



# The Sheriff's Report

Official newsletter for citizens served by the Pasco Sheriff's Office

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[www.PascoSheriff.com](http://www.PascoSheriff.com)



**Bob White,  
Sheriff**

**“But if just 10 percent of such contacts proved successful ... that could be saving Pasco taxpayer's tens of thousands of dollars!”**

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- Agency members recognized for service

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## *From the Sheriff's desk*

### Volunteers help reduce costs of missed court dates

Pasco Sheriff's Office volunteers are ringing up Pasco citizens who have upcoming court dates to remind them to appear. Why? Because citizens who miss their required court date will automatically have a warrant issued for their arrest. That starts a long and time-consuming process that will end up with that person in jail, all of which costs taxpayers' money.

Last year, there were 4,177 “failure to appear” arrests made by the Pasco Sheriff's Office. Of course, some of those arrests were made for people who probably never intended to show up to face the judge. But some citizens move, or just plain forget about their court date. Let me be clear: It is the citizen's responsibility to remember their court date and to keep their address and phone number updated so any agency in the justice system can contact them. But if we can reduce the number of people who fail to appear in court because they didn't receive their summons or they just plain forgot about the date, we can reduce the amount of overcrowding in our jail and the amount of money it costs to process the citizens in these arrests. More agencies than the Pasco Sheriff's Office are involved in such arrests. The Pasco Clerk of the Court, the State Attorney's Office, and Parole and Probation might also have to incur costs while processing the individual.

We started the program in May of this year, when volunteers began calling citizens the week before their scheduled court date. Since then, our hard-working volunteers average 650 contacts a month, either with defendants, a third person they lived with, or their voice mail. Hundreds more each month are eliminated from the list due to the fact that they were already in jail again or in a supervised release program that requires them to make regular calls to their

detention supervisors.

How many of these people that our volunteers contacted might have been kept out of jail since they were reminded of their court date? We don't know since ultimately they have to be the ones who decide to attend court. **But if just 10 percent** of such contacts proved successful, that would be 65 individuals for whom we did not have to issue a warrant, search for and arrest; did not have to feed, clothe, and house at the jail; and did not have to have another court date added for the offense of missing a court date to begin with! That could be saving Pasco taxpayer's tens of thousands of dollars!

This program is only as successful as the volunteers who participate in the program. We are always in need of motivated citizens to assist in a wide variety of volunteer opportunities here at the Pasco Sheriff's Office. If you think that you would like to volunteer for this or other programs, please contact our Human Resources section at 1-800-854-2862, extension 7791.

**Special note:** There are scam artists who pretend to be government officials and call citizens threatening them with jail because they missed their court date, jury duty summons, or other such appointment. These criminals will then ask you for personal information in an attempt to steal your identity. However, our court case volunteers, or any other law enforcement officer, WILL NOT ask you for your social security number, bank account number, credit card number, or any other type of personal information that could be used to steal your identity. If you receive such a call from someone asking for your personal information, it is a scam and you should immediately hang up!

# Pasco Police Athletic League Football Jamboree

For 35 years, the Pasco Sheriff's Office's Police Athletic League has provided boys and girls a healthy, productive way to spend their time -- learning the importance of teamwork, following the rules, and committing to a goal. There are now more than 3,000 kids involved, and the football players and cheerleaders kicked off this year's season with a football jamboree in Hudson on August 9. Thousands of parents, relatives and friends crowded the fields on a beautiful Saturday afternoon to cheer for their children and teams.



Sheriff Bob White mingles with the homefield Hudson Cobras.



A team huddles up to listen to some last minute pointers from their coaches.



The calls of the cheerleaders could be heard on every sideline.



Children wait on the sidelines, eager to hit the field and start their game.



Families and friends caught a glimpse of the excitement to come, as evidenced in this breakout run.



There couldn't be any games without the expertise of the black and whites.

# Sheriff White presents awards to agency employees

**On June 1, 2007, Deputies Jeffrey Desenso, William Ferguson, and William Orndorff** responded to a residence on Bolton Avenue in Hudson for an unverified 911 call.

