

2007 Press Releases

Joanne Kearney arrested – 1/9/07

On January 8, 2007 at approximately 6:05pm, the Martin County Sheriff's Office arrested Joanne Kearney (DOB 1-7-71). She was charged with criminal use of personal identification information and communications fraud. Her bond was \$80,000. As of 9:00 a.m. this morning, she is still a guest with us.

Kearney was arrested after Bill Battaglia complained to Detective Ken Bajis that she was soliciting funds from a list of his pool service clients. Kearney claimed she was raising money for Battaglia to help him with the medical costs he was incurring.



Joanne Kearney

ATM Robbery – 1/10/07

The Martin County Sheriff's Office is requesting the assistance of the public in identifying the man wearing the white hat in the attached pictures.

On January 9, 2007 at approximately 8:30pm, Patrick Fogerty went to the ATM machine at the Washington Mutual bank at 2998 NW Federal Highway to withdraw money. As Fogerty was attempting to get his money, a man wearing a white cap and a black and white jacket, appeared and stood between Fogerty and the ATM. The suspect had a gun that he pointed at the victim and demanded money. Fogerty complied and was not hurt. The suspect fled the area on foot. The gun used seemed to be a semi automatic. The suspect is described as a black male, 5'9, and 135 lbs.

Please call Detective Bobby Smith at 772-220-7060 with any information.

Pictures and Offense Incident report attached.



Armed suspect 1



Armed suspect 2

Missing Woman – 1/26/07

The Martin County Sheriff's Office is still requesting help from the public in locating Janet Marlene Lounsberry (DOB 2-11-33). Lounsberry was last seen at her residence, 2470 NE Mission Dr #15-1, Jensen Beach, FL, Thursday, January 18, 2007. Her car is also missing, a 1995, 4 door, maroon Oldsmobile Ciera. Family members are very concerned for Lounsberry's safety as it is unusual for her to be away from home. A picture of the Lounsberry flyer is attached. Detectives are seeking any information on Lounsberry or her car.

Please call Detective Bobby Smith

Aggressive Driving Awareness month – 1/31/07

Martin County Sheriff's Office Ready to Enforce Aggressive Driving and Save Lives February has been designated, Aggressive Driving Awareness month in the State of Florida

{Stuart, Florida} - The Florida Department of Transportation and the Community Traffic Safety Teams have identified Aggressive Driving as a number one priority in its Strategic Highway Safety Plan to reduce the rate of fatalities and serious injuries.

In Florida, during the period from 2000 to 2004, aggressive driving behavior contributed to 36 percent of all fatalities and serious injuries. Reports show that the number of fatalities due to aggressive driving is creeping up and the number of serious injuries is remaining static.

Aggressive driving often manifests itself as a combination of speeding and recklessness, including dangerous behavior on local roads which threatens motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians. Speeding, changing lanes frequently without signaling, following too closely, flashing lights, driving on shoulders to pass, driving across marked barriers, shouting or gesturing at other drivers, uncontrolled anger, and stress-related behavior are all manifestations of aggressive driving. Aggressive drivers also tend to be high-risk drivers who are more likely to be unrestrained and to drive while impaired.

That's why the Martin County Sheriff's Office along with local agencies, announced they will be participating in an aggressive driving enforcement operation during the month of February to increase awareness and reduce fatalities and serious injuries on Martin County's roadways.

Aggressive driving saturation patrols and other stepped-up enforcement activities will be conducted during Aggressive Driving Awareness month, which runs through February in Florida.

"But it doesn't stop there," Lieutenant Mike Ewing said. "We will continue this effort long after the awareness month has passed. We'd much rather write tickets throughout the year than to have to knock on one family's door with the news that their loved one didn't survive a crash or was seriously injured as a result of someone's aggressive driving."

