



JANUARY 2011

JOIN US ON FACEBOOK AND AT
WWW.SHERIFF-OKALOOSA.ORG

A Message From Your Sheriff



The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office starts off 2011 with firm goals of improving our service and performance through a series of initiatives. Those initiatives include maintaining our hard-earned accreditation, enhancing our deputies physical fitness, consolidation of communication services, and improving our transparency through better use of our web site and other technology.

You'll be hearing more on all of those throughout the year. We wish everyone a safe and happy 2011.

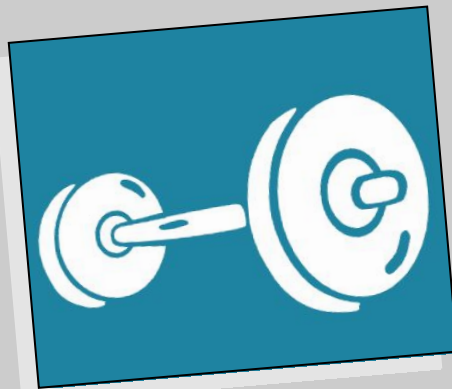
Sincerely,

Okaloosa Sheriff Larry Ashley

GETTING THE GREEN IN GOOD SHAPE !

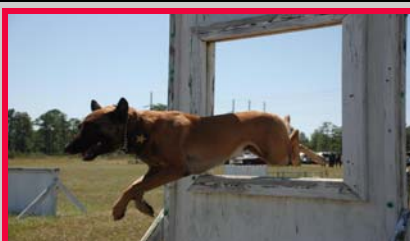
One of the initiatives for the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office in 2011 under Sheriff Larry Ashley is implementation of an updated Wellness and Physical Abilities Testing Program.

The order sets out the Sheriff's expectation that employees be able to meet the physical demands of law enforcement duties while also striving to maintain personal wellness. Those actions not only lessens their chances of injury or sickness, but also helps to control agency funded health care costs.



Along with the obvious benefits, Sheriff Ashley says employees need to be sufficiently fit to perform under adverse conditions, pursue and subdue subjects, and appropriately protect and defend themselves and others.

Sheriff Ashley says the updated policy is modeled after a successful program operated by the Citrus County Sheriff's Office and employees will get specialized attention from an agency Wellness Committee to help them work to meet the mandatory objectives. He adds, "We already require physical fitness to be hired, but now deputies must maintain those standards."



OCSO HOSTS SOUTHEAST
REGIONAL K-9 TRIALS
FEBRUARY 21-25!





OCSO LAUNCHES OPERATION SAFE STREETS



A four-month investigation led by the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office Street Crimes Unit, with the assistance of the Fort Walton Beach Police Department, has led to the arrest so far of twenty-two suspected street drug dealers across South Okaloosa County.

The undercover operation dubbed **"Operation Safe Streets"** came in response to citizen's complaints regarding drug dealers operating in the Sylvania Heights area but the scale of the investigation grew to include other areas within South Okaloosa County as well as in the city limits of Fort Walton Beach.

"We want the public to realize taking their tips and initiating an operation to establish enough probable cause to make an arrest that will stand up in court takes time but those tips pay off and operations like this one are proof of that", said Special Operations Commander Capt. Tony Wasden. **"We encourage the public to keep those tips coming because the problem is not just concentrated in one or two areas and we want drug dealers countywide to constantly have to look over their shoulders. We won't let up on our efforts to put them and upper level suppliers in jail. More arrests are coming."**

A round-up of the suspects began around noon on Tuesday December 28th and within the first six hours, eighteen arrests had been made.

Sheriff Larry Ashley said, "The men and women of the OCSO Street Crimes Unit work all hours of the day and night, undercover and often in potentially dangerous situations, and that work is clearly helping to make our community safer."



