

The BLUES

Police Newspaper

"Guardian of the Badge and Keeper of the Pride"
Vol. 29, No. 6 * June 2011

"Justice will only be achieved when those who are not injured by crime feel as indignant as those who are"

King Solomon, 10th century

BEXAR DEPUTY IS SHOT TO DEATH AT TRAFFIC LIGHT

Despite having faced dangerous situations during his nearly 25 years as a sheriff's deputy, Sgt. Kenneth Gary Vann never needed his gun to defend himself. However, when he needed that weapon most, Vann didn't have the chance to ward off an unknown motorist who drove up beside his marked cruiser and fired repeatedly without warning, killing him.



Sgt. Kenneth Vann

Authorities said Vann, 48, was stopped at a red light on the East Side when someone ambushed him — an attack so sudden he was unable to reach for his weapon or call for help.

"He did not have a chance to do anything, hit the emergency button on his radio, or even to defend himself," Bexar County Deputy Chief Dale Bennett said. "That car pulled up and started blasting, just like that. So where we are

right now is that it looks like an ambush." Bennett described the murder weapon as "very probably high-caliber, and likely a semiautomatic."

"None of us can see any reason behind this," sheriff's Sgt. E.M. Conger said. "It has been hard on all of us. As for his friends and family, the biggest question we are all trying to figure out is why this happened to him."

His wife, Yvonne, said she knows the risks that come with wearing a law-enforcement uniform, since she wears one herself. Still, she said she didn't see this tragedy coming.

She said that despite his long career, Vann never had used his weapon to defend himself, so she figured the worst news she might get was that he was injured in a crash.

"I never thought I'd get the call that he was dead," she said, shaking her head in disbelief.

Vann was the first Bexar County deputy killed in the line of duty since 2003, and the 17th since 1840. Less than a month ago, Bexar County law officers gathered to honor the pre-

(Continued on page 5)

Rice University criticized for police officer's firing

Law enforcement leaders are stepping up criticism of Rice University's firing of a police officer who responded to an armed standoff off-campus last month with a man who shot two HPD officers before turning the gun on himself.

Rice University terminated the officer, David Sedmak, for dereliction of duty for leaving his post to get to the call near the downtown Greyhound station. Sedmak responded to the scene when he heard the call on his police scanner.

Dismissal stunned many

"You don't fire a guy for this unless he's a chronic disciplinary problem," said Kevin

Lawrence, executive director of the Texas Municipal Police Association, at a news conference. "You call him in, you counsel him and you put him back out there (to work). If he's a good cop, he's a good employee. You use this as a training opportunity."

On May 7, the suspect, Jesse Brown, 20, was spotted with a pistol as he tried to buy a ticket at the Greyhound station.

Brown shot Houston police officer Fernando Meza, who was working an off-duty job at the bus station and confronted Brown about the pistol. Meza was hit in the hand. Moments later, Brown also shot Houston police officer

(Continued on page 6)

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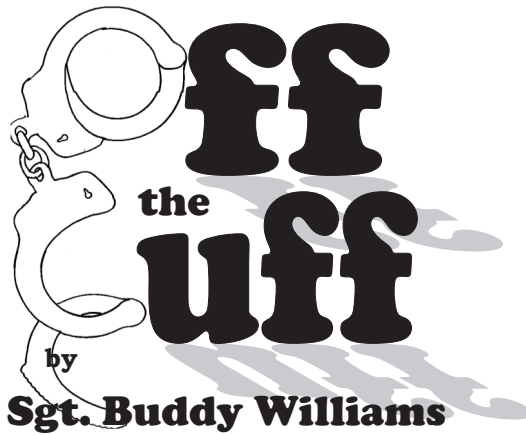
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Publisher

¿usted un Es residente legal (Are you a legal resident?)



The year was 1974. The city was Houston. I was a young rookie cop.

Back then I arrested a great many people who I had reason to suspect were illegal

aliens but only after I had probable cause to detain them for some criminal offense, such as a traffic violation. Mind you I did not 'charge' them with illegal immigration, I merely held them for INS to deal with. On what basis did I determine they were likely not a citizen? I used several 'litmus tests'.

Did they have any, ANY identification and if so did it appear in order? Having no ID, I looked further.

If they were in a vehicle, was it registered to them? Or someone with the same surname? If not, I looked further.

Did they speak English? If not, I looked further.

I asked them if they were an American citizen? If they said no, I would detain them for INS.

If they said yes, and had not committed a crime I felt they should go to jail for, I would let them go. If they had committed an offense I should arrest them for, I would notify INS of their detention.

I did not need a special law like the one soon to be passed by the Texas legislature, I used the same federal law then that we have now.

That kind of reasoned approach to illegal immigration enforcement by street cops still sounds logical to me. Back then we did not question the legality of unfortunate people who were victims of crimes. Nor did we question individuals who were simply going about their daily lives. Only those who we suspected of committing some criminal act, including traffic violations.