Aggressive driving is not new, it has become more prevalent as the volume of traffic on local roadways has increased. "To many people have the attitude that where they are going and the amount of time they have to get there is far more important than being courteous or obeying the traffic laws. So we will be out showing zero tolerance for anyone driving aggressively. If you observe aggressive driving behavior please contact 911," said Lieutenant Mike Ewing.

For more information, please contact the Martin County Sheriff's Office, Traffic Section at (772) 220-7144.

Contact

Lieutenant Michael Ewing

(772)320-4762

Mewing@sheriff.martin.fl.us

Teacher arrested – 2/5/07

The U.S. Marshal's Service Task Force in conjunction with the Martin County Sheriff's Office arrested Shawn Trotter, DOB 4/26/72, 314 13th Lane SW, Vero Beach, FL, without incident today at his home at approximately 4 p.m. Trotter has been charged with three counts of sexual activity with a minor, Florida State Statute 794.05. His bond is \$225,000.

On January 31, 2007 a student told South Fork High School officials that she had information about a sexual relationship between another student and a teacher. Detectives interviewed the 16-year-old female victim and she acknowledged the sexual contact with Trotter.



Shawn Trotter

Press conference on tax reform – 3/8/07

FROM: GARY E. PERKINS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: PRESS RELEASE TO THE CITIZENS OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA

I am attaching a copy of our Press Release concerning tax reform, dated March 8, 2007.

This is to advise you that a Press Conference will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, March 8, 2007 here in Tallahassee at the Press Center, 336 East College Street. FSA President Larry Campbell, along with several other representatives from Sheriffs' Offices and FSA will be in attendance.

Deputy involved shooting #1 – 3/8/07

At approximately 11:27pm, March 7, 2007, the Martin County Sheriff's Office received a 911 call from a woman stating that "police and a man on the ground and the gun has been shot two times." Then at 11:29pm Deputy Brian Youngblood called out on his radio "shots fired, subject down" and to send an ambulance. While it is early in the investigation, it appears the Deputy made a traffic stop at Lil Bit Lane, in Jensen Beach, and the two ended up in a violent struggle. During the confrontation, the suspect managed to pin the Deputy to the ground and was striking him. Deputy Youngblood shot the suspect. After the shooting, Deputy Youngblood gave Vierow CPR. Youngblood carried a Glock 40 caliber semi automatic, a standard issued gun.



Gary James Vierow

Gary James Vierow, DOB 1-30-63, 16 Vista Drive, Jensen Beach, died at the scene. He had two gunshots to his torso. Vierow was arrested in Martin County in 1998 and charged with a DUI.

Deputy Youngblood was transported to Martin North and treated for wounds he received while fighting with Vierow. Youngblood was released from the hospital and is not available for comment. He is on a regularly scheduled day off. No determination has been made at this time regarding his duty status.

Brian Youngblood was hired by the Martin County Sheriff's Office as a Deputy on March 1, 2006.

He had previously worked as a Police Officer for:
Village of Tequesta - 01/2002 - 02/2006
City of St. Petersburg - 06/1996 - 12/2001
Reserve Police Officer for:
Village of Tequesta - 01/1996 - 06/1996

Deputy involved shooting #2 – 3/8/07

At approximately 11:27pm, March 7, 2007, the Martin County Sheriff's Office received a 911 call from a woman stating that "police and a man on the ground and the gun has been shot two times." Then at 11:29pm Deputy Brian Youngblood called out on his radio "shots fired, subject down" and to send an ambulance. While it is early in the investigation, it appears the Deputy made a traffic stop at Lil Bit Lane, in Jensen Beach, and the two ended up in a violent struggle. During the confrontation, the suspect managed to pin the Deputy to the ground and was striking him. Deputy Youngblood shot the suspect. After the shooting, Deputy Youngblood gave Vierow CPR. Youngblood carried a Glock 40 caliber semi automatic, a standard issued gun.



