



The Sheriff's Report

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From the Sheriff's desk

Crime analyst makes traffic her business

One of the most high-profile responsibilities of the Pasco Sheriff's Office is the enforcement of traffic laws in our communities. We have specially-trained deputies assigned to target specific traffic violations, such as DUI, speeding and aggressive driving. However, all of our law enforcement deputies are authorized to firmly enforce the traffic laws of our state. Too many of our loved ones die or are injured on our roads due to careless, impaired or aggressive drivers.

To aid our deputies in their traffic enforcement mission, we acquired a traffic statistician using grant funds in October 2005. April Toney is part of our Crime Analysis section and is a valuable asset to our enforcement mission.

She uses thousands of pieces of information to analyze traffic problems in our county. April receives data from the state Department of Transportation, which she uses to generate graphs and reports for use by the deputies and police officers on the street. In her quarterly reports, April identifies the top crash intersections in each patrol sector and provides summarized details about these crashes. This includes crashes by day of the week, time of day, whether drugs or alcohol was a factor in the crash, and injury and fatality data.

Throughout our different departments April's data and reports are valuable tools. More specifically, once the 'Top Crash Intersections' are identified and targeted, each deputy focusing

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**Bob White,
Sheriff**

"We are determined to use all our available resources to continue to make Pasco County a safer place to live and play."

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- Arrest made in home invasion/ murder
- Deputies, K-9 seize \$1.5 million in cooperation with DEA
- Sheriff's Holiday Food Drive a success for hundreds

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Sheriff White addressing the media following the arrest of Francis Sicola. Full Story page 2

NEW PORT RICHEY — On Jan. 12, 2009 Pasco Sheriff Bob White announced the arrest of a former Pasco County man in the murder of an elderly man last summer.

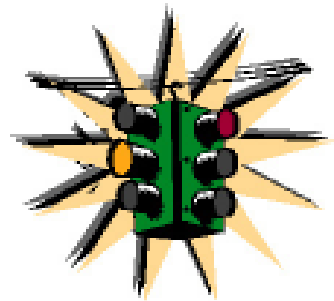
At about 2 a.m. on Thursday, August 28, 2008, an intruder looking to steal prescription drugs broke into the screen patio of the Timber Oaks home of Joseph and Roberta Wido, 10519 Quimby Drive.

Upon entering the couple's bedroom, the suspect was challenged by Mr. Wido, a World War II veteran and Bronze Star recipient. The suspect shot Mr. Wido once, killing him. The suspect then tied up Mrs. Wido, leaving her on the floor next to her dead husband. The suspect continued to search the house for prescription drugs, found none, but did steal jewelry and cash. When the suspect fled, he left Roberta Wido tied up on the floor until neighbors heard her cries for help 10 hours later.

The break in the case came when detectives were able to connect this crime to another home invasion that occurred in the vicinity several hours

before. In that case, the suspect had dropped a mask at the crime scene. The mask was sent to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement for DNA testing, which came back with a hit on a local Pasco man. Pasco detectives made contact with witnesses who confirmed that he had stated to them that he was the one who had shot and killed Joseph Wido. With this information, detectives were able to obtain an arrest warrant from the Pasco-Pinellas state attorney's office. The suspect, however, had fled to North Carolina.

Last Friday, on the birthday of victim Joseph Wido, Pasco detectives Sgt. Eric Seltzer and Det. Jason Hatcher made contact with suspect Francis Sicola, DOB 12-29-82, 3309 Ireland Road, Yadkinville, North Carolina, at which time he was arrested for first degree murder. Additional charges could be forthcoming. At this time, Sicola is still in North Carolina awaiting extradition, which could take weeks. The Yadkin County Sheriff's Office has been assisting with the investigation in North Carolina.



Traffic, from page 1

on those intersections keeps a log. This log in turn is analyzed to determine the significance of law enforcement presence at intersections by comparing number of crashes over a period of time. These reports are also shared on a quarterly basis with local Police Departments to make all of Pasco a safer place to drive.

