



The Broward Centurion

The Official Publication of the Broward County Police Benevolent Association

Volume 8 Issue 12

December 2006

In Memoriam

*Deputy Brian Tephford
End of Watch: 11/12/06*

Brian Tephford had been with BSO for six years when he made what appeared to be a routine traffic stop outside the Versailles Gardens Condominiums in Tamarac. He pulled over a car that had the wrong tag attached and requested backup. Deputy Corey Carbocci arrived shortly afterward.

While Brian was attempting to determine who owned the car, Eloyne Devon Ingraham, the passenger in the car, opened fire on the deputies without warning, shooting Tephford twice and Carbocci four times.

Tephford was pronounced dead at Broward General at 12:01 a.m. on Sunday, November 12. Carbocci survived his wounds.

Brian leaves behind three children, a four-year-old daughter



and young twins. Our condolences go out to his family, along with our prayers.

We also send our best wishes to Corey for a speedy and full recovery.

Sources: *Sun-Sentinel, sheriff.org*

Hallandale Officer Found Not Guilty

Jury returns quick verdict in battery trial

In a follow-up to the 14-minute Not Guilty verdict for Hallandale Beach officer Mary Hagopian, a jury took just 24 minutes to find Hallandale officer Talous Cirilo Not Guilty of three battery charges stemming from the same incident that brought Officer Hagopian before a jury in June.



Cirilo delivered Michael Brack to a holding cell after he was arrested, drunk and coked-up, for attacking his brother inside a car. Brack

alleges that because Brack was loud and unruly, Cirilo pushed him against the wall, choked him into unconsciousness, pounded his head to the floor and later repeatedly zapped him with a Taser.

The State Attorney's Office was unable to produce enough evidence to convict Cirilo. There was no medical evidence, no photographs of any injuries and the sole corroborating witness was unreliable. And when prosecutors caught up with Brack, he was a fugitive, having jumped bail and fled. They agreed to drop those charges if he testified against Cirilo.

Officer Cirilo was represented by PBA attorney Al Milian and co-counsel Rhea Grossman, who also successfully represented Officer Hagopian in her June trial.

Source: *Sun Sentinel/Miami Herald*

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The Broward Centurion

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Members or readers submitting letters to the editor or articles for publication are requested to adhere to the following:

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- All articles submitted for publication must be accompanied by a statement giving permission to publish.
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President's Message

November brought another sad day for our Broward County law enforcement family; one of our members, Deputy Brian Tephford, was killed in the line of duty. It seems that the BSO family has had more than its share of officers not going home at the end of their shifts. Deputy Tephford was gunned down during a traffic stop by a piece of garbage that should not be given another day on this earth. It is hard to imagine what would go through a person's mind to make him care so little about a human life. This tragedy will remind the public of how dangerous our job is, and I hope it will also remind our members to be aware and alert because this could happen any day they put the uniform on. Our hearts go out to Brian's family; what else can we say except we are sorry for your loss...

On Monday, November 13, I sat in on the trial of a member from the Hallandale Beach Police Department who was being tried on three misdemeanor counts of battery. While I couldn't believe that officer T. Cirilo was ever charged with anything in the first place, it was more unreal that the man's entire career was sitting in the hands of six jurors. Also unbelievable is that the State Attorney's office thought that they had a strong enough case to file these charges.

Officer Cirilo was represented by PBA attorney Al Milian and co-counsel Rhea Grossman; once again, they did a fantastic job of ripping apart not only the alleged victim—a cocaine-using criminal who was arrested for domestic battery and fought with police—and dismantling the investigation conducted by the Hallandale Beach Police Department, but also the State Attorney's office for prosecuting police officers with no evidence. In Al's closing arguments, he pointed out that the State failed to bring into evidence any medical records or pictures to show any bruises, cuts or signs of abuse. In the end, Al hammered home the fact that the Broward County State Attorney's office is going after police officers on ridiculous charges.

After just 24 minutes, the jury came back with a Not Guilty verdict on all charges. Another officer involved in the same incident, Mary Hagopian, was also found Not Guilty (after only 14 minutes) last month. Our sincerest thanks go out to Al Milian and Rhea Grossman for their excellent representation of these officers.

Dick Brickman

Broward County PBA

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Glen Parker
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Sea Ranch Lakes
James O'Brien
Mike Tarr - Alt.