Somewhere in the last forty years

something changed. Being in this country illegally somehow became a 'civil right'. Even the act of daring to ask a person if they were a citizen violated their rights. Using that reasoning, asking a blonde, blue eyed person if they were an American citizen became politically incorrect because we did not ask masked middle Easterners carrying AK47s if THEY were a citizen. It has become insane.

But Texas Republicans are starting to take a stand. They are starting to step up to the plate, like Arizona and more and more other states and say 'Enough is enough'. We cannot keep such an open mind that our brains fall out.

No more will departments across Texas be able to prohibit its officers from determining if a person they come into contact with is possibly an illegal alien, at the risk of losing state funding.

Of course this new law has outraged some segments of the community. Especially those that are sensitive to the Hispanic community voters. "This bill is open season on Latinos," said Sen. Mario Gallegos, D-Houston, "This bill is the most racist, Latino-bashing, anti-immigrant bill I've ever seen."

It seems Sen. Gallegos has missed a crucial point. The bill is open season on ILLEGAL immigrants, not the legal ones.

Sen. Carlos Uresti, D-San Antonio. "Any furtive glance or misstatement can put you under suspicion. All that matters is the color of your skin and if you have an accent. I shouldn't have to prove I'm a citizen."

Here too I disagree. Anyone who does not feel they should have to prove their citizenship are the very ones who should.

One newspaper account warned of "rogue cops targeting Latinos". Oh come on, puleeeze.

An opinion I do agree with came from Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst who said, "Drug traffickers and transnational gangs should think twice before they step foot in Texas."

If this bill becomes law, and you are authorized to determine a person's legiti-

(Continued on page 7)

The BLUES Police Newspaper

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Stephen Skinner.....Staff Writer
Nora Bauerschlag.....Circulation
Deputy Bill Wolfe, Llano SO.....Chaplain
Atty. Gen. Greg Abbott.....AG contributor

E-Mail: info@thebluesnews.com

Visit our website at <http://www.thebluesnews.com>

The BLUES (ISSN#1099-6257) is published monthly by G.L. Williams & Co., NS19 Lake Cherokee, Longview, TX 75603. Subscriptions are available at \$19.95 to cover printing and handling for twelve monthly issues. The opinions expressed in The BLUES do not necessarily reflect the opinion of this publication or its staff.

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Man charged in officer's death was twice deported

The suspected drunken driver accused of killing a Houston police officer this month is an illegal immigrant from Mexico who twice was deported after trying to enter the U.S. by claiming to be a citizen, records show.

Johan Rodriguez, 26, is accused of driving through a police barricade on the 610 North Loop freeway where officers were investigating an accident and striking HPD officer Kevin Will.

Prosecutors said Will, 38, was killed instantly, and his body was dragged along the freeway. Police found a small bag containing cocaine in Rodriguez's pocket and preliminary blood tests showed his blood alcohol content was .238 — nearly three times the legal limit, officials said.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement spokesman Gregory Palmore said that Rodriguez is an illegal immigrant from Mexico who was deported in 2005 and 2006.

Federal court records show that Rodriguez tried to enter the U.S. through the Brownsville Port of Entry by falsely claiming to be a U.S. citizen on Dec. 29, 2005. Just days after he was deported back to Mexico, he tried again to get in, this time

through the Hidalgo Port of Entry, records show. He again claimed to be a U.S. citizen, born in Houston, and showed a Texas driver's license to support his claim, according to records. He was deported a second time.

Tela Mange, a Texas Department of Public Safety spokeswoman, confirmed that Rodriguez was issued a driver's license in 2007. The license is still valid, she said. In 2008, DPS started requiring driver's license applicants to show proof of citizenship or legal status.

Violations, charges

Municipal court records show Rodriguez had several prior contacts with Houston Police, dating to 2001. His misdemeanor record includes five violations in 2009 - including driving without insurance and with an expired license plate. There was no jail time associated with any of the recent cases, said Gwendolyn Goins, spokeswoman for the city's Municipal Courts Department.

Rodriguez is being held without bail on

three felony counts of intoxication manslaughter, evading arrest and drug possession.

When Rodriguez was questioned by police, he seemed disoriented and intoxicated, Harris County Assistant District Attorney Beth Shipley said at Rodriguez's probable cause hearing.

"He could not tell the officer anything about the crash, and claimed he did not remember being in a crash," Shipley said.

Immigration officials have filed paperwork to detain Rodriguez if he is released from local custody. There was no attorney for Rodriguez listed in court records on Tuesday.

Will's death is the latest in a string of incidents involving illegal immigrants that have resulted in serious injury or death for Houston police officers. Gary Blankinship, president of the Houston Police Officer's Union, said rank-and-file union members were outraged by Will's death at the hands of an immigrant who had been previously deported.

"Well, it's deja vu," he said. " ... I'm not too sure what the answer is, but it's certainly disheartening when you keep seeing police officers killed in the line of duty by illegal aliens."

