



Weekly Rap-Up

Editor's Note: The Sheriff's Office Weekly Rap-Up comes out on Friday afternoon, and includes any announcements, important messages, or not so important messages that employees of the Sheriff's Office would like to communicate to the rest of the agency. If you have something you would like to communicate, please send it to me and I will be happy to include it. Send it to beckyherrin@keysso.net, or in the courier to Deputy Becky Herrin, Community Relations Division, Headquarters building on Stock Island.

Ask the Administration

Note: *There were some questions I received that we have not yet had time to answer. If you don't see your question in this edition of the Weekly Rap Up, we will try to get you your answer in the next one.*

Question: In regards to the issues with the gym located on the Headquarters property. I have a suggestion. Perhaps employees that use the gym would be willing to volunteer an hour a day to act as "gym clerk" every week. These employees could sign up to come in, use the gym and supervise the comings and goings of other persons using the facility. Of course there would have to be guidelines in place by the Sheriff or his staff, and some authority to have people leave and such. The gym is a great bonus for all of us, and it is truly being abused. By volunteer employees helping out we could save the gym and equipment. The K.W.P.D. has a gym, and ONLY their employees use it. Public Works from the City use our

gym. Keys Energy has a gym, they can use ours, but we cannot use theirs. This is the same with the School Board and so on. I know that many of us appreciate the changes that the Administration is trying to make for us now with the gym.

Answer: At the Sheriff's Staff meeting this week, Sheriff Peryam directed Chief Taylor, Mike Rice and IT Supervisor Jim Painter to meet together to discuss ways we can better "police" our gym facility. One option would be to make it a Sheriff's Office only facility and they will be looking at that option closely. It is nice to be able to allow other agencies to use it, but not at the expense of our own employees. Stay tuned.

Question: Last week MCSO sent out an e-mail to its employees titled "FDLE - Annual Salary Incentive Compensation Report". This e-mail had an attachment that included officer's name, DOB and social sec numbers. I had a big concern with this due to all the identity theft going around. When I asked my supervisor about this I was told that this information was public record. I have a

The next Weekly Rap Up will be Friday, September 4th, 2009

hard time believing that a Law Enforcement Officer's DOB and Social Security number is public record. Can you please advise if in fact it is public record and if not what is the Sheriff's Office doing about the release of this personal information.

Answer: This e-mail was sent out mistakenly to a small number of Sheriff's Office supervisory employees. As soon as you brought it to our attention Monday morning, all those who received the e-mail were notified to delete it and not to share it with anyone else. We regret the error.

Question: Why do we have to send a copy of our subpoenas to finance so we get paid OT for court when we put it on our time sheets as OT for court? I was told we have to have the subpoena as "back up" showing that we had court in order to get paid.

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HIDTA employee honored her work

Dr. Cira Villazon has been part of ICE's HIDTA Money Laundering Task Force for over 8 years, serving as a Forensic Accountant. During that time, she her financial expertise and ability to analyze complex banking and financial records has been a key element to every major successful money laundering investigation that has been conducted by this office. This includes the Mutual Benefits case, which was the first money laundering investigation involving insurance policies; the Birk-Hillman investigation, which involved over \$40 million dollars in bank fraud and corruption proceeds; the Elso investigation, where a defense attorney was convicted of participating in a money laundering operation and the Orejuela investigation, otherwise known as Operation

Cornerstone, which took down the Cali Cartel.

Just this year Cira has been a key player in three major investigations, in the Obeleube investigation, in which \$13 million dollars was seized from a company involved in fraud and narcotics money laundering. Of these funds, over \$10 million was forfeited. Cira's diligent and meticulous financial analysis played a crucial role in the defense counsel agreeing to a voluntary forfeiture order.

In addition to this, Cira was able to identify two previously unknown accounts in the Rovelli case. These new accounts resulted in the seizure and forfeiture of \$12 million dollars. Again, as a result on her detailed analysis identifying these funds, the defendant agreed to a voluntary forfeiture.

Finally, in the "El Doctor" case, Cira assisted the investigators in tracing the laundered

funds and in preparing comprehensive charts and link analysis. These charts of the financial transactions were utilized during the interviews of the defendant and were one of the major reasons that he decided to accept a plea agreement.

In addition to her exceptional investigative work, Cira regularly provides assistance to all of the Financial Groups. She helps to explain and instruct agents on complex financial issues. She has been a critical participant in training agents and analysts from ICE in the utilization of the FIS system, which is a bank records analysis program. She even took the extra step to re-write the user guide, to make it easier for the agents and analysts to understand the program.