From the beginning of April's tenure with the Sheriff's Office in 2005 she has been tracking data on some Pasco's most well know and dangerous roads and intersections. Because of our efforts, working in coordination with Pasco County Traffic Operations, there have been significant reductions in the following areas from 2005 (to November 2008):

- Total Crashes are down 43.7 percent
- Total Injuries are down 51.1 percent
- Aggressive driving incidents are down 53.4 percent
- DUI Crashes are down 45.6 percent

We are determined to use all our available resources to continue to make Pasco County a safer place to live and play. We are excited to see the strides April and the Crime Analysis team have made in analyzing Pasco County's traffic issues and are proud to be on the cutting edge of technology and an innovator in the field of traffic enforcement.



On December 2, 2008 Sheriff Bob White and the Pasco Sheriff's Office were happy to present a security patrol car to the Jasmine Lakes Community. Security Patrols throughout Pasco County play a vital role in keeping our communities safe and we are thrilled to have an additional car on patrol.

Deputies, K-9 seize \$1.5 million in cooperation with DEA

On Dec. 5, 2008, at the request of the federal Department of Drug Enforcement, Pasco Sheriff's Vice and Narcotics detectives conducted a traffic stop on a truck driven by a subject wanted on a federal arrest warrant. The location was at Bass Lake Drive and Ridge Road in New Port Richey.

During the traffic stop, Sheriff's K-9 Detective Scott Grant and his dog KT conducted a walk around of the vehicle. KT gave a positive alert in the area of the enclosed bed of the truck. Detective Grant conducted another search of the vehicle with a second dog, Missy, who also alerted to several assorted boxes in the truck. Detectives found approximately 71 grams of marijuana in the truck, along with nearly \$1.5 million in cash. The money and the 2001 Dodge truck were seized under federal forfeiture law.

Jonathan Mortimer was arrested on



Det. Scott Grant and his canine Missy look over nearly \$1.5 million in cash discovered in the truck of a man wanted by the DEA.

the federal warrant for illegal interstate travel and possession of cocaine, oxycodone, and methamphetamine. The warrant is from Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He was placed on hold in our Land O' Lakes Detention facility at the time, and later transferred to Tampa for a hearing.

His wife, Kathryn Mortimer, was arrested and charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of marijuana (about 14 grams), trafficking in a controlled substance (Hydrocodone) and possession of a controlled substance.

Zephyrhills grow house growing no more thanks to sheriff detectives

Pasco Sheriff's Vice and Narcotics detectives arrested three people Dec. 10, 2008, for operating a grow house

in Zephyrhills.

Agents from the federal Drug Enforcement Administration originally re-

sponded to the house located at 3315 Anata Drive and received permission to search the house from the occupants. The agents found a grow house operation in two of the rooms and contacted our agency to make the arrests.

Three men were arrested on one count each of cultivation of marijuana and booked into the Land O' Lakes Detention Center on \$5,000 bond.

Approximately 23 pounds of pot packaged in 1-pound bags ready for distribution were found on the floor of the house. Also, 104 plants were seized, for a total of 230 pounds.



The Pasco Sheriff's Office and Vice and Narcotics Unit is committed to dismantling grow houses like the one seen here on left and keeping drugs away from our youth and off our streets.

Sheriff's Holiday Food Drive a success for hundreds



The 2008 Pasco Sheriff's Holiday Food Basket drive was a success as 440 families across the county received the ingredients to a complete holiday

440 families across the county received the ingredients to a complete holiday meal.

meal, including a frozen turkey and a box full of fixings. On a chilly Dec. 22 morning, deputies, civilian volunteers, Explorers, and other agency members

gathered to begin the distribution of food, both in New Port Richey and Dade City. According to Cpl. Dan Dede, 29,000 cans of food were gathered and donated by Pasco school employees and students alone. Coordinating the collection of food were volunteers from the PSO Citizen Service Unit and the PSO Police Academy Alumni Association. Food baskets were loaded up in both agency vehicles and members' personal vehicles and delivered to families at their front door.

All food left over from the food drive was donated to area food pantries, that provide food to needy families in our

community.

The Holiday Food Basket drive is a yearly event supported by the employees and volunteers of the Pasco Sheriff's Office, with donations accepted from citizens and social groups.