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Deputy Youngblood was transported to Martin North and treated for wounds he received while fighting with Vierow. Youngblood was released from the hospital and is not available for comment. He is on a regularly scheduled day off. No determination has been made at this time regarding his duty status.

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City of St. Petersburg - 06/1996 - 12/2001

Reserve Police Officer for:

Village of Tequesta - 01/1996 - 06/1996

There is no dash camera video.

We do not know at this time why Vierow fought with Deputy Youngblood.

The truck is being processed by Crime Scene Detectives. We do not know the contents of the truck.

The incident is under review by the State Attorney Office and the Medical Examiners office.

At this time no reports are available.

Youngblood's personnel file is available for public inspection.

Deputy involved shooting #3 – 3/8/07

At approximately 11:27pm, March 7, 2007, the Martin County Sheriff's Office received a 911 call from a woman stating that "police and a man on the ground and the gun has been shot two times." Then at 11:29pm Deputy Brian Youngblood called out on his radio "shots fired, subject down" and to send an ambulance. While it is early in the investigation, it appears the Deputy made a traffic stop at Lil Bit Lane, in Jensen Beach, and the two ended up in a violent struggle. During the confrontation, the suspect managed to pin the Deputy to the ground and was striking him. Deputy Youngblood shot the suspect. After the shooting, Deputy Youngblood gave Vierow CPR. Youngblood carried a Glock 40 caliber semi automatic, a standard issued gun.



Gary James Vierow

Gary James Vierow, DOB 1-30-63, 16 Vista Drive, Jensen Beach, died at the scene. He had two gunshots to his torso. Vierow was arrested in Martin County in 1998 and charged with a DUI.

Deputy Youngblood was transported to Martin North and treated for wounds he received while fighting with Vierow. Youngblood was released from the hospital and is not available for comment. He is on a regularly scheduled day off. No determination has been made at this time regarding his duty status.

Brian Youngblood was hired by the Martin County Sheriff's Office as a Deputy on March 1, 2006.

He had previously worked as a Police Officer for:
Village of Tequesta - 01/2002 - 02/2006
City of St. Petersburg - 06/1996 - 12/2001
Reserve Police Officer for:
Village of Tequesta - 01/1996 - 06/1996

There is no dash camera video.

We do not know at this time why Vierow fought with Deputy Youngblood.

The truck is being processed by Crime Scene Detectives. We do not know the contents of the truck.

The incident is under review by the State Attorney Office and the Medical Examiners office.

At this time no reports are available.

Youngblood's personnel file is available for public inspection.

Deputy involved shooting #4 – 3/8/07

At approximately 11:27pm, March 7, 2007, the Martin County Sheriff's Office received a 911 call from a woman stating that "police and a man on the ground and the gun has been shot two times." Then at 11:29pm Deputy Brian Youngblood called out on his radio "shots fired, subject down" and to send an ambulance. While it is early in the investigation, it appears the Deputy made a traffic stop at Lil Bit Lane, in Jensen Beach, and the two ended up in a violent struggle. During the confrontation, the suspect managed to pin the Deputy to the ground and was striking him. Deputy Youngblood shot the suspect. After the shooting, Deputy Youngblood gave Vierow CPR. Youngblood carried a Glock 40 caliber semi automatic, a standard issued gun.



Gary James Vierow

Gary James Vierow, DOB 1-30-63, 16 Vista Drive, Jensen Beach, died at the scene. He had two gunshots to his torso. Vierow was arrested in Martin County in 1998 and charged with a DUI.

Deputy Youngblood was transported to Martin North and treated for wounds he received while fighting with Vierow. Youngblood was released from the hospital and is not available for comment. He is on a regularly scheduled day off. No determination has been made at this time regarding his duty status.

Brian Youngblood was hired by the Martin County Sheriff's Office as a Deputy on March 1, 2006.

He had previously worked as a Police Officer for:
Village of Tequesta - 01/2002 - 02/2006
City of St. Petersburg - 06/1996 - 12/2001
Reserve Police Officer for:
Village of Tequesta - 01/1996 - 06/1996

There is no dash camera video.