She is regularly requested by the US Attorney's Office to assist in major investigations. She is a wealth of knowledge on financial issues and a willing teacher in her field. As a Doctor in Business Administration – Specialty Accounting, Cira is an invaluable asset to the ICE and HIDTA mission.



Birthdays!

NAME	TITLE	DOB
Jensen, Tamela	Deputy Sheriff-Airport	8/24
Brown, Debra	Detention Deputy	8/26
Heaviland, Michael	Sergeant Detention Deputy	8/26
O'Connell, Tiffany	Records Supervisor	8/26
Szymanski, Jacek	Deputy Sheriff-Traffic	8/26
Dorta, Alejandro	Detention Deputy	8/26
Leird, Dawn	Sergeant Court Deputy	8/27
Hiller, Donald	Captain Deputy Sheriff-Airport	8/28
Johnson, Gregg	Deputy Sheriff-Traffic	8/28
Askins, Edward	Detective-Special Operations	8/29
Dor, Talandieu	Airport Security Technician	8/29
Powers, Melissa	Deputy Sheriff	8/30
Russell, William	School Crossing Guard	8/31
Hulett, Wendy	Detention Deputy	8/31
Petry, Shantal	Detention Deputy	8/31
Ryan, Deborah	Detective	8/31

For Rent:

1 Bedroom, 1 Bath with Kitchenette on a canal on Yellowtail in Marathon. All utilities included. Rent: \$800 a month. Renter prefers a single male officer. Call 743 - 5142

Ask the Administration, continued

It sounds to me like it is a trust issue. If so, then it doesn't make sense. After a subpoena is sent out, there are times the court gets postponed to another date or cancelled all together. All someone has to do is submit the subpoena and put it on their time sheet as OT court and they get paid, because they sent in the subpoena even though they didn't attend the court. I understand someone could be fired because they "falsified" their time sheet because they did not have court but then again, if someone puts it on their time sheet as OT for court and they didn't have court, they could also be fired too. My point is this, if I am trusted with a gun and the ability to take someone's life, but I am not trusted to document my time accurately on my time sheet when I have court without having a subpoena as "proof", then why am I even working for the MCSO? For once, I want to be trusted to tell the truth and not have to always "backup" my actions or time sheet

Answer: When it comes to Sheriff's Office finances, we do not work on the "honor" system. Documentation of all fiscal transactions is required. It takes you about 30 seconds to put a subpoena in an envelope and send it to the Finance Division in the courier. You will continue to do so, as directed. This paperwork is required when we have an audit. We are proud to say we have had six perfect

audits in a row. It is also good practice in light of the fiscal issues currently plaguing other agencies in our county.

Question: Why are citizens not held accountable (arrested) when they knowingly file a false sworn written complaint against a deputy? If a deputy were to knowingly file a false sworn written statement or report, they would get fired, more than likely be prosecuted by the SAO for perjury and they could also lose their FLDE certification.

In my opinion, the reason why MCSO receives so many false complaints against deputies is because the citizens know nothing is going to happen to them for filing the false complaint. They can make up all kinds of false accusations against an officer because they are upset they got a ticket from that officer and nothing is going to happen to that citizen. It is upsetting from a deputy's perspective because the deputy knows that if he/she were to do the same thing, they could be

terminated. Why are the citizens treated better than a sworn officer?

Just about every other agency I know of will arrest citizens that knowingly file sworn false written complaints against officers.

Even if the SAO will not prosecute the citizen, as long as a supervisor has PC to arrest the citizen for the false complaint (ie the deputy has a video or audio that clearly shows the alleged offense was not committed) then let the citizen spend a few nights in jail until they bond out. We would get our message across that we (MCSO) will not tolerate false complaints against deputies. I know MCSO would not tolerate deputies making false reports.

Answered by Attorney's Jon Ellsworth and Mark Willis: The simple answer is that a citizen can be held accountable. The reality, however, is that it is very difficult to prove these kind of cases in court.

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Funeral for Former Sheriff Haskins

The funeral services for Former Sheriff Henry Haskins will be Saturday, August 22, 2009. The viewing will be held at St. Mary's Star of the Sea Church on Truman Avenue in Key West at 10 a.m., followed by a Mass at noon and cemetery services following at the Key West Cemetery.