Other officers slain

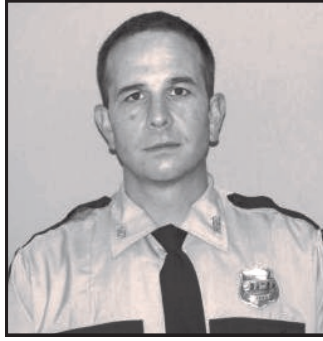
In September 2006, Houston police officer Rodney Johnson was shot and killed by Juan Leonardo Quintero, an illegal immigrant from Mexico he had arrested during a traffic stop. Quintero, who was previously deported after charges of indecency with a child, was convicted of capital murder for Johnson's death and sentenced to life in prison.

His death and a personal crusade by his widow, HPD Sgt. Joslyn Johnson, fueled calls for greater local police involvement in immigration enforcement.

"I just wish our government would take the initiative and do something about this," Joslyn Johnson said.

After officer Rick Salter was shot by an illegal immigrant from El Salvador with a local rap sheet in March 2009, former Houston Mayor Bill White requested that the city receive expedited approval to participate in ICE's Secure Communities pro-

(Continued on page 9)



HPD officer Kevin Will



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How to win a sword fight

Always keep your sword in the 'ready' position, held in front of you, with both hands, and perpendicular to the ground. With this method, you can move the sword side to side and up and down easily, blocking and landing blows in all directions by moving your arms. Hold the tip of the sword at a bit of an angle, with the tip pointed slightly toward your opponent. Picture a doorway, you should be able to move your sword in any direction and quickly hit any edge of the doorframe.

How to Deflect and Counter a Blow

Step up and into the blow, with your arms held against your body.

React quickly and against your instincts, which will tell you to move back and away. By moving close, you can cut off a blow's power. Avoid extending your arms, which would make your own counterblow less powerful.

Push or punch at the blow instead of simply trying to absorb it with your own sword

If a blow is aimed at your head, move your sword completely parallel to the ground and above your head. Block with the center of your sword, not the end. Always move out toward your opponent even if you are defending and not attacking.

Move the sword in steady, quick blows up and down and to the left and right

Assuming you must disable your attacker, do not try to stab with

your sword. A stabbing motion will put you off balance and will leave your sword far out in front of you, making you vulnerable to a counterblow.

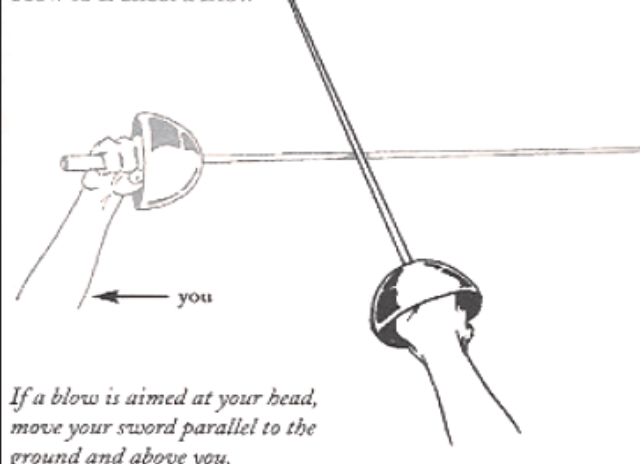
Do not raise the sword up behind your head to try a huge blow, you will end up with a sword in your gut

Hold your position, punch out to defend and strike quickly.

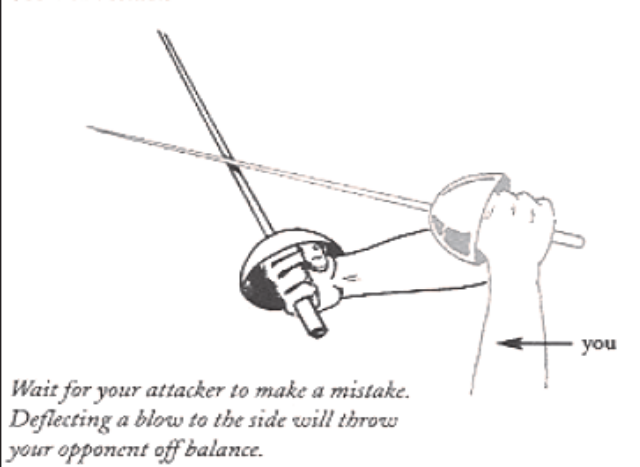
Wait for your attacker to make a mistake.

Stepping into a blow or defecting it to the side will put him off balance. Once your opponent is off balance, you can take advantage of their moment of weakness by landing a disabling blow, remembering not to jab with your sword but to strike up and down or from side to side.

How to Deflect a Blow



How to Attack



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VANN

(Continued from page 1)

vious 16 killed on duty.

The last deputy to die on duty was Jesus Garza, 33, killed when he lost control of his patrol car near Calaveras Lake and slammed into a stand of trees on Dec. 26, 2003.

