



The Broward Centurion

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Governor Appoints PBA Vice President To CJST

Sgt. Michael McHale will serve on Commission

Governor Charlie Crist has appointed Michael "Mick" McHale of Sarasota to the Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission.

"Sergeant McHale is a 16-year veteran of the law enforcement community," said Governor Crist. "I am confident his training and experience will be a vital asset to the commission as the members work to set and maintain standards for Florida's finest public servants."

McHale is a sergeant for the city of Sarasota Police Department. He also serves as vice president of the Florida Police Benevolent Association and as president of the Southwest Florida PBA.

Sgt. McHale succeeds Jeri Evenson and will serve his term May 1, 2007 through August 1, 2009.

Source: Florida PBA



Crist and McHale

Tax Relief May Be One Step Closer

House and Senate leaders consider new approach

In May, Florida legislators agreed to consider a new approach to the question of property tax relief in the state.

House and Senate leaders are looking into a program that would give a supersized exemption to homeowners and create exemptions for all other property owners. The program is designed to give a higher percentage tax break to people with lower-priced homes and include a step-up scale for smaller percentages as the home value increases. The measure would require a constitutional amendment to become law.

"I think we are on our way to having a consensus plan that will save taxpayers money without raising taxes or shutting down local police stations," said Senate Republican leader Dan Webster of Orlando.

Source: Miami Herald

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President's Letter

I want to personally congratulate Mick McHale, president of the PBA in Southwest Florida (Sarasota) for being appointed to the CJST.

The CJST, for those who do not know, is a commission that decides whether or not an individual continues to be a police officer in the state of Florida. Over the years the makeup of the commission has changed drastically. When Ernie George (of the Florida PBA) was appointed, he noticed that the CJST was heavily weighted toward management types (chiefs, sheriffs and administrators), who we felt were going overboard with the discipline they were handing out. Ernie continued to argue and fight for the "little guy," but it seemed he was alone in his fight. The PBA appealed to the governor and legislature to place more rank and file officers on the commission and, more importantly, to have the appointees recommended by the police union.

What a change. In the past the 19-member commission had just three rank and file positions. Today, with the appointment of Mick McHale, there are seven. At least now members who must go in front of the CJST have a chance for a fair and impartial hearing.

Dick Brickman

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Law Enforcement News

Items of Interest From Around The U.S.

Bisbee, Ariz. – A U.S. Border Patrol agent who fatally shot a Mexican illegal entrant has been charged with murder by the Cochise County Attorney who claims the shooting was not justified.

Agent Nicholas Corbett has been charged with four counts of homicide: first- and second-degree murder, manslaughter and negligent homicide. Corbett shot and killed Francisco Javier Dominguez Rivera on January 12 about 150 yards north of the U.S./ Mexican border. The incident occurred while the agent was attempting to catch the man and three others trying to enter the country illegally.

According to a statement from the Cochise County Attorney, "The evidence shows that at the time he was shot, Mr. Dominguez Rivera presented no threat to agent Corbett and agent Corbett did not act in reasonable apprehension of imminent death or serious physical injury."

Brandon Judd, vice president of Local 2544, the Arizona Chapter of the National Border Patrol Council, says the decision is part of a pattern of politically motivated prosecutions against Border Patrol agents. According to Judd, the matching testimony from the three witnesses (those who were with Dominguez Rivera at the time) has more to do with their blood ties and influence from the Mexican Consulate that what actually happened.

Several days after the shooting, Mexican President Felipe Calderon condemned the shooting, and the Mexican Embassy in Washington sent a diplomatic note to the U.S. Department of State demanding an exhaustive investigation. A month later, the

National Border Patrol Council claimed that the Mexican Consulate was allowed to interview some of the six witnesses before U.S. investigators. Both the Cochise County Sheriff's Office, who investigated this case, and the Mexican Consulate deny these claims.

Source: The Arizona Daily Star



Washington, D.C. – The Supreme Court has given cops protection from lawsuits stemming from high-speed car chases by ruling against a teenager who was paralyzed after his car was run off the road.