For those who are planning to attend, we will meet at Key West Headquarters in the parking lot at 10:30 a.m. and will proceed to the church for the viewing and other ceremonies; for those who only wish to attend the Mass and cemetery services, meet at HQ at 11:30 a.m. Carpooling is encouraged due to limited amounts of parking at the church and cemetery.

Uniformed personnel should wear Class A uniforms.

Henry Haskins worked for the Sheriff's Office from 1957 until 1967; he served as Sheriff from 1963 until 1965.

Art Behind Bars Event

“Art Behind Bars + Art AFTER Bars” will host a closing party on Friday, August 28th, from 5-7 p.m. for its show presently on display at FKCC Library. The exhibition includes recent artwork from inmates at Monroe County Detention Center, and work from former Art Behind Bars students pursuing their own creative endeavors as part of their personal recovery.

This will be an opportunity to acquire remarkable works of original art at very reasonable prices, as well as meet some of the former students of the program who have used their new-found skills in art making to help with their own personal transformations following release from jail.

2008 was a year of milestones for Art Behind Bars. In Spring '08, they celebrated the 1,000th class led by ABB founder Lynne Vantriglia, and the college graduation of former student Candy Mense. Mense graduated from FKCC with honors in addiction relapse prevention. With Lynne's coaching, in addition to graduating from college, Candy has been awarded three grants from the prestigious Anne McKee awards. Lynne points out that she herself has been the recipient of three Anne McKee Artist Fund grants, the first of which helped to launch Art Behind Bars in 1995. In November of last year, the program celebrated its “14th Birthday Party” at the Pier House Resort. Both Lynne and Candy had artwork in this year's Anne McKee Artist Fund annual show at East Martello Tower.

This year, the program has contributed artwork to 32 non-profit organizations in the community, and has now donated artwork valued at \$192,000 to 402 groups since it started on its mission of “art based community service for inmates” in 1994. Recent highlights include a mixed-media still life in hand-painted silk for AIDS-Help's annual fund raiser, and hand-painted flag t-shirts for Hospice/VNA's annual “4th of July” picnic. Hospice is especially dear to the hearts of many in the community, including Vantriglia, who this year became a client of Hospice during the passing of Ernie, her husband and partner of 35 years [and co-founder of Art Behind Bars].

These are trying times for all non-profits in the community. Art Behind Bars has seen the state of Florida eliminate all Art in Education programs, which had previously supported the twice-weekly classes at Monroe County Detention Center. Now more than ever, the community needs to know that programs for incarcerated people can help lower recidivism, defined as the tendency of people who've been released from jail or prison to relapse into previous criminal behavior. By lowering recidivism, substantial savings can be realized by not having to re-incarcerate the same people over and over again. The benefits of art making specifically have been recognized as a key program in redirecting inmate behavior into more positive paths.

According to Dr. Rachel Williams, Ph.D., a nationally-

recognized expert in the field of inmate artwork and official evaluator for Art Behind Bars, the national rate of recidivism is 62%, but for those inmates who are exposed to art making while incarcerated, the rate plummets to 27%. With an inmate population exceeding 2.1 million people, and the cost of confinement averaging \$78 per day, the benefits accrue very quickly when former inmates don't return to prison upon release. The intangible benefits to individuals, families, and communities can't be stated in mere dollars.

For more information on programs and recidivism, check Dr. Williams' book, Teaching the Arts behind Bars available on amazon.com.

All proceeds from the event benefit Art Behind Bars, a 501-(c)-3 non-profit organization. Proceeds from Art AFTER Bars are shared with artist. Art Behind Bars is sponsored in part by the State of Florida Division of Cultural Affairs, Florida Arts Council, National Endowment for the Arts, Jimmy Buffett's Margaritaville, and private donations. For more information about the program or the event, visit www.artbehindbars.org or phone 305-304-4772.

Ask the Administration, continued

The falsehood must be shown to be knowing and intentional. Therefore in cases where a citizen mis-perceives events for whatever reason, including intoxication and mental illness, the statements are not knowingly false. Likewise cases which are not sustained because there is insufficient evidence (usually a one on one conflict in testimony) will not meet the burden of proof standard.

