



February 2011

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## A Message From Your Sheriff



The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office has teamed up with its counterparts in our region to try to educate the public about a new danger that had gained popularity in some segments of society, the abuse of so-called "bath salts".

These "bath salts" are a cheap drug fad being ingested in various ways and causing often severe physical and psychological reactions.

The substances are now illegal under an emergency rule issued by the Florida Attorney General.

Please help us get out the word!

Sincerely,

*Larry Ashley*



# BATH SALTS POSE DANGER TO PUBLIC

The Florida Attorney General has issued an emergency order making the sale or possession of so-called "bath salts" a third degree felony.

Despite not being made for human consumption, some users had been smoking, swallowing, snorting, or injecting the drug, which prior to the ruling, could be purchased at smoke shops, gas stations, convenience stores and the like.



The chemical name for the psychoactive stimulant is methylenedioxypyrovalerone (MDPV) and some refer to it as fake cocaine. Bath salts were typically sold in 500 mg packs and cost around forty dollars. Nicknames include Super Coke, Cloud 9, Ivory Wave, Boss, and White Lightning.

These designer substances can produce violence, delirium, paranoia, hallucinations, and other dangerous psychotic effects.

Okaloosa Sheriff Larry Ashley said, "It is critical that law enforcement work to educate the public about dangerous and potentially life-threatening incidents users have experienced."

OCSO Lt. Mike Card added, "**It's Russian-roulette. You're playing with your life. You never know what the effects are going to be. You could get end up in the hospital or you could end up in the ground.**"



# OCSO HOSTS POLICE CANINE FIELD TRIALS



- \* The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office will host the United States Police Canine Association Region One 2011 Field Trials and portions of the event are open to the public to watch police K-9 teams in action! More than 100 teams from across Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, and Louisiana will be tested for certification in obedience, agility, all aspects of search work—from suspect search to narcotics detection - and criminal apprehension.
- \* It takes place at the **Morgan Sports Complex** at 4200 Indian Bayou Trail in Destin from February 21st through the 25th.

Several phases are open to the public.



**Tuesday, February 22nd**  
8 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Obedience and Agility Tests

**Thursday, February 23rd**  
8 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Criminal Apprehension Tests



**PUBLIC DEMONSTRATION**  
**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23RD**  
**7 P.M.**  
**JOE ETHEREDGE STADIUM**  
**CHOCTAWHATCHEE HIGH SCHOOL**



# STEPPING UP & GIVING BACK



MORE THAN \$8,000 WAS RAISED FOR ST. JUDE'S CHILDRENS RESEARCH HOSPITAL DURING THE 3RD ANNUAL COPS VS. CUMULUS BASKETBALL FUNDRAISER.

THANKS TO THE TEAMS, FANS, SPONSORS, AND PARTICIPANTS FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS HELPING SICK KIDS.

TEAM OCSO VICTORY!



**ELKS LODGE 1795** RAISED SEVERAL THOUSAND DOLLARS FOR OLEBA - OKALOOSA LAW ENFORCEMENT BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION - WITH WILD HOG ROAST!





## OCISO OPENS NEW EAST DISTRICT OFFICE



The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office has reorganized into three separate geographic districts and is opening a new East District Field Office with donated space at the Destin Commons complex on Legendary Drive. This change is a reallocation of current resources which requires no hiring of additional personnel.

The East District will serve Okaloosa Island, Rocky Bayou, Bluewater Bay, and the unincorporated areas around Niceville and Destin. The new district office will be staffed with four Sergeants, two Lieutenants, one Captain, and an Investigator. It will be used for patrol shift briefings and other agency business for the East District's approximately 50 patrol deputies.

The Destin Substation on Stahlman Avenue remains a manned substation with shift deputies, an Investigator, the Marine Unit, Traffic Unit, and front desk personnel for walk-in service.



The other two districts are the North District or unincorporated area north of the Shoal River and the Central District which includes unincorporated parts of Fort Walton Beach, Mary Esther, Shalimar, portions of Eglin, Hurlburt Field, and surrounding areas.

Sheriff Ashley said the change allows for more efficient allocation of manpower and resources to specific zones that share similar type needs. It will provide for better disbursement of resources during congested periods of traffic. In addition, it improves accountability, it provides for better performance measurements of patrol and crime prevention strategies, and it will help segregate communications traffic on the agency's overly-congested central district primary radio channel.