In the 8-1 decision, Justice Antonin Scalia said law enforcement officers do not have to call off pursuit of a fleeing motorist when they reasonably expect that other people could be hurt. He suggested that officers can take measures to stop the car without putting themselves at risk of civil rights lawsuits.

Former Coweta County sheriff's deputy Timothy Scott rammed a fleeing black Cadillac on a two-lane, rain-slicked road in March 2001. Victor Harris, the 19-year-old driver, lost control and went over an embankment at 90 miles an hour. Harris was paralyzed in the accident and sued Deputy Scott.

Source: Associated Press

Little Rock, Ark. – Arkansas police have discovered the latest version of methamphetamine in their state: "Strawberry Quick."

Meth has been cut with a variety of substances, from lollipops to high-sugar sodas, in order to make the drug go down easier for first-time users. "Strawberry Quick" first came to light in January, after the Nevada Department of Public Safety issued a bulletin describing this kind of meth there. DEA agents have since heard reports of flavored meth in Missouri, Texas, Washington state and Wisconsin.

"Strawberry Quick" uses powdered drink mix to give the drug a pink color and impart a sweet taste that makes the meth more palatable and partially masks its harsh taste.

Source: Associated Press



Melbourne, Fla. – A suspected drunk driver who attempted to run away from the police didn't get very far.

Bernard Johnson jumped out of his car and began running from police. He then ran into a moving SUV and fell to the ground.

Cops had to use a stun gun to take him into custody.

Source: wftv.com



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Legislature Stands Against Terrorism

Representative Ari Porth sponsors divestment bill

The Florida House of Representatives has passed a measure calling for the divestment of the state pension fund from Iran and Sudan. The bill, SB 2124 has previously passed the Senate and is now in the governor's hands.

The measure requires the state to review the Florida state pension system and remove any investments in companies doing business in Iran's petroleum-energy sector or with the Sudanese government. The bill directs the State's investors to avoid investments in potentially sanctionable companies.

"The best way to shut down terror regimes, short of military attack is to exert economic pressure. No Florida retirement dollars shall be used to feed our enemies the bullets for their guns," said Rep. Ari Porth, house sponsor of the legislation.



Ari Porth, D-Coral Springs

Golf For Charity

Second annual tournament set for June 16

The second annual golf tournament to benefit the Embrace Life Children's Foundation will be held on Saturday, June 16 at the Pompano Beach Municipal Golf Course.



Embrace Life works with local hospitals to provide sick children with things to make their lives a bit brighter. Funds are also donated to the Children's National Medical Center in Washington, D.C. for research and therapy.

For more information about Embrace Life, log on to www.embracelifechildrensfoundation.com. For more information on the tournament, contact Deputy Ben Koos at 954/608-2779.

PBA Member Named BSO Detective Of The Year

Joe Kessling Honored For His Commitment

Detective Joe Kessling was awarded BSO's Detective of the Year Award in April. Joe earned this honor through his commitment and tenacity in seeing cases through to the end.

Kessling is a 27-year law enforcement vet, with most of that time spent as a detective. But, as Sgt. Steve Feeley, who nominated him, says, "Joe... works with the vigor of a rookie detective. His tenacity and determination are incredible." Sgt. Feeley cited several cases over the past year where Joe's tenacity and determination got the job done. These include the investigation of a gang shooting that resulted in the arrests of four different members of the Latin Kings gang and the identification of at least 24 others.



Sheriff Jenne with Joe and his family

Kessling was also recognized for his work making emergency repairs to other BSO employee's homes so that those employees could focus on helping the citizens of Broward County,

Joe received employee of the month twice last year for his work in Regional Investigations.

Congratulations, Joe! We are all very proud of you.



Richard Rhoads, Mike Casey, Frank Ferraro and Jack Hardy



Mike Casey and Frank Ferraro

Thanks Again!

We'd like to once again extend our thanks to the people of Publix Supermarkets for their constant support.