Authorities continued trying to piece together the events that led to Vann's fatal shooting near Rigsby Avenue and Loop 410.

A mobile command post — with members of the Sheriff's Office, the San Antonio Police Department, the U.S. Marshals Service, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Texas Department of Public Safety and the FBI — was set up in the parking lot of a nearby Walmart.

"This is where we are trying to put all the pieces of the puzzle together," Bennett said as a new crop of officers prepared to gather evidence and interview witnesses.

Bennett said authorities were trying to find a small, white car seen in the area after the shooting. Investigators were securing surveillance camera images from two nearby convenience stores to see if the incident was captured.

Chief Deputy Sheriff Manuel Longoria

said Vann was responding to a call for an accidental shooting in eastern Bexar County. He had stopped for a red light in the left westbound lane on Rigsby, just east of the Loop 410 overpass, "when someone rolls up on his right and just opens up, firing multiple shots."

The bullets shattered the front and rear passenger windows. Authorities said they were not sure how many bullets were fired; Longoria said numerous spent cartridges were recovered around the shot-out cruiser.

He said Vann died before emergency responders could get him to a hospital.

"This is just a senseless thing," Longoria said. "It really feels bad when one from your own agency is killed."

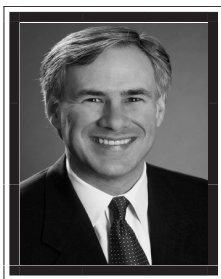
At the scene, debris and shattered glass marked where the shooting started, Longoria said.

Once the shooting stopped, the sergeant's patrol car, still in gear, rolled into the intersection and came to rest against yellow crash barrels underneath the overpass' support pillars, Longoria said.

One person who was pulling into a nearby convenience store told investigators she heard two distinct, rapid bursts of gunfire.

Fellow deputies described Vann as well-liked and a hard worker.

Reprinted from San Antonio Express News



A Message from the Attorney General Greg Abbott

Keeping Young Texans Safe on Digital Playgrounds This Summer

With the end of the school year and the arrival of summer, some young Texans will have more unsupervised time at home – and in an increasingly digital world, that means more opportunities to visit potentially dangerous online playgrounds. Unfortunately, cyber predators do not take summer breaks. Texas parents are the first line of defense against criminals who use the Internet to prey upon children. Families must stay engaged in their child's activities online, set boundaries and know the capabilities of minors' mobile phones and handheld gaming devices.

Cyber crime investigators across the state have seen firsthand the dangerous criminals that lurk online. Texas parents must remain vigilant and remind their children that cyber predators pose a constant and very real threat. Parents should make sure children know never to agree to a face-to-face meeting with a stranger they meet online and never to share their personal information with Internet acquaintances.

Informed and active parents can help protect their children from all types of online threats. By surfing the Internet with their children and fostering open conversations about the websites they visit, parents can both teach and learn from their children. Parents should give children and teenagers ground rules for their Internet usage – including the hours they can access the Web and the types of websites children can visit.

Texas parents should also establish boundaries for children's mobile phone usage. Cyber Crimes Unit investigators with the Attorney General's Office have arrested several sexual predators who used wireless devices to call or text children. These communications often include sexually explicit language or images and are intended to lure children into a sexual encounter. Wireless devices that allow users to surf the Internet may also give children an opportunity to go online and access sexually explicit content, chat rooms and social networking sites.

Parents should monitor their children's mobile phone Web usage and teach them

to avoid calling or texting people they do not actually know. Young Texans should also avoid giving out personal information via their wireless device. Any child who receives a communication – including a photo or video – that is inappropriate, hurtful or otherwise makes them feel uncomfortable should immediately notify their parents. If parents suspect criminal activity or believe that their child is in danger, they should save the image or message and contact law enforcement authorities.

Fortunately, many wireless carriers offer controls that allow parents to monitor and manage their child's cell phone usage. These controls allow parents to set limits on incoming and outgoing text messages and phone calls. For example, parents can restrict specific phone numbers, limit the quantity of text messages and prohibit communications during certain hours. Depending on the provider, parents can also filter or completely block websites from being accessed by their child's wireless device. Increasingly, wireless devices are also equipped with global positioning system (GPS) features that give parents the ability to track their child's whereabouts.

Finally, Texas parents should be aware that video game systems now have many of the same capabilities as home computers. In particular, these gaming devices allow users to interact with other players through typed messages, voice communication or even online video chats. Parents should be cognizant of the fact that child predators can use these game systems to prey upon and contact children.

Although children may enjoy playing video games with their friends online, parents should carefully consider whether to enable a gaming system's online chat feature. During online conversations, predators may look for clues that reveal a child's physical location. Parents who choose to allow online chatting should strongly caution their children not to discuss anything personal while playing online games with players they do not know.

Video game systems typically have parental control features that can be used to restrict game features that pose increased risks. These controls allow a parent to:

⇒ Enable or disable a game console's

(Continued on page 13)

SEDMAK

(Continued from page 1)

Timothy Moore in the leg outside a nearby McDonald's. The two officers joined about 25 other police officials Monday in a show of support.

