

FUGITIVES CAPTURED **1199**
CHILDREN FOUND **119**

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JUSTICE COALITION'S
VICTIMS' ADVOCATE

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Shame, Shame, Shame - one year later

By Shirley Shaw

In October 2003, JSO Lt. John Boney asked the Justice Coalition if we would be willing to publish in the *Victims' Advocate* pictures of prostitutes and johns arrested by the Vice Squad. In his role as ShAdCo (Sheriff's Advisory Council) lieutenant over Zone 1, Sector B, he was working with citizens to reduce crime in their neighborhoods.

Prostitution, drugs, robberies and other related crimes had been a continual problem for several years, and they couldn't seem to find a solution. Finally, the group formed a committee comprised of Lt. Boney and a few other citizens, and they made a list of things to do - among them, to call on the state legislature to pass a law that individuals arrested with prostitutes would lose their cars, and to request that the *Times-Union* and *Victims' Advocate* print the pictures of arrested sex offenders.

Much debate about this proposal ensued between the Justice Coalition and JSO. While agreeing that publication of arrests would, hopefully, be a deterrent, the effect on families of those arrested was of deep concern. But of even greater concern is/was that men who engage in sex with prostitutes run a great risk of contracting AIDS or other STDs and passing it on to their unwitting spouses and, possibly, unborn children. A high percentage of the city's prostitutes are HIV-positive or have AIDS.

Finally, in conjunction with Sheriff Rutherford's Operation Showdown, we agreed to publish the picture of every

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The ultimate victim

Terri Schiavo
1963-2005

Theresa Marie Schindler was born in Pennsylvania on December 3, 1963, to Mary and Robert Schindler. Shy and charming, Terri quickly developed a nurturing personality. She loved animals and music, especially piano, and had a knack for art. Her family treasures sketches she created before the unfortunate incident which ultimately removed her from their lives.

Terri met Michael Schiavo at Bucks County Community College near Philadelphia in 1982 and married him two years later. They moved to Florida where on February 25, 1990, under mysterious circumstances, Terri suffered a period of oxygen deprivation, causing irreparable brain damage.

Most of the information disseminated by the media the past few months since Terri's plight made headline news erroneously described her condition as a "persistent vegetative state." She was not in a PVS, in a coma, nor brain-dead; she was for 15 years a brain-damaged woman who was maliciously deprived of rehabilitation therapy and other care which could have made a vast difference in her life.

She was very unhappy in her marriage and wanted a divorce, as her friends testified in court. She and Michael had an argument on the fateful day, which left Terri so upset that her friend wanted to spend the night with her - but she declined the offer. That decision may

have cost her life.

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On Sunday, Mar. 12, representatives from the Justice Coalition attended a rally in Tallahassee to support the national effort to save Terri Schiavo's life. Following are excerpts from Ted Hires' speech, which has been quoted in several national publications:

I am president and founder of the Justice Coalition, a victim's rights organization in Jacksonville, Fla., whose mission is to aid victims in obtaining justice. After thoroughly reviewing Terri Schiavo's case and seeking the opinion of legal counsel, I have concluded that Terri Schiavo is most certainly a victim. There is a very real possibility that an act of domestic violence caused Terri's present condition.

On February 28, in a press conference on the steps of the Federal Courthouse in Jacksonville with the Schindler family and many other public officials, I asked Governor Jeb Bush to appoint a special prosecutor and the FDLE to investigate the origin of Terri's collapse and also the numerous ongoing violations of Florida law which protect the rights of disabled citizens.

The public has a right to know the truth regarding these criminal allegations, and until they are investigated we will not know the answers. Terri Schiavo has never

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Sheriff Rick Beseler

There's a new sheriff in town!

By Shirley Shaw

After working 25 years with the State Attorney's Office in Jacksonville, Rick Beseler was ready for a change. "I got to where I was not challenged any more, could do the job with my eyes closed," he stated recently in his Green Cove Springs office.

"I wanted a challenge, and this is definitely a challenge."

"This" is his new role as Clay County Sheriff.

Several weeks into the job, he is still looking forward to implementing new items on his agenda, but so far, much of his time has been spent dealing with last-minute emergencies. "I guess I should

have been a fireman instead of a sheriff, because I seem to be putting out fires all day long," he smiled. "But I know it will eventually settle down and I can spend more time each day doing what I planned."

One change Beseler implemented immediately after taking office concerned

the role of Mary Justino, Clay County Sheriff's Office Public Information Officer, and reflects his strong commitment to the officers under his command. Heretofore, Justino gave all the on-camera interviews for breaking news stories; now, while she still facilitates all the

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