



June—July
2011



A Message From Your Sheriff



In April and in May, investigations by the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office, combined with tips to Emerald Coast Crime Stoppers, helped lead to the dismantling of two active methamphetamine labs; one in Crestview and one in the Fort Walton Beach area.

Seven people were arrested in the two cases and one was charged with child abuse for having a four-year old inside one of the homes.

These residential meth labs pose a serious danger to public health due to the use of toxic chemicals and the risk of explosions.

I want to say thank-you to the anonymous tipsters who contacted Emerald Coast Crime Stoppers. Those actions helped put an end to illegal activity that could endanger many innocent people.

Keep those tips coming!

Sincerely,

Larry Anthony

Drug Task Force Focus Pays Off



The Okaloosa County Multi-Agency Drug Task Force targets drug dealers at every level, working to put them out of business and behind bars.

A series of successful recent cases ranges from dismantling active methamphetamine labs—to making arrests for possession of cocaine with intent to distribute, cultivation of marijuana from an indoor grow, and the illegal sale of prescription drugs.





MAJ. PAUL BROWN RETIRES



One of Okaloosa County's longest serving deputies was honored during a retirement ceremony on June 25. Friends, family and co-workers joined Sheriff Ashley in congratulating Major Paul Brown for his 34 dedicated years of service to the citizens of Okaloosa County. Sheriff Ashley described Major Brown as the “epitome of the kind of law enforcement officer citizens in our community can and do embrace because of his professionalism, compassion, and willingness to go the extra mile to help”. In an interview with the Crestview News Bulletin, Major Brown had this to say when asked if he had any advice for new deputies:

“The best advice I could give to anyone starting out in law enforcement is to try to treat the people the way you would want to be treated if the situation was reversed,” he said. “Deal with them as human beings who have made mistakes but are still due respect. Treat them as best they will let you treat them in the moment.”



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE MAJOR BROWN!



TEEN DRIVER CHALLENGE!



The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office is offering the Florida Sheriff's Association's "Teen Driver Challenge" course July 26th and 27th. **The free program is designed to help teens boost their driving skills and lessen the odds of becoming involved in a crash.**

The program focuses on defensive driving techniques and evasive maneuvers. It involves a mixture of classroom instruction at the OCSO Shalimar Administration Building as well as hands-on driver training at the Northwest Florida State College driving range in Niceville.

Teens 15-19 are eligible and must have a valid learner's permit/Florida operations license and must provide their own cars.

To sign up for the popular program, which is on a first-come, first-serve basis, please visit the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office website at www.sheriff-okaloosa.org and click on the Teen Driver Challenge logo.





TRAINING FOR SUCCESS



The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office has a zero tolerance policy for driving under the influence. Deputies arrested 399 people for DUI in 2010. **The OCSO hosted free training session for its deputies, the Fort Walton Beach Police Department, Eglin Air Force Base and Hurlburt Field Security Police officers on conducting DUI investigations and field sobriety testing.** Some officers received their initial certification and others wanted refresher training to keep their skills honed!



GETTING INVOLVED AND GIVING BACK



A huge thank you to the dancers from the massive talent pool at the FWB Fred Astaire Dance Studio, and dancers from the ABC hit show "Dancing with the Stars", along with other professional athletes and all the folks who came out to watch a charity basketball game against deputies from the Okaloosa Sheriff's Office. **The event night was an entertaining, not to mention very fast-paced fundraiser for the FWB YMCA!**





OCSO YOUTH WEEK GOOD TIMES!





SPIRITUAL ARMOR



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Body armor has been used by soldiers for thousands of years. It started with thick leather hides and has included suits of jade, breastplates of bronze, chain mail and the full body metal armor of medieval knights. Today it includes body armor made of Kevlar or high molecular weight polyethylene. It can be augmented with ceramic or metal or plastic plates that slip into pockets of the armor. Over the years body armor has been an important defensive tool, but it doesn't make one invincible. Law enforcement officers are aware of that and in our own department it has been tragically brought home in the death of three of our brave officers.

As important as body armor is, even more important is the spiritual armor that you need to wear daily. Just as you would not go out on patrol with out your body armor in good shape and your weapons cleaned and in top shape, so also should you not go out even one day with out your spiritual armor and spiritual weapons in good shape.

One way to make a daily check of your spiritual armor is to use of the following prayers before going on duty and as you come off duty. Keep them in your vehicle where they can be easily seen as a reminder of the spiritual warfare you are involved with each day.

Before Going On Duty

God of Justice, as I go on duty help me to be ever mindful of the responsibility entrusted to me by the public. May I perform my duties with integrity and impartiality. Give me the bravery I need to protect the weak and helpless. Inspire me to show compassion to those who are hurt or afraid. Help me to deal with evildoers firmly and respectfully. And God of All Power, protect me and my fellow officers on duty. Let your presence be with us as we go out to serve and protect the public. Amen.

Going Off Duty

God of mercy, as I go off duty help me to be humbly satisfied with the service I have provided on behalf of the public. Be with the officers on the shift that follows mine that they may also serve faithfully. Thank you for being with me on this shift and continue to be with me as I transition from peace officer to civilian.

Help me to enjoy this time of rest and recuperation. Heal my mind and soul from the terrible things I have seen on the job. Cleanse my soul from any evil I have encountered in dealing with perpetrators of crime. I pray that you will comfort the victims I have dealt with today. And God, help me to shed the stresses of this job with the uniform so that I may be fully present to my family and my friends. Amen.

OCSO Chaplain Paul White