"In this case, Officer Sedmak's reward was he was fired," said Ray Hunt, vice president of the Houston Police Officers Union.

Hunt presented Sedmak with a \$2,500 check Monday to help him as he tries to land another job.

Sedmak said he was astounded to learn he was being fired for helping fellow officers in distress.

"My only concern on that day was to render aid to these two officers," he said. "... Quite frankly, I couldn't believe that after being in law enforcement for nearly 17 years that I was being relieved of my duty for running an assist to an officer.

"There's been a lot of talk about me being a hero, and I just want to say personally that the real heroes here are these two officers and the job that they performed on that day," said Sedmak, a former Galveston police officer.

University's response

University spokesman B.J. Almond declined to comment about Sedmak's firing, but he provided a statement from the university.

"As a matter of policy, Rice University does not comment on personnel matters," the statement reads. "However, out of respect for the Houston Police Department, we want to clarify that David Sedmak was terminated from the Rice University Police Department for dereliction of duty. Sedmak left his post when only two other officers were on duty and failed to notify his supervisor of his whereabouts for nearly an hour, which could have endangered the safety of our students and campus."

Almond said that Rice University police officers frequently assist other law enforcement agencies near the university on a case-by-case basis. In the first five months of 2011, the department responded to 37 calls for help from adjacent police agencies.

"In all instances, Rice officers are required to promptly notify the RUPD dispatcher of their location and the situation ... (to) ensure that enough officers are on duty on campus to protect the safety of our students and employees," according to the statement.

Reprinted from Houston Chronicle

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LAYING DOWN THE LAW WITH SPIKES



Lloyd Morrison was medically retired two years ago after a drunken driver hit him while he was working a car wreck scene on Memorial Day weekend in 2009.

A drunken driver ended Lloyd Morrison's 18-year career as a Houston police officer as he investigated a freeway traffic accident two years ago. So, when a suspected drunken driver ended the life of Officer Kevin Will on May 30 as he investigated a freeway wreck, Morrison decided it was time to tell City

Hall what to do about it.

Morrison asked Mayor Annise Parker and the City Council last week to make road spikes standard-issue equipment in patrol cars that work freeway accidents.

He rested his partially paralyzed right arm on a cane as he spoke at a lectern, telling the council that being a Houston police officer had been the greatest honor

of his life.

"Any tools and equipment that we could use to save another life in the future I'm all for it," he said. "If I could ever be of any assistance to the city of Houston, I'm a phone call away."

Though Morrison is medically retired from the force, he was at the downtown police station in the middle of the night when Will was killed. He and his wife had hauled a hot dog cart to the station to feed the men and women working the same holiday weekend shift he had been on when he was hit.

That night in May 2009, Morrison recalled, he was out at the time he calls "O-drunk-30," when bars close and patrons get behind the wheels of cars. Morrison pulled over to investigate a drunken-driving accident on the Gulf Freeway. While he was in his car, another drunken driver slammed into it. Morrison was able to get out of his car to check on the second drunken driver when yet another drunken driver ran him over.

The accident crushed most of the bones below his knees and nearly severed his right arm. Morrison joked that if he had had a less proficient trauma team, he'd now be nicknamed "Lefty." His most recent surgery on the arm was just a month

(Continued on page 9)

Zavalla announces hiring of new police chief

ZAVALLA — The city of Zavalla is happy to announce its new police chief, Jim Hodges.

Hodges, 69, brings to the table more than 30 years of law enforcement experience. He got his start in Harris County before going to work with the Angelina County Sheriff's Office for 27 years.

"With 31 years of law enforcement, I guess that makes me pretty old. I'm 69 years old but I'm not the 80-year-old people were saying the city hired. That's just cold," he said with a laugh. "I've been lucky during my time as an officer. I've never had to shoot at anybody and I hope I never do. I always try to talk people out of trouble."

The once-retired lawman said he's happy to be back on duty.

"I retired and after about three weeks there just wasn't anything to do," he said. "This position came open at just the right time. I interviewed for it and here I am."

The new chief is taking over the posi-

tion from previous chief Bobby Epperely, who was hired as Huntington's new chief earlier this year.

In the Hodges' household, law enforcement is a family affair, as his wife Majorie has also worked in the field.

"She's worked for DPS and LPD. She was a crime scene tech with LPD for quite a while," he said. "I met her the day I graduated police academy, August 17, 1979. She was a dispatcher. Someone said we've got a pretty dispatcher."

"I said, 'Man, why don't I go up there. I went up there and ... hello!'" he continued with a grin.

One of Hodges' main initiatives in the next year is to clean up the drug problem in Zavalla, he said.

"The narcotics problem needs to be addressed," he said. "You've got people starting off with marijuana and then they gradually step up to harder drugs. We're going to take care of that problem."