Sunrise
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Lynn Gariboldi
Craig Jacobson
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Jerry Vossberg
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Welcome New Members

New

Carlos J. Arnedo - Hollywood
Marc N. Corsello - BSO
Ronald L. Darnell Jr. - BSO
Frank J. Guzman - Wilton Manors
Juan L. Hernandez - BSO
Sageny Horage - BSO
Mark E. Husak - Pembroke Pines Support
Lori J. James - Hallandale Beach
Robert D. Marren - Hollywood
Ulysses N. Rodriguez - BSO
Brian T. Tarbox - Lighthouse Point
Jennifer D. Tofexis - Plantation

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Michael Panariello - Davie

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Receptionist/Membership
Lynn

Secretary/Detail Coordinator
Kim

Membership Secretary
Maxine

Legal Assistant
Maryann

Communications Director
Megan

From The Editor

Making sense of the senseless

The death of Deputy Brian Tephford got me thinking. Thinking about how many times my husband walked out the door, in uniform, but without his vest. I nagged him about it now and then; he always made excuses for why he wasn't wearing it: it's hot, it's uncomfortable, it's just a detail.

Every time you put that uniform on and go out into the world, you are a target. And every time you go out without your vest, you're putting yourself at risk. Deputy Carbocci will spend Christmas with his family despite being shot four times, possibly because he had his vest on.



Yes, it's hot. Yes, it's uncomfortable. Yes, it's a pain in the butt. But wear it anyway. If not for yourself, do it for us, the people who are waiting for you, hoping you'll come home at the end of your shift. We give you love, we give you support, we put up with your crazy hours and the demands of the job. It's the least you can do for us, your families.

Pompano Beach Elks Step Up Again

by Pat Hanrahan, Senior Vice President

On November 17th, the Pompano Beach Elks Lodge again stepped up to help the PBA and law enforcement. At the beginning of that week, the Broward County PBA began planning a reception for the funeral of Deputy Brian Tephford. As many of you may know, it's hard to plan an event when the number of guests can vary from a couple of hundred to a couple of thousand. And where can you hold such an event? As they have in the past, the Pompano Beach Elks Lodge stepped up to the plate for us. Not only did they open their banquet hall at no cost, but they asked only one



question, "What else do you need or want from us?"

Every time we have asked they have been there for us. Unfortunately, we have usually asked after a tragedy. It's because of their generosity at times like these that I joined the Elks many years ago. The works of the Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks, along with their dedication to service to our community, are well-known throughout the country. So if anyone is interested in becoming a member of this fine organization, please contact me at the PBA office.

PBA Sited As A Top Campaign Donor

According to an article appearing last month in the *St. Petersburg Times*, The Florida PBA is one of the state's top donors to political campaigns:

"Consider, for example, the Florida Police Benevolent Association, a 34,000-member union and political behemoth that has reported more than \$2-million in political activity this election cycle, from heavy backing of Republican gubernatorial nominee Charlie Crist to paying a role in local sheriff's races.

The exact totals for professional groups like unions are difficult to compute because they collect money and transfer it to affiliated groups, so the same dollars can be counted more than once.

But there's no doubt the police association is a major player in Tallahassee and local sheriff's races. At a time when Florida's overall crime rate is dropping, politicians aren't talking about police pension benefits or whether to add private prisons to the state's prison system. But the police association will talk to them once they're in office.

"The Lord helps those who help themselves," David Murrell, executive director of the Florida police association, said this week about his group's political contributions. "We've tried to make things happen instead of sitting back."



Why is this important? The bottom line is this: Friends help friends. It's much easier to get the ear of a politician if you helped him or her get elected. We support candidates that are committed to supporting law enforcement across the state.

Source: Fla. PBA/*St. Petersburg Times*/*Sun-Sentinel*

Political & Legislative Affairs

Dear Members,

Things continue to look bright for the PBA, following the recent elections. Although, we did not win every race, we certainly won some big ones. Most notably, was Charlie Crist's gubernatorial victory. As I'm sure most of you know Charlie Crist has been a true friend to the PBA for many years. We can certainly look forward to this year's legislative session. Listed below is how all of our endorsed candidates fared in the November elections.