Those cases, like the one in your example, where it can be definitively determined that the report was false can be prosecuted. The State Attorney's Office, and most prosecutors around the country, are generally concerned that such prosecutions may have a "chilling effect" on other citizens making legitimate complaints because the citizen is afraid that they might be prosecuted if it turns out they were mistaken. You will hear these same concerns being raised about other types of perjury type prosecutions (domestic cases, false crime reports, etc.). Any case which an officer or supervisor believes is clear cut should be referred to the State Attorney for a decision.

I have concerns about your comment that we should be making such arrests even if the State Attorney will not prosecute. If any arrest is made with knowledge that the State will not prosecute, the agency, and the individual officer, could be charged with civil or criminal civil rights violations.

Your observation that depu-

ties are held to a higher standard is correct. We are. It is part of our oath and job description to tell the truth.

I did a cursory check of our files for the last few years. Very few of the total number of complaints and inquiries by citizens every year actually would qualify for prosecution. Most of those actually come out of the jail, where the least of the inmate's legal problems would be a false complaint charge.

Question: If I pull out of the comp bank and get paid OT, will my supervisor(s) be held accountable in any way like they were under the old administration?

Answered by Chief Mike Rice: Of course supervisors are held accountable – being accountable is a part of their job as a supervisor. Each patrol sector has a budget for overtime. If an employee opts out of the comp bank and accrues overtime, they are paid from that budget. Our supervisors, as well as all of our employees, have a responsibility to effectively manage the resources allocated to them. Budget constraints exist in all organizations and ours is no exception.

And remember, any time someone opts out of the comp bank, it makes scheduling more difficult because that employee becomes a less flexible asset. If scheduling is more difficult, then the supervisor's job is likewise more difficult. It also makes the overtime budget for that patrol sector less flexible.

Question: Why is it that there is only one on call homicide for the entire county? I have seen many instances

where you have a signal 7 in Key Largo, and the on call is coming from the 10 mile marker, causing the deputy at the scene to have to wait for hours in some cases. Why not have an on call CAP for say the 60 mile marker north, and another for the 60 mile marker south?

Answered by Lt. Tom Brazil: In the Homicide unit there are only 2 detectives. We supplement this with detectives (3) from CAWACU who can handle unattended deaths but are not really trained or equipped to handle a full blown "who done it" homicide case. I am going to work with Sergeant Elomina to expand CAWACU roll in this but until then we are under the same manpower and overtime restraints as every other division. Since district detectives do not take call for homicide our investigators are spread throughout the county which may cause patrol to hold a scene simply due to our geographic layout. Hope this sheds some light on your question.

Question: I would like to know why some of the posts in the correctional facilities are allowed to watch television and others are not. Just because a supervisor doesn't like to watch TV, the employees shouldn't have to suffer. Days and nights are long and slow and if nothing is going on the TV should be an option to help maintain alertness. Officers falling asleep at their posts are a greater security risk than someone being distracted by a television show.

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Ask the Administration, continued

Road deputies are allowed to watch DVDs and at some of the areas, corrections officers are allowed as well.

Any correction officer working on day watch at the Key West Detention Center usually has to carefully utilize their time to ensure a “restroom” visit much less finding time to watch television. More so now than ever with the budget cuts and expanded job descriptions - there is little if any idle time.

On the night shift, depending on your post, it is reasonable to assume that there is in fact some “down” time after lock down. If a correction officer on the night shift (after lock down) is current with his or her security rounds, jail log, updated site placement and other associated and necessary assigned tasks I doubt the evening supervisors would object to the officer checking the news or weather sporadically.

Remember: the televisions are for the inmates. They are not intended to entertain “tired officers” or keep them awake. As professionals you must make the proper personal preparations for your next shift. We are being fiscally compensated for the care, custody and control of the inmates. I don't know of any employment opportunities in the Keys where you are paid to watch television.

As for road patrol deputies watching DVDs, I can assure you that no deputies have been given permission to watch DVDs while they are on active

duty, working their shift. Watching a DVD would mean they are not performing their required duties of patrolling the streets of our county. If we were to catch anyone doing this, there would be serious consequences.

Question: Why is it that the agency is going to change uniforms to green?

Answer: Many night shift deputies have expressed concern that wearing a white uniform at night is unsafe. We have decided, therefore, to change to a darker color – green – to address this concern. Day shift officers will have the option of wearing white if they feel white is a “cooler” color to wear. You should know that the money to purchase new uniforms is coming from forfeiture money and not from regularly budgeted funds. The money it is costing is not enough to fund any kind of raise, and forfeiture money is not allowed to be used for raises, in any case.