**MAKE SURE YOU GO TO OUR WEBSITE TO SIGN UP FOR CRIMEREPORTS.COM!
YOU CAN MONITOR CRIME IN YOUR OR OTHER NEIGHBORHOODS, SIGN UP FOR E-MAIL
CRIME ALERTS, AND KEEP TRACK OF SEXUAL OFFENDERS OR PREDATORS ADDRESSES.**



3rd ANNUAL COPS VS. CUMULUS FOR ST. JUDE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL



6 PM!

**January
29th!**

**OCSO DEPUTIES TAKE ON
CUMULUS RADIO IN
BASKETBALL RIVALRY!**



**FWB H.S.
Gym!**



**THANK YOU FOR HELPING
US HELP SICK KIDS!**





TEN EARN PROMOTIONS TO SERGEANT



Ten sworn officers were promoted to Sergeant in a ceremony at the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office December 12th. They were chosen following a rigorous selection process that included a written test, career review, performance and training evaluation, and a scenario-based appearance before an oral selection board.



Those promoted to the rank of Sergeant to fill existing positions or supplement the mid-level supervisory ranks are:
Investigator Bill Gerard, 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 said, "Sergeants are the front-line field supervisors, functioning as organizers, problem solvers, and agency leaders. They are a critical link between the policies and directives of the Sheriff and Command Staff and the actual implementation and performance by our deputies. I want to congratulate them on their outstanding accomplishments."



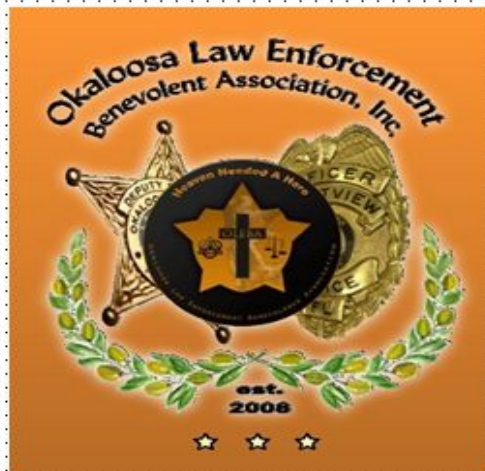


**OLEBA BENEFIT -
GOOD FOOD AND GOOD FUN
FOR GOOD CAUSE**



**ELKS LODGE 1795
BENEFIT FOR OLEBA**

**GREAT
DOOR
PRIZES!**



**ENJOY
LIVE
MUSIC!**

**JANUARY 30th ONE PM UNTIL
OKALOOSA ISLAND**

WILD HOG ROAST!

Open to the Public All Guests Must Sign in

Donations Accepted

**OLEBA IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION BENEFITING FAMILIES OF LAW
ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS SLAIN IN LINE OF DUTY.**

For more information: Contact Jack Bright at 225-2303 or at Elks Lodge 1795 at 244-5632

(NEW MEMBERSHIPS BEING ACCEPTED)



A YEAR OF OPPORTUNITY



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

The New Year has arrived and expectations are high that 2011 will be the best year yet. However, when reality sets in, most of us look at this New Year with much apprehension. What can we expect in 2011? Without a doubt, the New Year will be a year filled with vast opportunities. This year will offer us over five thousand productive hours. Those hours can be utilized to grasp the opportunities presented to us and use them for good, for evil or we can simply waste each one. This year will also be filled with heart stopping uncertainty. The uncertainty of the economy, the uncertainty of life and the uncertainty of the future will surely fill this year with much concern.

Blended with all of the apprehension and uncertainty of this year, we should recognize that the coming months will also be filled with unspeakable joys! Joy that comes from the return of loved ones that have been away for an extended period of time. Joy that comes from lives being changed and families restored. Joy from friendships that will be strengthened this year.

As we begin 2011 may each of us realize that the decisions we make this year will determine, in large part, the outcome of the coming months. *Purpose in your heart that you will allow character and integrity to have full access in your life.* We are reminded that “as a man purposes in his heart, so is he” (Proverbs 23:7). May God give each of us a wonderful year!

OCSO Head Chaplain Kevin Davidson



HAPPY NEW YEAR