U.S. Senate

Bill Nelson - WON

U.S. House

Ron Klein

Governor

Charlie Crist - WON

Commissioner of Agriculture

Charles Bronson - WON

Attorney General

Walter "Skip" Campbell - LOST

State Senator

Ted Deutch - WON

Jeremy Ring - WON

Circuit Judge

John C. Rayson - LOST

Marina G. Wood - WON

State Representative

Ellyn Bogdanoff - WON

Perry E. Thurston, Jr. - WON

Susan K. Goldstein - LOST

Elaine J. Schwartz - WON

County Commission

Kristin Jacobs - WON

Stacy Ritter - WON

Jim Scott - LOST

County Court Judge

Arlene Simon Campione - WON

Brenda Lynn Di Iorio - LOST

Broward County School Board

Eleanor Sobel - WON

Marty Rubinstein - LOST

As usual, our victories would not have been possible without the support of so many PBA Representatives. As such, I would like to thank all of those PBA Representatives for their support and the time that they gave during this year's election.

Roger Caron - BSO

Ronnie DeAngelo - BSO

James Demato - BSO

Armando Enrique - BSO

Dean Mirra - BSO

James Pendergast - BSO

Jeff Poole - BSO

Paul Weiss - BSO Support

Kathleen Andersen - Broward School Board

Ralph Capone - Coconut Creek

Dominic Coppola - Coconut Creek

Tim Bradshaw - Coconut Creek

Miguel Mirabal - Hallandale

Alex Vera - Hallandale

Paul Winters - Hallandale

Steve Bolger - Hollywood

Tony Fernandez - Hollywood

Wilbur Fernander - Hollywood

Keith Wadsworth - Hollywood

Adam Lerner - Miramar

George Mankowski - Miramar

Tim Nevins - Miramar

Glen Parker - Pembroke Pines

Jim Ryan - Pembroke Pines

Jim O'Brien - Sea Ranch Lakes

John Jaslowski - Sunrise

Athena Skellion - Sunrise

Brian Behan - Wilton Manors

Ed Costello - Wilton Manors

Chuck Howard - Wilton Manors

David Jones - Wilton Manors

Alternates

Matt Baldwin - BSO

Kelley Covet - BSO

Mike Sweeney - BSO

Alan Niloff - Broward School Board

Rod Skirvin - Coconut Creek

Steve Toyota - Miramar

Jeff Davie - Pembroke Pines

Adam Feiner - Pembroke Pines

In Solidarity,



Neil Vaughan
Vice President

Contract Updates

By Pat Hanrahan, Senior Vice President

Wilton Manors

The City of Wilton Manors still refuses to meet with the PBA. We last met on September 20, 2006. This was our first meeting to negotiate a contract for 2006 – 2007, after going through impasse and special master hearings where the special master agreed with the PBA but the City decided that their dedicated Police Officers and Police Employees should have their pension COLA taken away.

The City continues to refuse to resume collective bargaining. We can only assume their last generous offer of a one percent pay raise for the next three years is still on the table, however, they never mentioned if it would be retroactive or if it will "sunset" at the end of the contract, and then they can take it back.

And the City wonders why the officers voted two to one to merge their Police Department with BSO. How dare these Police Officers and Police Employees want to be treated fairly. If the City really wants to save money, the City would ask the Sheriff to submit a proposal for merger as the PBA has requested.

Special Investigative Unit (School Board)

Three letters have been sent by the PBA to the School Board asking for the names of the Board's bargaining team and possible dates, times and locations for their first bargaining session. Apparently the members of the School Board can't follow directions. After the PBA's second request, we received the names of their bargaining team, but apparently they overlooked the part about dates, times and locations. We are waiting for their response to our third request.

Hillsboro Beach

A tentative date of December 8th has been set for our first bargaining session in the Town of Hillsboro Beach. This will be the first labor contract negotiated for the Town.



If You Are Called To Internal Affairs...

By Barbara Duffy, General Counsel

First and foremost you must ask, "Am I being questioned as a witness or as a subject employee?" If you are a subject of the investigation, you should immediately cease the interview and obtain PBA representation before making any statement. If, on the other hand, you are told that you are only a witness, then ask, "Am I being questioned about a matter that COULD lead to discipline?" If the person questioning you says anything other than "NO", (i.e., I don't know, maybe, etc.) immediately demand compliance with the Police Officer Bill of Rights and the presence of your PBA representative.