Legislative Director **Mike Casey** presented another Thank You plaque to **Frank Ferraro**, manager of Publix store #509, Flamingo and Sunrise, for their generosity in donating all the food for Deputy Brian Tephord's funeral reception.

Also present was **Richard Rhoads**, Regional Director for Publix, and District Manager **Jack Hardy**.

Thanks again for coming through when you were needed!

Welcome Judge Wood!



Paul Weiss and Judge Wood

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Legislative News



Dear Members,

Overall, the 2007 Legislative Session was a disappointment. That was due to the short-fall in the State's budget. Consequently, the bills we introduced to enhance FRS did not pass. Those included allowing for the purchase of Special Risk credit for certain academy time, changing the Special Risk upgraded credit from two to three percent and increasing the subsidy paid to FRS retirees. That being said, the PBA was successful in passing some of our non-economic bills. Of those bills that passed, the one that affects us here in Broward County is **HB 723**, which strengthens the penalties for violations of the Law Enforcement Officers' Bill of Rights during internal investigations. This legislation will require that an officer under investigation and the investigator conducting the investigation tell the truth in both statements and reports while adhering to the Law Enforcement Officers' Bill of Rights through the course of the investigation.

As always, I would like to thank all of the Executive Board members as well as the PBA Representatives who took their valuable time to go to Tallahassee in order to lobby on your behalf. Those members are as follows:

Dick Brickman
Pat Hanrahan
Debbie Reggio
Jeff Marano
Mike Casey
Paul Weiss
Dominic Coppola
Rod Skirvin
Chris Christianson
Chris Gatewood

In Solidarity,

Neil Vaughan
 Vice President

Jury Duty Scam

Most of us take the summons for jury duty seriously, but enough people skip out on their civic duty, that a new and ominous kind of scam has surfaced. Fall for it and your identity could be stolen, reports CBS.



In this con, someone calls pretending to be a court official who threateningly says a warrant has been issued for your arrest because you didn't show up for jury duty. The caller claims to be a jury coordinator.

If you protest that you never received a summons for jury duty, the scammer asks you for your Social Security number and date of birth so he or she can verify the information and cancel the arrest warrant. Sometimes they even ask for credit card numbers.

Give out any of this information andBingo! Your identity has just been stolen. The scam has been

reported so far in 11 states. This scam

is particularly insidious because they use intimidation over the phone to try to bully people into giving information by pretending they're with the court system. The FBI and the federal court system have issued nationwide alerts on their web sites, warning consumers about the fraud. For more information, check out: www.snopes.com/crime/fraud/juryduty.asp

Source: Member Ralph Capone

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JUNE 2007



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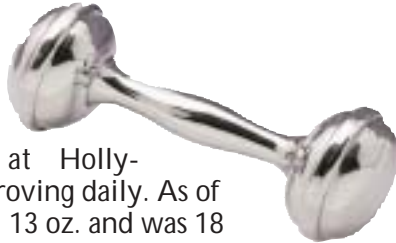
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Births

Congratulations to **BSO Sgt. Vincent Schettino** and his wife, **Lisa**, on the birth their son, **Dylan James** came into the world on May 7 weighing 6 pounds, 14 ounces. He was 19 inches long.

Update!

Tyler James Morris, son of Hollywood officers **Travis Morris** and **Julie Graziani**, is currently in the NICU at Hollywood Memorial and is improving daily. As of April 27, he weighed 5 lbs., 13 oz. and was 18 inches long.



Tyler was born on February 4, at only 27 weeks. At birth he weighed 2 lbs., 1 oz and was 13 3/4 inches long.

Keep those prayers and good thoughts coming!

PBA Rep Named Courthouse Employee Of The Month

Paul Weiss honored for his quick thinking

Our very own **Paul Weiss** (BSO Support) was named Courthouse Employee of the Month for February of this year. He was honored for saving the life of a fellow Court Deputy.

On January 2, Paul noticed that fellow Court Deputy (and PBA member) **Joseph Safonte** appeared to be ill and recognized the symptoms as that of a heart attack. Weiss made sure that EMS was called so that Safonte could get immediate medical attention.

