinguished Service Award—30 years
Harry Gates - Distinguished Service Award - 25 years of support as Honorary Members of the Florida Sheriff's Association!**



PUBLIC SAFETY ART SHOW A SUCCESS



The Public Safety Department of Northwest Florida State College teamed up with local artists to create striking works of art depicting people, places, and situations relating to a wide range of public safety disciplines. The paintings, a variety of shapes and sizes, were on display and up for sale at the "Hearts in Art" art show November 30th and December 1st. A portion of the funds raised is being donated to the "Public Safety Memorial Fund." The fund was established to raise money to build a memorial area near the Public Safety building on the Niceville campus to honor local heroes killed in the line of duty.





GETTING INVOLVED & GIVING BACK



GUNS & HOSES CHALLENGE



SUPPORTING SPECIAL OLYMPICS





HELPING THE HELPERS



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

The Purpose of Chaplaincy: To help the Helpers.

December 31st will mark the end of a tremendous time of my life: the privilege of serving as a Chaplain of the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office. Let me share with you some closing thoughts.

The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office is our county's premier front line law enforcement agency. Our accreditation is the cherry on top of what we already know – our SO is the best of the best!

I became a chaplain just after Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast. First responder fatigue was a real problem in the areas hit hard.

After my church became an overnight shelter for Louisiana refugees, I saw how our small but significant contribution strained our little church to feed and house @ 50 people. After hearing many stories even back to 9/11 about the toil on first responders and their families, I jumped on an opportunity to get in a position to do whatever I could to help those who have sworn to serve and protect our community: chaplaincy.

Sheriff Larry Ashley (then Maj. Ashley) was our awesome liaison to the SO (he has tirelessly always supported our work). Working with our then lead chaplain Stan Newton, they developed a first rate training and development program to build a strong cadre of local pastors to serve our SO as chaplains. In the subsequent years our chaplains have done our very best to mutually carry each other's burdens within the SO family as we have together served our entire county.

After being privileged to serve in this role the past 5 and ½ years, I am nearing the end of my time in this role as I am beginning a new career path myself. **Let me say how profoundly grateful I am to have been allowed to be a part of this extended SO family. Experiencing disappointments and tragedies - including heartaches, laughter and tears from the shooting range trainings, ride alongs, and team star road races – it has been a life changing experience that I will always cherish and never forget. My heart is filled with many rich memories.** For that, I am so grateful to all of you that have touched my life and allowed me into your life as well. As all of our chaplains, I am honored by everyone who has let us be a part of your heart and life experiences. I am most grateful to Sheriff Ashley who led the way in opening his life, both personally and professionally, to our chaplaincy.

My final comment is an appeal. Our chaplains are here to do our very best to use our capabilities to minister to everyone in the SO family, both sworn and non-sworn. Do remember that whatever you share with a chaplain is strictly protected by confidentiality laws that are in place to foster total openness to enable us to be the best possible resource for you, our SO family. You honor our participation in the SO as you allow us to do what we long to do: help in any way we can to serve you who serve us all.

Sincerely,
Chaplain Brad Bynum