If you are denied your demand and threatened with discipline if you do not give a statement, make sure you state, on the record (tape):

(1) "The interrogator said I am only a witness in the investigation"; (2) "The interrogator refused to guarantee that he/she would not question me about matters that could lead to discipline"; and (3) "My request for compliance with the Bill of Rights and a PBA representative were both denied." Also note your objection to the taking of your statement. Once

concluded you should immediately contact the PBA.

I want to ensure all our members that the PBA aggressively pursues those who violate the Police Officer Bill of Rights, including initiating criminal charges against any such person(s).

If you have any questions concerning your rights as a law enforcement officer, please do not hesitate to contact the PBA office.

Reprinted from January 2004

St. Louis Named Most Dangerous City In The U.S.

FBI figures show violent crimes rising faster in the Midwest

Violent crime in St. Louis shot up nearly 20 percent between 2004 and 2005, according to FBI figures, making the city the most dangerous in the country.

The rankings, compiled by Morgan Quinto Press, are issued annually. The study looked at the crime rate only inside the St. Louis city limits, which has a population of about 330,000. It doesn't take into account the suburbs of St. Louis County.

The national FBI figures, released in June, showed the murder rate in St. Louis jumped 16 percent from 2004-2005, compared with 4.8 percent nationally. The overall violent crime rate increased nearly 20 percent, compared with 2.5 percent nationally.

Overall, there has been a surge in violent crime throughout the Midwest, with rates rising faster than in the rest of the U.S. Violent crime rose 5.7 percent in the 12 Midwestern states, three times higher than any other region.

Among the safest cities in 2005 were Brick, N.J. (#1), Amherst, N.Y. and Mission Viejo, Calif. The second most dangerous city was Detroit, followed by Flint, Mich. and Compton, Calif.

Of Florida cities, Coral Springs ranked #10 on the overall list of safest cities, while Port St. Lucie ranked #25. Orlando came in at #25 in the overall list of most dangerous cities.

For a complete listing, log on to www.morganquinto.com.

Source: Associated Press, Morgan Quinto

Donations Needed for Injured Capitol Police Officer

United States Capitol Police Officer Donna Boswell was injured in a car crash in October. She was rear-ended on I-95; her neck was broken and a vertebra was shattered, leaving Officer Boswell with no feeling in her hands, fingers, legs or toes. Her insurance will only cover 60 days of rehabilitation. The officer and her family will have to cover the bill after that.

The U.S. Capitol Police are accepting donations in order to assist Donna and her family with these bills. If you'd like to help, you can send a donation to the Officer Donna Boswell Fund, 12981 Queen Chapel Road, Woodbridge, Va. 22193. Or you can contact the Capitol Police directly: House Division, 202/225-0400; Senate Division, 202/224-4841.

Source: Officer.com/nbc4.com

Many American Workers Don't Take Vacations

According to a survey of about 2,000 U.S. workers, almost a quarter reported that they didn't take any vacation or use vacation time that they were entitled to.

Twenty-four percent of respondents claimed to have left vacation time unused, while about half said they didn't plan on using all of their yearly vacation allotment. Another 12 percent were unsure if they would exhaust their vacation time for 2006.

Respondents also reported that the majority of them (70%) have some contact with their jobs during their vacation; only 26 percent reported no contact.

The survey found that most people reported that they return from vacation feeling refreshed, but that about 21 percent actually feel more stressed than before they went.

Source: Cypen & Cypen Newsletter



Health & Fitness

Once Again, Mom Was Right

Eating your veggies may keep your brain young

New research has found that eating vegetables seems to help keep the brain young and may slow the mental decline that can be associated with growing old.



Older people who ate more than two servings of vegetables daily appeared about five years younger on measure of mental sharpness than those who ate few or no veggies. A serving is equal to about a half-cup chopped or one cup of raw leafy vegetables.

Green leafy vegetables like spinach, kale and collards seem to be the most beneficial; that may be due to the amount of vitamin E they contain. Vitamin E is an antioxidant believed to



help fight cell-damaging chemicals produced by the body.

Additionally, veggies are usually eaten with healthy fats such as salad oils, which help the body absorb vitamin E and other antioxidants. The fats from those healthy oils can also help keep cholesterol low and arteries clear, both of which contribute to brain health.

The study found that, overall, people did gradually worse on the tests over time, but those who ate more than two vegetable servings a day had about 40 percent less mental decline than those who ate few or no vegetables. Their test results resembled what would be expected in people about five years younger.