We do not know at this time why Vierow fought with Deputy Youngblood.

The truck is being processed by Crime Scene Detectives. We do not know the contents of the truck.

The incident is under review by the State Attorney Office and the Medical Examiners office.

At this time no reports are available.

Youngblood's personnel file is available for public inspection.

The 911 call is posted on the Sheriff's server www.sheriff.martin.fl.us/press

New Information:

The Deputy is on paid administrative leave.

Vierow was struck with Youngblood's taser.

Cause of death is gunshot wound.

We await the toxicology results, which generally take weeks.

\$489,171.24 GRAND THEFT ARREST – 4/18/07

Martin County Detective William Jones has arrested Barbara Evert (DOB 2-19-48) 773 SW River Court, Palm City, FL and charged her with Grand Theft over \$100,000 and Scheme to Defraud. Her bond is \$40,000.00. Evert worked at Treasure Coast Exteriors as an accountant until April 11, 2007 when she was fired. Evert had been issuing extra payroll checks to herself totaling \$41, 280.00. The owner of Treasure Coast Exteriors also discovered that Evert had diverted \$489,171.34 of Federal, Medicare and Social Security taxes into her personal bank account. After questioning by the Detective, Evert admitted her involvement but claimed the stolen amount is closer to \$460,000.

Her mugshot is attached.



Barbara Evert

Double Shooting in Indiantown – 6/1/07

On Thursday, May 31, at approximately 8:15pm, Deputies were dispatched to a fight at Jakes store, 14945 Martin Luther King in Indiantown. Deputies left after being assured by citizens there was no fight. Moments later Deputies were dispatched to 16988 SW 171st street for gunshot victim, Irvin Parks. Parks was airlifted to St Marys. We do not know his condition. Detectives continue to investigate Parks involvement. At 8:41pm Deputies responded to 14908 SW 171st in reference to a man hit with a bottle. Rashaud McIntyre (9/16/87) 17180 SW Charleston Ave Indiantown, was transported to Martin Memorial South. McIntyre was later arrested for Aggravated Assault with a bond of \$2500. Detectives are asking for the public's assistance in locating any one else involved in the fight. Detectives believe two men left the area that were either involved or have knowledge of the altercation. Please call Detective Stephen Leighton at 772-220-7060 with any information. The arrest affidavit, incident report and mugshot is attached. The complete incident details are outlined in the reports.

There is a second gunshot victim Lavaris Hamilton. Hamilton was transported to St Mary's also. Detectives continue to investigate Hamilton's involvement.



Rashaud McIntrye

Missing Person – 6/5/07

The Martin County Sheriff's Office is requesting help from the public in locating Ruben Rodriguez (DOB 12/29/46). Rodriguez was last seen on May 25 at 5:30pm at his house in Stuart. He is described as a Hispanic male, 5'4, 150 lbs, black hair, brown eyes. His truck, a 1996 white 4 door Chevy Blazer (Florida tag H71-HER), is also missing. Family members and Detectives are very concerned for Rodriguez's safety. He does not use drugs or alcohol. He has worked at his job for 6 years with the School District and is not known to miss work. A picture is attached. Any one with information is asked to call Detective Carlo Sciandra at 220-7060.



Ruben Rodriguez

Martin County Sheriff Office and DEA Make Drug Arrests – 6/22/07

On Tuesday June 21, 2007, the Martin County Sheriff's Office along with Drug Enforcement Agency arrested three subjects during a joint operation. The charges were for Trafficking in Cocaine over four-hundred grams During this operation approximately \$75,020.00 in U.S. Currency was seized from suspects for possible forfeiture. There is a Federal Hold on subjects for Federal Indictment.

Subjects Arrested

William Nieves 17911 NW 87th Court Hialeah, FL.

