

FUGITIVES CAPTURED **1752**
 MISSING PERSONS FOUND **161**

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VICTIMS' ADVOCATE

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Silver Alert

Nationwide Network to Locate Missing Adults



From the Director
 by Ann Dugger

Part of the pain my family and I experienced during the last days, weeks and months of my mother's life was watching her mental deterioration. Diagnosed with dementia, she frequently became disoriented, had hallucinations about the actions of those around her and couldn't remember who we were and where she was. Since it was impossible to watch her every minute of the day and night, we feared that she would slip out of my daughter's house and try to return to her old familiar home.

So this week when I read about the 91-year-old gentleman who had disappeared from his Arlington home, my heart went out to the family who was searching for him. He, too, suffered from dementia, as well as diabetes, and urgently needed his medication. Thankfully, he was located in Putnam County within 12 hours and returned safely to his home. PCSO Sgt. Ricky Lyle said someone noticed the elderly man, recognized his condition and called police. Because of the Silver Alert, information about him was in the database, enabling authorities to locate his family immediately.

Dementia is a term used to describe a group of brain disorders, Alzheimer's disease being the most common form. It develops slowly over time, the symptoms appearing so gradually that it is often mistaken for normal aging. The Alzheimer's Association gives these statistics:

- As many as 5.2 million people in the United States are living with Alzheimer's.
- 10 million baby boomers will develop Alzheimer's in their lifetime.
- Every 71 seconds someone develops Alzheimer's.
- Alzheimer's is the sixth-leading cause of death.
- The direct and indirect costs of Alzheimer's and other dementias to Medicare and businesses amount to more than \$148 billion each year.

SILVER ALERT... Continued on page 2

"I just shot my husband!"

Abusive wife threatens, murders
 Jerry Van Deusen

by Shirley Shaw

By all accounts, Jerry Alan Van Deusen was one of the nicest guys you could ever meet. He lived alone in a small house on the St. Johns River, loved the outdoors, went hunting and fishing when he was younger and abler, and he could do almost anything with his hands. His daughter April Pannone says that "although he never copyrighted the name of his business, he was known by many in Jacksonville as the original 'house doctor.' No job was too big or too small - from remodeling a radiologist's office to changing light bulbs. He took great pride in his work, offering reasonable prices, doing a quality job and making sure his crew cleaned up after themselves."

He dearly loved both his daughters, and they adored him. Julie Sander says, "He has been described as loving, kindhearted, a jokester, teacher, friend, but most importantly he was my DADDY! Being the first and only child for five years, I thought my daddy could do anything. I was his little shadow, following him all over our five acres, trying to be like him and make him proud of me. He taught me that being a girl wasn't a weakness. I went fishing and hunting with him...followed him under houses, on roofs, in attics or on a ladder 50 feet in the air. He gave me confidence, strength and life skills that have proven invaluable."

Julie says possessions didn't make



Jerry Van Deusen with daughters Julie Sander (left) and April Pannone

her dad happy; he lived simply, cared about others and sought ways to help anyone struggling with the problems of life. His father had been an alcoholic, so he knew firsthand how hard it could be to overcome addictions. He volunteered at a local Alcoholics Anonymous club and even started an AA group at Clay County Jail. Julie says at his funeral many people told the girls he had literally saved their lives, getting up all hours of the night to take them to a safe house or rehab center, or just be there for them in their crisis.

However, his soft heart and concern for others, prompting him to offer sanctuary to a homeless woman, would eventually result in his death.

Wedding day set tone of marriage

Julie Young was a recovering alcoholic, an avowed homosexual who lived in a tent in the woods when Jerry met her. Since it was wintertime, he offered to let her sleep on the couch. At

first, she seemed exactly what he needed. She was a very likeable woman who made him laugh, and his daughters welcomed her into their family. Their parents had amicably divorced after 25 years of marriage, and they knew he was lonely, so they were glad to see their dad happy again. Before long, the relationship became serious and the two married in 2004 after knowing each other about seven months.

But by then, Julie had started drinking again. She said no man had ever treated her as well as Jerry did. She had been raped and molested when she was young, which she said was why she embraced her homosexual lifestyle. Despite acknowledging how good Jerry was to her, when she was drunk she began talking cruelly to him, downgrading him, saying he was no good and that she didn't know why anyone would want him. She caused trouble at AA and was banned from

VAN DEUSEN... Continued on page 4

What is the PERF Project?



From the Sheriff's Desk
 Sheriff John Rutherford

There is an old adage that goes "that which cannot be measured should not be done." I like that saying because it falls in line with my philosophies about the value of Continuous Improvement and the importance of making changes to processes that can be quantified and sustained, and the need to make (and keep) an organization LEAN.

Last year the Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance granted us a little over one million dollars. Why?

They were impressed with the success of Operation Safe Streets, our initiative designed to reduce murder and gun crime in Jacksonville. It has both overt and covert components. From coordinating efforts between our Aggravated Battery, Gang, Homicide, and High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area units to the community policing through overtime hours spent knocking on doors and talking to residents, we reduced murder the second half of 2006 and overall in 2008.

We also saw record increases in tips,

both to the police and through the anonymous tips to CrimeStoppers, via our Gun Bounty program, and we're encouraging citizens to work with police to tell what they know about illegal guns and the people who use them. So much so, that our Sheriff's Advisory Council (ShAdCo) numbers continue to climb.

Quantifying these outcomes and studying our deployment strategies so they could be replicated in other cities, with hopefully the same results, is why the Department of Justice decided to come take a look at OSS success.

PERF PROJECT... CONTINUED ON PAGE 7