The study examined mental decline but did not look at whether any of the volunteers developed Alzheimer's disease.

Source: Comcast.net/Associated Press



Internet Shopping Tips

Make holiday shopping easier

Before you click "buy" check this out

There are coupons floating all over the Internets! So before you buy anything online, check one of the many coupon aggregator sites. My fave is Current Codes. The site is easy to maneuver through and lets you search for online retailers.

Keep track of your online purchases

In honor of "Cyber Monday," the day when presumably, people come back to work from the long weekend and hit the e-stores in droves from their zippy T1 lines at work, here's a little

hint for keeping track of all your online purchases: create a



folder in your e-mail program labeled "shopping receipts" where you can stash away all those order and shipping confirmation e-mails. You'll have quick access to tracking numbers and easily find order numbers should something go wrong.

Since everyone knows someone who eats takeout food more often than they

should, give a gift that brings order to that jumble of menus in the junk drawer.

The Take Out Menu Organizer at www.seejanetwork.com is water proof and has 30 clear menu sleeves which you can write on with dry-erase pens.

Courtesy of Shop-O-Matic at sun-sentinel.com



Inside BSO

For Our Members With The Broward Sheriff's Office

Shining Stars

Congratulations to our members who received awards at BSO's Semi-Annual Awards Ceremony held on October 9.

Exceptional Service Award

Dep. Michael Johnson

Gold Cross Award

Dep. Michael Paparella

Medal of Honor

Dep. Shannon Belanger

Life Saving Award

Dep. Derrick Scott

Dep. James Bailey

Dep. Joseph Brownlee

Dep. Michael Kennedy

Dep. Donald Prichard

Dep. Gerald Wengert

Dep. James Fahy

Dep. Alexander Jacobi

Dep. Jason Tarala

Life Saving Award (Cont.)

Dep. Osvaldo Tianga

Dep. Mario Torres

Dep. Saied Jadallah

Dep. Tobias Andrews

Dep. Alex McDonald

Dep. Kurt Douglass

Dep. John Wright

Dep. Daniel Lovallo

If at first you don't succeed, try reading the directions.

—Anonymous

THIS HOLIDAY SEASON, GIVE THE GIFT OF ADVENTURE - AND LOVE

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- b Child Protection and Juvenile Justice**
- b Information Security**



Home of the Criminal Justice Honor Society, Alpha Phi Sigma national headquarters.

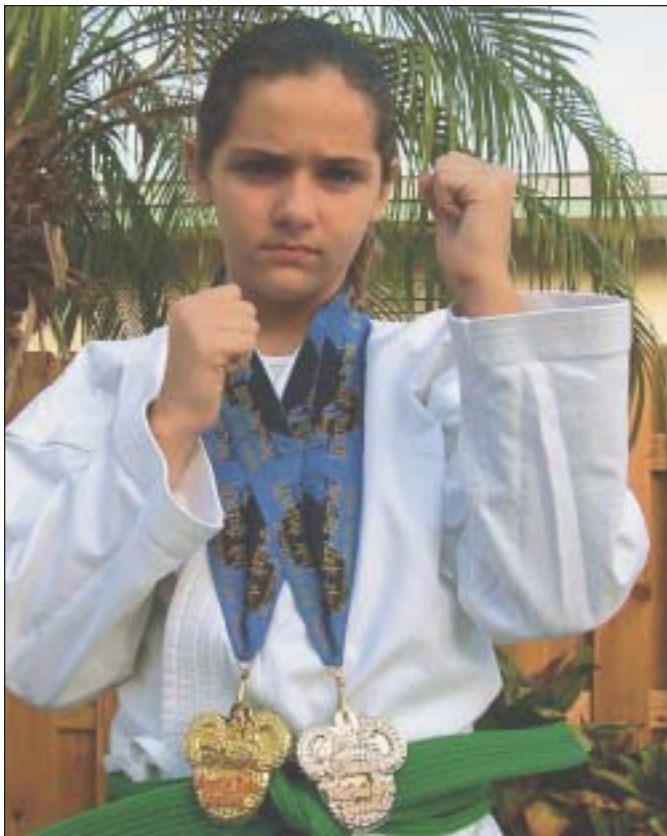
Members of the PBA are entitled to a 20% discount.