Juan Alejandro Velez-Nieves 915 NW 1st Street Miami, FL.

Rafael Rodriguez 2911 NW 96th Street Miami, FL.

Bank Robbery Suspect – 7/11/07

Today at approximately 12:46pm the Seacoast National Bank, 2601 SW High Meadows Ave, Palm City was robbed. The suspect is described as a 6'2 black male, wearing a white baseball cap, white short sleeve t-shirt, beige cargo shorts and black, red and white basket ball type sneakers. No gun was seen although a note the suspect produced said he had a gun and would use it. The note also demanded money. The suspect left the bank on foot and no car was seen. Detectives believe he had a car waiting in a nearby parking lot.



The suspect was seen with a white female in the bank parking lot. At this time the woman is not a suspect but Detectives would like to speak to her. We are encouraging her to come forward.

Detectives are asking for the public's assistance. The intersection the bank is on is very heavily traveled. We are hoping some one saw the suspect get in a car or perhaps visit a nearby business. Please call 772-220-7060 ask for Detective Stephen Leighton.

Arrests made at public beach and park – 7/19/07



Jonathan Dantz

Responding to complaints from citizens, the Martin County Sheriff's Office Special Investigations Division worked an undercover operation the last two days at Bob Graham Beach and Pecks Lake Park. Six men were arrested for exposing sexual organs in public. Today at 12:39pm at Bob Graham Beach the following were arrested:

Tommy Howard Lamb DOB 2/17/40
1834 SW 34th St, Palm City
Exposure of Sexual Organs
Resisting with violence.
Bond \$1000
Lamb tried to flee in his vehicle after being told he was arrested.
Lamb was seen masturbating as he watched two other men.

Richard Joseph Noonan DOB 1/3/59
3742 NW Adriatic Ln, Jensen Beach
Exposure of Sexual Organs
Bond \$500
Noonan admitted to exposing himself.

Jose Javier Gonzalez-Lopez DOB 3/21/72
2126 SW Janette Ave PSL
Exposure of Sexual Organs
Bond \$500
Gonzalez-Lopez admitted to exposing himself.

Also arrested at the beach
Stephen M Mason DOB 10/05/63
353 NW Concord Dr PSL
Exposure of Sexual Organs
Bond \$500
Mason exposed himself to an undercover Detective.

July 18 at 11:21 at Bob Graham Beach
Dennis Michael Dowd DOB 2/22/60
729 SE Ablett Lane PSL
Exposure of Sexual Organs
Bond \$500
Dowd exposed himself to an undercover Detective.

July 18 at 13:57 at Pecks Lake Park
John Joseph Deebo DOB 10/22/26
12847 SE Pinehurst Court Hobe Sound
Exposure of Sexual Organs
Bond \$500
Deebo exposed himself to an undercover Detective by putting his penis through a hole in a bathroom stall.



Stephen Mason

Bank Robbery – 7/24/07

Today at 2:32 pm the Bank Atlantic at 5545 S Federal Highway, Stuart was robbed by a black male, approximately 50 years old, 5'7, thin build, scruffy beard and short dreads. He was

wearing a white and green shirt and light colored pants. He did not show a gun or note. The suspect told the teller to give him the money and no one would get hurt. No injuries were reported. He was last seen on foot headed south east through the parking lot.

The bank has not provided the amount of money stolen at this time.

This evening at approximately 730pm Detective Jessie Carde, still in the area from the bank robbery, noticed a man walking out of the woods at Salerno Road and Jack Ave that matched the description of the suspect. She happened to be on the cell phone with Detective Todd Lamm. Carde and Lamm got out with the man and after talking with him arrested him for one count of bank robbery.

There is no mugshot available at this time.

Detectives working a homicide in Martin County – 8/6/07

The Martin County Sheriff's Office is working a homicide that occurred August 5, 2007 at approximately 2:04am in the Banner Lake area of Hobe Sound.