Safonte survived, and his doctor believes that had he not received prompt treatment he would not have survived. Well done, Paul!

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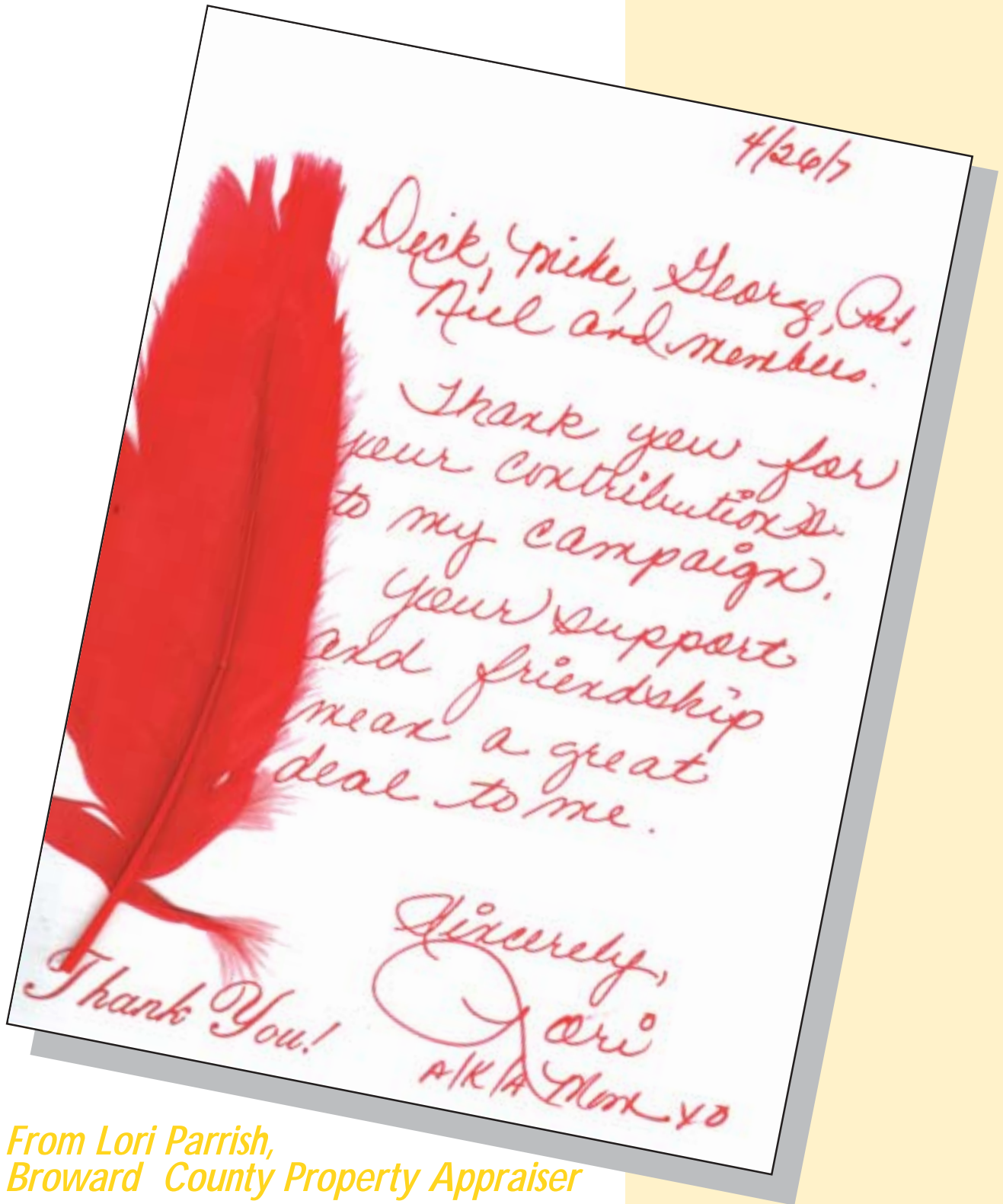
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