(954) 262-7001 b 800-541-6682, ext.7001 b www.cji.nova.edu

Survivor

Our best wishes go out to **Deputy Corey Carbocci** and his family.

Corey was shot four times while backing up Deputy Brian Tephford on a traffic stop in November.



Karate Kid

Congratulations to **Samantha Jaslowski**, 11, daughter of **John and Lori Jaslowski** for winning two medals at the DisneyWorld Martial Arts Festival held in Orlando on October 29th.

Samantha was awarded first place in Kata (series of movements imitating an actual fight) and second place in Sparring. She represented USA Karate and her sensei, Grant Campbell.

Well done, Samantha. We can't wait to see what you'll do next year!

Work Begins On New PBA Hall



In October, the Broward PBA Executive Board broke ground on the new meeting hall that will go up behind the PBA building on State Road 84 in Ft. Lauderdale.

The new hall is scheduled to be completed in the summer of 2007. It will be used for board meetings, general membership meetings and other PBA gatherings. It will also be available for rent for weddings, retirement parties and other functions. PBA members will be entitled to a discount on the rental fee.



Happy Holidays From The Broward County PBA



Project Blue Light

Concerns of Police Survivors is encouraging law enforcement families, friends, and law enforcement agencies to decorate in blue lights for the coming holiday season. By placing one blue light in a window of your home, you'll be showing your support for officers killed in the line of duty and those who continue to work America's streets. By placing strings of blue lights outside your home, at the department, and throughout the community, law enforcement officers will understand that they are appreciated!

The color **blue** is symbolic of **peace**. By displaying your blue lights, you will be sending a dual message that you support America's peacekeepers and that you hope the coming year will be a year of peace.

Let your blue lights shine for law enforcement during the holidays!



Money Matter\$

Holiday Money-Saving Tips

By Jennifer W. Thomason, Financial Advisor, Merrill Lynch



The holidays are finally here and gift-giving season has officially begun. Every year I talk to people who end up with huge credit card bills because they didn't take the time to budget holiday spending and giving. Here are few tips to help you get to next year without a big fat surprise on your credit card bill.

- **Set a budget for holiday giving.** Go to the bank and take out your budget in cash. Hide your credit cards and do not use them.
- **Make a list of everyone to whom you want to give presents.** Write down ideas and prices for their presents. Figure out how much of that list you can fill without going over your budget. Stick to your list. Don't pick up little extra things. That starts a vicious cycle of evening out the number of gifts everyone gets and is sure to make you go over budget.
- **Once you know what you want to buy, compare prices online.** Many retailers waive shipping and handling charges during the holidays.



Don't forget about eBay. When I know someone on my list wants something that is a little out of my price range, I look for it on eBay. You can find brand new items at as much as a 50% discount from retail stores. Only use eBay for items that you know will not need to be returned.

- **If you need to ship your presents, shop early.** This will save you time at the post office and the expense of two-day shipping.
- **Don't get sucked in to the after-holiday sales.** Many people go back to the stores immediately after the holidays and spend money on things they don't need just because they are on sale.
- **Is it the last minute and you're still searching for a gift? Get a gift card.** You are better off letting someone pick out an item they want than over spending on an item just so the recipient has a box to open.
- **When you are shopping, always ask for the store's return policy.** If you are not sure that your recipient will like their gift, you need to make sure you can return it for a full refund.



■ **Keep your receipts in one place.** There is nothing like buying that special fishing lure for Uncle Eddie, finding out he has one just like it and then not being able to return it because you can't find the receipt.

- **If you like to buy yourself a little holiday gift, make sure you stick to just one gift.**
- **If you have young children, buy them those one or two gifts they really wanted and put the rest of the money you would have spent into a college fund.**

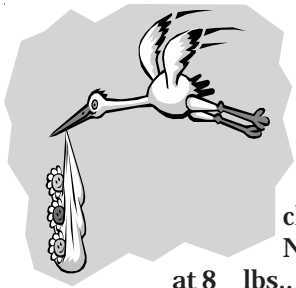
Remember the most important thing about the holidays is spending time with friends and family.

Happy Holidays!

Jennifer Thomason is a financial advisor with Merrill Lynch. As a member of a law enforcement family, she has dedicated her practice to financial strategies for law enforcement officers. Her focus is retirement planning for officers leaving the Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP) and taking lump-sum payouts from the Florida Retirement System Investment Plan. You can reach Jennifer at 1-800-937-0661 or by email at jennifer_thomason@ml.com.