**“We are extremely grateful to the people at Turnberry Associates and Destin Commons for providing this efficient workspace at no cost to Okaloosa County taxpayers,”** said Sheriff Ashley. These types of community partnerships help us remain efficient during times of diminishing resources.”



# 2010 POSSE MEMBER OF YEAR



The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Posse has named its 2010 member of the year and for first time in the organization's forty-six year history; it's someone earning the award for the second time.

**Lt. Tami Cokonougher** has been a member of the volunteer group since 1989. She has contributed an average of six-hundred to eight-hundred volunteer hours a year for the past five years. Lt. Cokonougher not only works countless details, but also takes care of the Posse's records keeping, organizes training sessions, and orders supplies. In 2010, she was instrumental in setting up the Posse Auxiliary Training School.

Cokonougher earned the Posse Member of the Year award in 1995 as well.

**Okaloosa Sheriff Larry Ashley said, "Lt. Cokonougher is one of the most dedicated volunteers you'll find anywhere. She always steps up to the plate when needed and this agency, along with our entire community, owes her a debt of gratitude for her efforts."**



The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office also recognized the significant contributions of longtime Posse Members **Tom Strawser, 20 years of service, and Lee Gander, 12 years of service.**

**Best of luck in future endeavors!**



# OUTSTANDING CITIZEN AWARDS



Three Northwest Florida residents earned the “**OCSO OUTSTANDING CITIZEN AWARD**” for their efforts in responding to what appeared to be a reckless vehicle on Highway 98 September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

John Paravalos of Pensacola was driving west on Highway 98 near the Hurlburt Field front gate when he saw a car swerving from side to side of both lanes and going into the median. He placed his vehicle in front of the car, forced a slow stop, ran to the driver’s door, placed the car in park, and turned it off.

Terence James of Navarre and 60-year old Richard Allen Turner of Fort Walton Beach also stopped to see if the driver was in need of medical assistance.

Deputies say the woman driving the car had become disoriented due to mistakenly taking the wrong medication prior to heading home so her husband could take her to a doctor’s appointment.

No charges were filed and due to the men’s quick actions, no one was injured.



*SHERIFF LARRY ASHLEY IS  
RECOGNIZED AS FLORIDA’S  
NEWEST SHERIFF AT THE  
FLORIDA SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION  
MID-WINTER CONFERENCE.*





# DO YOU LOVE YOUR JOB?



## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Each of us has a desire to love and be loved. We demonstrate our love in many unique yet familiar ways. Gentlemen, you may confess that you love your wife and would do anything to please her and make her happy. Ladies, you love that Neanderthal man that you call your husband and strive each day to understand his unusual ways.

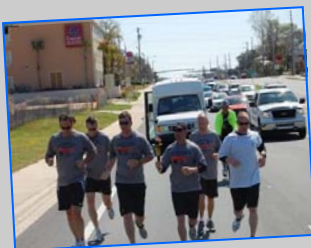
Love is a wide open experience that most of us find somewhat challenging. That being said, we would say without hesitation, "I love my spouse!"

Those who make law enforcement their career of choice would say in complete unison, "I love my job!" Whether it is the desire to help others or to keep our communities safe or the need to control each situation that arises, law enforcement professionals love their job.

Love, according to I Corinthians 13:1-13, has a very clear definition. Love does not lose its temper, it suffers through inconveniences. Love is kind and takes time to be considerate and helpful. Love does not bring attention to itself but draws others to it. Love is not impolite, does not provoke and love does not capitalize on the faults of others.

That is what love looks like. Whatever talents we possess, they are of no value without love. Whatever methods we try to make our lives run smoothly, they have no value without love. Apply the truth of love to your relationships both personal and professional and then you can truly say, "I love my job!"

OCSO HEAD CHAPLAIN KEVIN DAVIDSON



**COMING NEXT MONTH:**  
PHYSICAL ABILITIES TEST COURSE READY TO GO  
GEARING UP FOR TORCH RUN 2011  
GET READY FOR SPRING BREAK  
K-9 CERTIFICATION TRIALS WRAP-UP

