

# Sheriff



**Larry Ashley, Okaloosa County Sheriff**

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June 27, 2011



### **SUSPECT SENTENCED IN COLD CASE MURDER**

A man charged with the murder of a Niceville teenager twenty-two years ago plead no contest today and was sentenced for the crime.

55- year old John R. McMaster-Wade, currently serving a life sentence at the Taylor Correctional Institution for a 1990 Kidnapping, Sexual Battery and Lewd and Lascivious on child under the age of 16, will now serve 25 years to life for the 1988 murder of Ulai Sookruetai.

The 18 year old Niceville High School student disappeared from a Niceville convenience store on September 13, 1988. Her body was discovered approximately two months later on the Eglin Reservation.

McMaster-Wade was identified as a suspect early on in the initial investigation through a Crime Stoppers tip. OCSO Investigator Thomas Bowman and Special Agents with the FDLE continued to work the case for many years developing enough evidence for a Grand Jury indictment.

Approximately two years ago, FDLE began a Cold Case Review Team consisting of special agents from the FDLE, Assistant State Attorney's from the First Judicial Circuit, Police Agencies, and Sheriff's Offices within the Northwest Florida Region. The team brings together investigators from different agencies, jurisdictions, and experiences, which has been a tremendous help in getting new perspectives on these cases. The team chose the Sookruetai case as one of the first to review. Ulai's mother and step-father, who currently reside outside of the U.S., were informed by the State's Attorney's Office and FDLE.



The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office is accredited by the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation.

"The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office provides equal access and equal opportunity in employment and services and does not discriminate"

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Ulai Sookruetai was featured in 2008 on the FDLE's Cold Case Playing Cards, Deck #3, which was distributed to 65,000 inmates in all 67 county jails and to 141,000 supervised offenders serving on state probation.

For further information, please contact Assistant State Attorney John Molchan at 850-595-4200.

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