As the deputies approached the residence, an armed male subject could be seen yelling and pacing back and forth on the porch. The deputies commanded the man to show his hands and drop the gun. The man refused to comply. After the man pointed the gun toward the deputies and fired, the deputies returned fire. The suspect was pronounced dead at the scene.

The supervisor who nominated the deputies wrote that many law enforcement officers are never faced with the kind of violence that these deputies faced that night. Their courageous actions are highly commended and show their exemplary commitment to the law enforcement profession.

Deputies Jeffrey Desenso, William Ferguson, and William Orndorff were awarded the Pasco Sheriff's Office Meritorious Service Award for Courage.

**On January 6, 2008, Deputies Christopher Miller and Robert Medina, Jr.** responded to a welfare check involving a 43-year old male who was terminally ill, severely depressed about his condition, and who had left his residence unexpectedly.

The subject's wife said she saw him conceal a handgun underneath his shirt when he left and she believed her husband was suicidal.

Deputy Miller located the subject's vehicle after a motorist saw someone suspicious along the roadway.

Deputies Miller and Medina tactically approached the vehicle with the subject unaware of their presence. The man was slumped over on the steering wheel with a black revolver lying on

the seat next to his leg.

Deputy Miller seized an opportunity to quickly open the passenger door and remove the handgun before the subject realized their presence.

The man was safely taken into custody and Baker Acted. The diligence and quick thinking of these deputies prevented a volatile stand-off and probably saved the subject from taking his own life.

Deputies Christopher Miller and Robert Medina Jr. were awarded the Pasco Sheriff's Office Life Saving Award.

**On May 5, 2008, Detention Dep. Jonathan Merriman was returning home from work as he came upon the scene of a traffic crash** on U.S. 41 that involved two pedestrians being hit by a car. The accident happened at 11 p.m., and the road was dark with very little lighting.

Deputy Merriman immediately positioned his personal vehicle in the road to block traffic so the injured pedestrians could not be hit again. He first checked the male who was breathing and then directed a citizen to stay with him and keep him talking and alert.

He then attended to the injured female who unfortunately would later be pronounced dead.

Deputy Jonathan Merriman is commended for his quick actions that saved the life of the male subject and was awarded the Pasco Sheriff's Office Life Saving Award.

**On March 21, 2008, Detention Dep. Deborah Ramsey** was working in the Land O' Lakes Detention Center Medical Unit. An inmate from a cell began calling for help. Deputy Ramsey responded and discovered that the inmate's cellmate had something tied around her neck. The in-

mate was lying on her bunk and appeared to be sleeping. Upon further examination, Dep. Ramsey observed a sock wrapped around her neck, fashioned into a tourniquet.

Deputy Ramsey summoned help from another deputy to assist in cutting the sock from around the inmate's neck. Deputy Ramsey observed that the inmate was blue in color and did not appear to be breathing.

Deputy Ramsey was able to first loosen the sock from around the inmate's neck and then she lifted the inmate's head so the inmate could breathe.

Deputy Ramsey's actions prevented the suicide of the inmate and she is hereby awarded the Pasco Sheriff's Office Lifesaving Award.

**On June 7, 2008, Communications Officer Yecenia Estrada had dispatched Dep. David Boyer** to a call about an unwanted guest. When Dep. Boyer arrived on scene he heard noises coming from the garage at the home. Deputy Boyer tried unsuccessfully to get anyone to respond from the garage area and went around the home knocking on windows seeing if anyone was inside.

At the same time, Communications Officer Estrada received a duplicate call about a subject in the garage attempting to hang himself.

Communications Officer Estrada's quick recognition of the duplicate call, along with going over the radio immediately with this update, enabled Dep. Boyer to gain entry into the garage. Deputy Boyer was able to get the subject to the ground and started CPR. The subject was successfully revived.

Communications Officer Yecenia Estrada and Dep. David Boyer were awarded the Pasco Sheriff's Office Lifesaving Award.