Reprinted from Lufkin Daily News

OFF THE CUFF

(Continued from page 3)

mate residency status, I suggest you to consider the following:

Attempt to ascertain the residency status of all person's you suspect of violating Texas law;

And...

Well, I guess that's all you need to consider.

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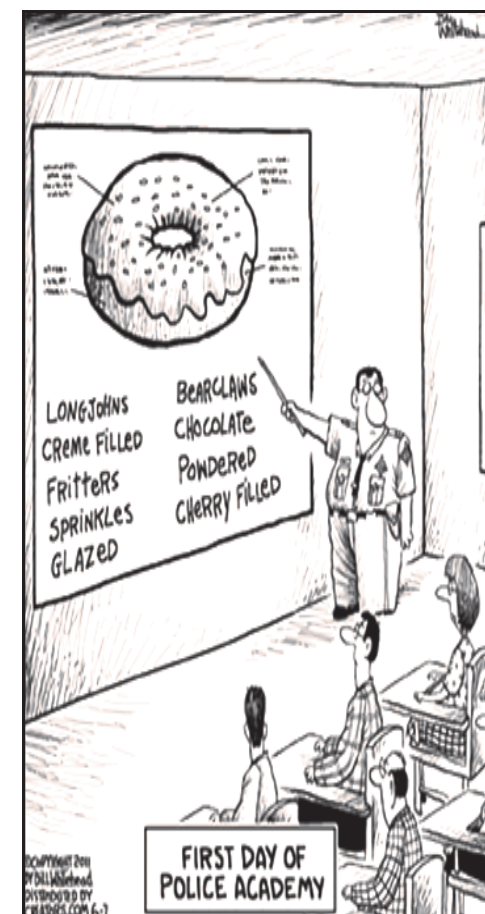





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Chaplain's Corner

By Chaplain Bill Wolfe
Llano County Sheriff's Dept.



The Scanner

Hello, and welcome back to the Chaplain's Corner. July 2011... only 16 more months! I only hope this country lasts that long. I have to wonder: "What part of 'NO' don't Senators understand?" And of course, too, when you read the headlines on Drudge, you keep seeing things proposed and pending that are straight out of the Book of Revelation. But that's a sermon for another day. (I heard someone over there say "whew!")

Hmmm....lawnmowers last month, scanners this... I guess to put it in Dr. Seuss lingo: "from there to here, from here to there, object lessons are everywhere." <grin>

The Scanner – sounds like a book or movie title doesn't it? Well, I'd best not stretch this to book-length or I'll put some folks to sleep. My little illustration this time isn't a police scanner or a bar code reader. In this day of computer-literacy probably most of you are familiar with, at least conceptually, the desktop scanners

that are hooked to computers to "scan in" hardcopy documents and photos and the like. That's the type of scanner I want to draw your attention to. I'd hold mine up so you could see, but... So I'll just have to describe as best I can. It's basically a thin plastic box that has a scanning carriage like a Xerox machine that moves the length of the "scanning bed" (a long rectangular piece of glass or clear plastic).

I have had an "ancient" Hewlett-Packard table-top scanner for nearly 15 years now. I got it waaaay back when "Dr. Daughter" was still in high school. For the last couple of years now it hasn't cooperated when I've tried to use it. Usually when I'd boot up the computer I would hear it make sounds like it was initializing, but it wouldn't scan. I never expended much time in trying to figure out why. This weekend, Dr. Daughter needed to scan some documents to be emailed and ... right... it still didn't work. I tried everything I knew. I fiddled with settings. I changed USB ports. I changed user pro-

files. I hooked it to the OLD computer. Nothing. It would make the expected initialization sounds, Windows XP would find it... I repeatedly uninstalled and reinstalled the software... but still NOTHING! AARRGHH! <sigh> OK... last resort. I went to the HP website and fired up a download of the software. Over 2 hours on dialup. Guess what. Yep. I gave up, being it was about 0230 and I had to be in the CV in about 5 ½ hours.

That evening after I got off duty, I thought "there's got to be something simple," so I tried one more time. This time I started experimenting with the scanner itself. And I discovered that the computer WAS talking to the scanner and the scanner WAS talking to the computer, but the carriage wasn't moving. Ah Ha! (Did I tell you I was in data processing for over 20 years? I can fix this!) Well, I grabbed my trusty screwdriver and took the cover off of the scanner and found I could reposition the carriage by hand. After moving the carriage I'd try to use the scanner; the carriage would return to the "start" position and just "bounce in place." <sigh> It's broke. The problem is inter-

nal... a fried circuit board or something. This one I can't fix. It's beyond my skills and ability. So, what I had to do was "resort" to using a newer scanner that someone had given me.

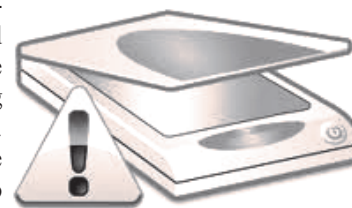
OK, so what do I make of all that? Several things. <grin> "The scanner is like..." is how Jesus would have started. This whole thing is sort of a picture of mankind and their relationship with God.