Deputies were called to the area for a large fight. Two males had started fighting over an unknown problem. Several males joined and the fight and crowd grew large. Upon Deputies arrival they found Dewayne Bernard Mitchell III, (DOB 2/27/91) 9018 SE Hobe Ridge Ave, Hobe Sound, laying on Date Street badly injured. He was transported to Martin Memorial Hospital South where he was pronounced dead. We await the Medical Examiners findings for the cause of death.

Detectives know that a baseball bat was involved and that shots were fired. At this time no one has come forward with other injuries. There has been no arrests. Detectives continue to interview the many, many witnesses to the fight. The investigation continues.

Anyone with any information is asked to call Detective Bill Pakonis at 772-220-7060.

Murder for hire arrest – 8/28/07

The Martin County Sheriff's Office has arrested Jason Robert Crawford, (DOB 10/23/76) 3579 SW Cornell Ave, Palm City, FL. Crawford has been charged with two counts of solicitation to commit murder. The arrest affidavit is attached for more information on the events that led up to the arrest .

Crawford, an inmate at the Martin County jail for VOP, burglary and grand theft, asked a confidential informant for help in finding someone to kill two Deputies and a 16 year old male, Anthony Ahrens. Ahrens and Crawford were co-defendants in a burglary. Detectives staged a picture of Ahrens with duct tape on his mouth and wrists. (This picture is not available for public inspection.) The picture, along with a letter stating "you owe me" from the hitman, was delivered to Crawford at the jail. (The letter is not available for public inspection).



Jason Robert Crawford

Crawford agreed to pay \$500 for Deputy Ernie Hestor to be killed. Hestor and Detective Carlo Sciandra were involved in the original arrest of Crawford on August 10, 2007.

Go to www.sheriff.martin.fl/press to view the video of Crawford receiving the letter from the Corrections Deputy. Crawford is a black male wearing orange pants and a white t-shirt.

Hobe Sound death of Dewayne Bernard Mitchell III – 8/29/07

The Martin County Sheriff's Office responded to the Banner Lake area of Hobe Sound on August 5, 2007, approximately 2:04 am, to investigate several 911 calls for fighting and shooting.

Dewayne Bernard Mitchell III, (DOB 2/27/91) 9018 SE Hobe Ridge Ave, Hobe Sound was pronounced dead later that morning at Martin Memorial Hospital South. The Medical Examiners Office released the cause of death as one gunshot wound to right lower side of Mitchell's body.



Brandon Tyrone Boggs

This morning at approximately 5:30am, Brandon Tyrone Boggs (DOB 1/14/87), 806 Spruce Ave, Stuart, was arrested without incident and was charged with manslaughter with a firearm. His bond is \$1,250,000.

I have attached the arrest affidavit. There are copies of the nine page Complaint Affidavit at the front desk of the Sheriff's Office (Monterey Rd). His mugshot is not available yet.

Threatening phone calls to 911 dispatchers – 9/18/07

On Monday, September 17, 2007 at approximately 3:30pm, Martin County Sheriff's Detective Leo Ferreira arrested Joseph Ricky Marcon (DOB 4/10/1958) 8712 SE Duncan Street, Hobe Sound, and charged him with one count each of false report concerning planting a bomb, aggravated assault on a law enforcement officer and aggravated assault. He has no bond at this time.



Joseph Ricky Marcon

Marcon has repeatedly called 911 to curse and threaten dispatchers. On June 29 Marcon told dispatchers a bomb was at the Sheriff Office. On July 30 Marcon called 911 and told dispatchers that he would be waiting for them with a sniper rifle. On August 28 Marcon called 911 and threatened to shoot a blond female officer with a sniper rifle.

Marcon told Detectives he was angry at the Martin County Sheriff's Office for arresting him and seizing his 2002 Hyundai Sport Utility. Marcon was arrested March 24, 2007 for impersonating a law enforcement officer after he made a traffic stop in Hobe Sound.