What's Up?

News From Our Members



Births

Pembroke Pines Officer **Paul Danner** and his wife, **Cheryl**, welcomed their second child, **Bryson Dale Danner**, on November 1. Bryson weighed in

at 8 lbs., 9 oz. and was 20 inches long.

Daddy, Mommy and **big sister Sophie** are thrilled to add Bryson to their family.

Pembroke Pines Officer **Kristina Brown** gave birth to a son, **Kaleb Joshua Brown-Webb**, on October 22. Kaleb weighed in at 7 lbs., 6 oz. and was 19 ½ inches long. Mom and baby are doing fine.

Special Thanks

Thank you to the following businesses who generously donated products or services for the reception following Dep. Brian Tephford's funeral:

John The Baker - Pembroke Pines
Protanto Bakery - Hollywood
Wings & Things - Wilton Manors
Lou's Sub Shop - Pompano Beach
Ruby's By The Sea - Pompano Beach
Empire Pizza & Cafe - Sawgrass Mills Mall
Pepsi Cola Bottling Company - Pompano Beach
Publix Supermarkets - 52nd & Sheridan St, Hollywood; 93rd and Sheridan St., Cooper City; and Sunrise



You have the right...

- ...to have all interviews tape-recorded from start to end.
- ...to have a PBA representative present during any interview.
- ...to have the interview at a reasonable time and for a reasonable length of time.
- ...to know who is in charge of the investigation.
- ...not to be forced to resign.
- ...to know what the charges are.
- ...to review ALL statements before answering questions.
- ...to know the name of the person bringing the complaint.
- ...not to be threatened, bribed or subjected to offensive language.

If you need assistance, contact the PBA legal unit at 954/584-7600.

Law Enforcement News

Items of Interest From Around The U.S.

Winter Haven, Fla. – Winter Haven Police Chief Paul Goward resigned amid controversy over an e-mail he sent entitled, “Are You A Jelly Belly?” that took his officers to task for being overweight and out of shape.

Part of the e-mail said, “As I look around the department I see a disconcerting number of us that appear physically challenged with obesity and/or a general lack of physical fitness.” It went on to say, “If you are unfit, do yourself and everyone else a favor. See a professional about a proper diet and a fitness training program, quit smoking, limit alcohol intake and start thinking self-pride, confidence and respectability.” He closed with, “Don’t mean to offend, this is just straight talk. I owe it to you.”

Some employees were, however, offended. One sent a letter to the City that said, “I have worked for the police department as an officer for a long time and I have never seen such a morale problem like there is and this letter from the chief of police is the icing on the cake.”

Source: The Ledger

■

Muncie, Ind. – A woman attacked a would-be burglar with a cooking pot after he attempted to steal golf clubs from her porch.

A neighbor yelled to Sabrena Davis that someone had taken the clubs, and she first reached for a knife, but opted for the 10-inch pot instead. She caught up with Timothy A. Simison and whacked him on the head and shoulders. It slowed him down enough so that police could arrive to make the arrest.

Source: The Associated Press

Jacksonville, N.C. – The father of a six-year-old boy has asked Toys “R” Us to remove a police toy from its shelves because he claims that the talking toy uses a curse word.

The toy, “Elite Operations role Play Set: Police,” includes a nightstick and a utility belt. A recorded message plays when the nightstick is removed from the belt. Toys “R” Us says they have had two complaints about the set and have tested the recording and found nothing wrong, but re-recorded the chip anyway.

A copy of the source file for the recording says, “Stop, I don’t want to have pull out my nightstick.” Over 30,000 sets have been shipped.

Source: Associated Press

■

Rogersville, Tenn. – A corrections officer in Hawkins County was fired after shooting an inmate with a toy pistol that shoots rubber pellets.

Josh Byrd brought the gun to work to discuss using it during training exercises. Witness claim he was messing around with it when an inmate came to him. Byrd allegedly aimed it toward the inmate and fired.

The inmate wasn’t hurt, but Sheriff Roger Christian says the incident crossed the boundaries of professionalism. No criminal charges have been filed against Byrd.

Source: Associated Press

Forrest City, Ark. – A would-be burglar was foiled when he got stuck—naked—in the window of an apartment he was trying to burglarize.