Where to start? Where to start?

1. Well, if we think of the whole scanner/PC "picture," then it could be an illustration of something being wrong in our lives; but not understanding where the problem is, we try all sorts of different things (read: drugs, alcohol, sex) to "fix" it. The more it doesn't work, the harder and faster we try the

same things hoping for a different result. We keep getting the same results because the problem is in the "scanner" (our innermost being) not the "computer" (our relationship with God and others). We, as humans, seem to have a built-in aversion to admitting that something inside us isn't what it could/should be.

(Continued on page 14)



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SPIRITS SAID TO INHABIT FORMER JAIL



Workers in the former jail building in Hondo say unexplained noises and unusual sightings are spirits.

HONDO — Laugh if you please, but Medina County Judge Jim Barden isn't joking when he says an other-worldly spirit has made its presence known in the former jail building that now houses his staff.

He recently was spooked into leaving by the sound of unexplained footsteps as he worked alone, after hours.

"I walked all over the building and there wasn't anything there," Barden, 74, said Wednesday. "I wouldn't have gone home if I hadn't felt something weird and uncomfortable."

He and co-workers report repeatedly experiencing unexplained phenomena since early 2010 when they moved into the former lockup upon completion of a \$1.2 million conversion into offices.

Beside hearing "footsteps" and other noises in a vacant stairwell, reports among the building's six workers include catching glimpses of shadowy figures moving about, hearing voices, even being touched.

"There's something here," Jennifer Adlong, Barden's administrative assis-

tant, says matter-of-factly. "I could have sworn yesterday I saw something dart in the bathroom."

Co-worker Laryssa Leyva theorizes that former inmates are haunting the fortresslike limestone building, built in 1893, that housed county prisoners until a new 96-bed jail opened in 1999.

"I'm not scared because they never come close to me," said Leyva, 23, on Wednesday. "I don't feel spirits. I just hear noises."

The county's human resource director, Stacey Cameron, has developed a more personal relationship with the spirit(s).

Besides hearing strange noises, she's said she's seen a dark shadow the height of an adult in her first-floor office. She initially attributed it to tricks of the mind. But then she had the distinct feeling of being touched and poked, forcing her to confront the ghosts directly.

"I just told them not to touch me anymore, and it hasn't," said Cameron, 38.

Her assistant, Yvonne Garcia, has grown used to unusual events, like hearing a woman's voice when no one else is in the 1,900-square-foot building.

"Lately I've seen shadows, but I don't know if it's just me," she said.

Although eager for an explanation, Barden has no plans to hire professional ghost hunters to investigate the mystery.

"We don't want to spend taxpayers' money on that," said Barden, a retired telephone corporate attorney and executive. "I accept the fact that there are spirits, and we have had unexplained phenomena in this building."

Reprinted from San Antonio Express News

OFFICER WILL

(Continued from page 4)

gram, which automatically checks the immigration history of all suspects booked into jail.

'Spoil it for the rest'

Rick Dovalina, a Houston attorney and past president of the League of United Latin American Citizens, said the public should try and keep perspective on the issue of illegal immigrants and crime,

even though it may seem difficult at times.

"I've always stood on the side of the immigrants and their plight to get here and what they go through, but it's getting harder and harder now because of these few idiots that go out there and drink and drive and commit crimes," he said. "They kind of spoil it for the rest. The majority of immigrants are good law-abiding people."

Will is survived by his wife - who is six months pregnant - and two stepchildren, ages 6 and 10.

Reprinted from chron.com

SPIKES

(Continued from page 7)

ago.

Parker noted that, prompted by a call to her office by Morrison's wife, she had discussed the idea with the police. "They will consider it, although I know that there's a concern that if you did something like putting road spikes down, if someone's at a high rate of speed that that could create additional hazards at the scene, but it's a worthy suggestion for follow-up, and we will do that," Parker said.

Morrison was not discouraged. It takes time to change department policy. After all, it was only the past five years that wearing bulletproof vests became mandatory for most uniformed HPD officers, Houston Police Officers Union President Gary Blankinship said. Told of Morrison's

idea, he said it sounded like a good one. The distance between the traffic barrier and Will was great enough, Blankinship said, that road spikes might have disabled the vehicle and saved Will's life.

Wreckers block lanes?

Morrison also suggested bringing in wreckers to block freeway lanes, even if they are not needed to haul away vehicles. While it may cost \$50 or \$100 an hour just to have them parked on the freeway, the cost of not having them there could be much higher, he said, pointing out that his own medical bills have topped \$1 million.

Morrison said he is scheduled to meet with Police Chief Charles McClelland today, and he plans to ask that equipping patrol cars with road spikes be mandatory.

"That's how policies come about — because something happened," Morrison said.

Reprinted from chron.com

National Prayer Event comes to San Antonio

Families of law enforcement personnel who gathered downtown for the National Day of Prayer for Law Enforcement Officers said their faith helps curb the anxiety of having a loved one in the line of duty.

