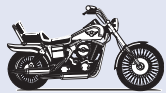


FUGITIVES CAPTURED **1919**
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Happy 4th of July

JUSTICE COALITION'S VICTIMS' ADVOCATE

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“Thanks to our friends, we haven’t missed a beat.”

By Ann Dugger



Last month I talked about the JC being bankrupted when our employee embezzled more than \$125,000. As many who called or wrote accurately noted, it was difficult for me to “air our dirty laundry,” but the supportive response was a great blessing to all of us. Thanks to our many loyal friends, we’ve never missed a beat. Our office has been open every day, our victim advocate has not missed a single day in court, the newspaper has been published every month, and all our bills have been paid.

I can’t tell you how humbled I am by the outpouring of appreciation for what we do in the community, by the confidence so many of you have placed in the JC that, despite what happened, we will continue to honorably fulfill our mission of helping innocent victims of violent crime. We WILL continue the legacy of Ted Hires.

Once again I want to thank Jerry Bass and the Allied Veterans of the World, Inc., & Affiliates who not only donated \$50,000 to replenish our bank account but has been the title sponsor for our two recent fundraisers. And B. S. Reid Charitable Trust gave \$30,000 as well, which really helped put us over the top financially. Even more than receiving the money, however, is knowing we have so many friends and that God is faithful to see us through the most difficult times.

In this issue of the VA you will see pictures and read about the Shoot For Justice on June 11 at W W Clays Sporting Clays in Bryceville. Although the temperature was around 100 degrees, participating shooters in the skeet competition enjoyed spending the morning in the beautiful wooded area. Sheriff John Rutherford, Bradford County Sheriff Gordon Smith and Judge Lance Day were just a few friends who joined us for this occasion.

The following Monday was the 4th annual Longhorn Steakhouse Golf Tournament at Amelia River Golf Course. I

FRIENDS... CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Unsolved Murders: New and Old Local law enforcement agencies need your help

By Shirley Shaw

James Vincent Brookins



Detectives with the St. Johns County Sheriff’s Office Robbery/Homicide Unit continue to investigate the circumstances surrounding the death of a 45-year-old Duval County man. That individual, positively identified as James Vincent Brookins of 7500 Powers Avenue in Jacksonville, was located in the trunk of an abandoned vehicle on St. Ambrose Church Rd. in Elkton early on Wednesday morning, April

28, 2010.

The investigation revealed that Brookins’ cause of death is consistent with that of a homicide, although the exact cause of death is being withheld. He was reported missing late Tuesday night, April 27, by his family in Jacksonville. Investigators believe someone may have information regarding this case and may be reluctant to come forward.

Anyone with information concerning this investigation may contact the St. Johns County Sheriff’s Office Robbery/Homicide Unit at 904-824-8304, or remain anonymous by calling CrimeStoppers at 1-888-277-TIPS (8477) and be eligible for a \$1000.00 cash reward for information that leads to an arrest.

Damien A. Wallace



On Tuesday, April 27, 2010, Damien Wallace called his mother, Gennetta Bennett, wanting to know how she was doing. She wasn’t feeling well, she said, and he said neither was he, that he had a spider bite and planned to pick up Steve, a friend he grew up with, and go to the hospital for treatment. Gennetta said she would call him back, but it slipped her mind and she didn’t call.

She mourns today that she didn’t make that call; just maybe it might

UNSOLVED... CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

Operational improvements despite budget deficits

By Sheriff John Rutherford



As many of you know, the City of Jacksonville is facing tremendous shortfalls in revenue as a result of the financial crisis. Here at the JSO we’ve been committed to operating LEAN for several years now, achieving significant operational efficiencies through continuous improvement. (One good example of this is our ability to DELAY building a new jail by using inmate labor to expand our capacity by adding a third bunk to existing cells.)

I applaud the Mayor and the Council for starting the budget cycle and discussions earlier. As the seriousness of our fiscal situation has been recognized, we must have thoughtful discussions combined with a more deliberative process. That is happening this year.

Even though the situation is

quite serious, the Mayor, the Council and this agency are engaging in intelligent debate, as we work to make these tough, tough decisions about where to make cuts and achieve the greatest efficiencies. My goal is to prevent any erosion of the gains we’ve made in public safety.

The request from the Mayor is for JSO to cut \$10 million dollars from a \$360,000,000 budget. Here is what I am *proposing*, but first, as with any budget, some assumptions must be made:

- If we have one or more severe storms or any hurricanes, this will impact our fiscal position and the bottom line.

- It assumes a 3 percent reduction in salaries and associated benefits now under negotiation. (I don’t negotiate police and corrections contracts. That is the city and the union. This is the assumption that my proposed 2011 budget* is built upon, but if not approved, the JSO budget will increase commensurately.) We are also assuming NO INCREASES of any kind for other payroll cate-

gories driven by contract negotiations.

- There can be no increases in city-derived allocations outside those already included in internal services figures. If there is a service out there we are getting and paying for now, it can’t be cut next year leaving us to replace it at our cost. To achieve a \$10M savings, the Jacksonville Sheriff’s Office proposes to:

1. Forego the hiring of 53 sworn police officers (43 as proposed in the long range staffing plan - also referred to as *The Jacksonville Journey* and resulting from recommendations of the Matrix operational audit - and postpone hiring the last 10 of the COPS grant.)

2. Unfund 21 civilian positions. This will be done through realignment and attrition.

3. Achieve another \$3.2 million in combined, smaller, efficiencies from throughout the agency. Dollars add up, and whether it’s a membership in a police trade association, or travel for professional development, or even the print-

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