Dennis Reed Jr. was arrested after police found him stuck between an air conditioning unit and a window frame. He told police that he had been forced at gunpoint to break into the apartment by someone he knew only by their first name.

Reed was freed from the window after the fire department removed the air conditioning unit.

Source: Associated Press

■

Omaha, Neb. – Two robbers, thinking they had an easy mark in a 68-year-old man, got a big surprise when the intended victim grabbed one of them and the robber’s gun.

Earnest Coleman was sitting in his car outside a grocery store when a young man jumped into the passenger seat brandishing a gun and demanding Coleman’s money. Coleman grabbed the would-be robber and his gun and began hitting the young man. When the man’s accomplice came to the window and began beating Coleman, he was pulled into the car where Coleman began hitting him as well.

The young men ran away with no money and no gun.

Source: Associated Press

Letters & Thanks

November 27, 2006

Police Benevolent Association
2650 W. State Road 84
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33312

Mr. Dick Brickman,

My family and I would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to you, as well as the Broward County PBA and its members for your support and outstanding legal representation.

On April 1, 2005, while employed as a Police Officer with the Hallandale Beach Police Department, myself and Officer Mary Hagopian were involved in an on-duty, non-deadly use of force (taser) incident. During this incident, I deployed my taser in an act of self defense and the defense of Officer Hagopian. On April 10, 2005, a civilian employee of the Hallandale Beach Police Department made a formal complaint to the internal affairs division regarding the above stated incident. An internal affairs investigation was initiated and turned over to the Broward County State Attorneys Office. On May 20, 2005, myself and Officer Hagopian were placed on suspension, followed by termination on December 3, 2005, after the state attorneys office filed criminal misdemeanor battery charges.

Upon the initial suspension, I met with general counsel Barbara Duffy. Barbara, with her many years of experience, immediately reassured me that she knew what steps had to be taken towards a resolution. With that said, I would like to personally thank Barbara Duffy and her assistant Maryann Hatch for their compassion, hard work and continued support and guidance throughout this year and a half ordeal.

Although the PBA utilizes numerous outstanding attorneys, I was extremely fortunate to have attorney Alberto Milian appointed to my case. Upon my initial meeting with Mr. Milian, I knew instantly that I was in the BEST hands, the word "BEST" being an understatement!

Following several months of meetings, court dates, etc.... Officer Mary Hagopian finally had her day in court. She was found "Not Guilty" after only fourteen minutes of deliberation by the jury. Officer Hagopian was also appointed with the BEST legal representation, attorney Rhea Grossman. I was truly impressed with Ms. Grossman's handling of Mary's case and found myself extremely fortunate to be able to work with her as well. Mr. Milian and Ms. Grossman collaborated for Mary's trial, as well as my own. These two dedicated attorneys work so well together for a just cause, that they are truly a site to behold. I never doubted their convictions, and relied solely on their advice and expertise. I want to say a special Thank You to Rhea for staying on through my trial and for the passion she puts into her work.

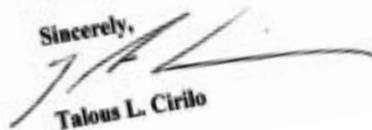
On November 1, 2006 (after a previous mistrial in August), a jury was selected, and my trial commenced. On November 13, 2006, the judge first issued a verdict of acquittal on one misdemeanor battery count, followed by a twenty-four minute deliberation by the jury. I was found "Not Guilty" on the two remaining misdemeanor battery charges.

I cannot conclude this letter without mentioning what an exceptional attorney and individual Mr. Alberto Milian is. I have to say without a doubt, the legal representation provided by Mr. Milian was definitely top-notch- the epitome of excellence.

After working so closely with Mr. Milian and Ms. Grossman, my family and I consider them not only remarkable attorneys, but individuals we regard as friends.

I would like this letter to serve as a testimony of how deeply grateful my family and I are to the Broward County PBA for providing me with superior legal representation and to its members for all of their continued support. Again, please accept our heartfelt thanks.

Sincerely,



Talous L. Cirilo



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Time: 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM (session starts promptly at 6:00 PM)
Location: Miami Gardens City Council Chambers
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PD: www.MiamiGardensPolice.org
City: www.MiamiGardens-fl.gov

* Additional information sessions will be offered throughout the year



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