In its inaugural event, a local group called Wives on Duty led prayer and worship on the steps of City Hall. Members said they were a sisterhood of women whose husbands are police officers, firefighters and other emergency responders whose jobs put their lives at risk.

Police Department Chaplain Paul Worley led a prayer for officers, followed by words of encouragement from fellow chaplain, Father Jimmy Drennan.

"We are reminded each year how difficult and challenging it is to be a police officer and how important it is that a community come together to support the men and women who so bravely serve," Drennan said. "But a hidden group is the wives and husbands, the children and parents of those officers, who are on duty 24 hours a day."

Allison Uribe, who founded Wives on Duty, said officers' spouses live with constant fear for their loved ones' safety, and when that combines with their job stress, marital problems can ensue.

She said she created the organization three years ago as a ministry and support system to strengthen those marriages.

"It's so important because of the increase in death and divorce in their occupation," Uribe said. "A lot is expected of the officers, and it's very hard to transition from work life to home. It's important the wives show that God strengthens them and to pray for their protection."

Edna Avalos, also married to an SAPD officer, said she came to

the event for prayer and unity with a group that can understand her anxieties.

"I often deal with when he runs late, and after 10 o'clock I start to panic," Avalos said. "I think something is wrong. I'll wait by the phone to hear him."

Verlinda Garcia, wife of an SAPD officer for 14 years, joined Wives on Duty this year and said she can attest to that kind of strain. She was on her way to pick up her daughter from her mother's house Wednesday but was late because of a minor accident. Her husband happened to be on duty that night.

"My daughter called, and the first thing she asked was, 'Is daddy OK?'" Garcia said. "That's part of being a policeman's family. We always think of the 'What if?'"

Reprinted from San Antonio Express News



Father Jimmy Drennen speaks during the first National Day of Prayer for Law Enforcement Officers at City Hall steps.



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SMITH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE EVIDENCE SPANS DECADES

EDITOR'S NOTE: The locations of the multiple evidence rooms in this story are purposely withheld to ensure the security and integrity of evidence in thousands of criminal cases.

Boxes stacked to the ceiling, old rusty guns stored in barrels, bicycles, and even grave markers fill several rooms used to store decades of evidence from crimes in Smith County.

Smith County Sheriff's Chief Deputy Bobby Garmon and Lt. Tony Dana walked through multiple evidence rooms last week discussing how evidence is collected and how it is stored today compared to decades ago before DNA was used as evidence.

In one room, containers of shotguns and rifles line a wall. Other barrels contain tire tools, ax handles and baseball bats. Garmon reached in and picked up one rifle and looked at a faded evidence tag on the weapon.

The chief explained that the gun was used in a 1999 deadly conduct case the Tyler Police Department worked, and a judge has not issued a destruction notice. "This gun was used in a criminal case, but we have other guns and other kinds of evidence that was recovered from burglars when they were caught. Some of this stuff was never used in a crime, but the owners never reported it missing. We still have to keep it until we get an order from a judge," he said.

A rusted handgun in another room was used in a 1990s homicide case, while the rifle beside it was used in a 2001 homicide.

Garmon said 32 agencies in Smith County have the power to make arrests and work criminal cases, and after the completion of a court case, the evidence is turned over to the sheriff's office to manage.

"When a criminal case occurs in Smith County — even if it is another agency's case — we are the ones charged with keeping it until we get a destruction order, and that could be years or even decades from now," Garmon said.

Garmon and Dana pointed out that the way the guns were kept in the past is not how they are packaged now, and that is because of advances in forensic sciences — chiefly DNA.

"Years ago, there wasn't any knowledge of DNA, so we put a tag on it and placed it in a barrel. That is just about how every agency in the country was doing it then," Garmon said.

Dana said if a crime is committed now, the gun or other weapon is swabbed for evidence, then stored in a breathable box to ensure any trace evidence would be protected.

"It's a lot different than how it was done in the past, but this is how it is done now," he said in another room where shelves contained boxes of handguns on one wall and rifles and shotguns on the other.

Each box had the case number and date with the initials of the evidence officer who is responsible for the evidence. Garmon said keeping up with the amount of evidence stored by the sheriff's office is

(Continued on page 13)

Geographic profiling creates smart push pins for police

SAN MARCOS — Consider the ubiquitous push pin, perhaps the most important office supply ever used in crime fighting.

Police use clipboard, cabinets and folders, but the push pin has always held a special place in the hearts and on the wall maps, of law enforcement. Beat cops use them to pinpoint trouble spots. Desperate investigators use push pins like color-coded darts, hurling them at maps and hoping they'll show patterns in serial crime.

But now, thanks to trailblazing work by Kim Rossmo, a former Vancouver police officer and now head of Texas State University's Center for Geospatial Intelligence and Investigation, the push pin has been turbo-charged and digitized to become part of a new data arsenal used to catch criminals.

Using a specialized algorithm that came to him while working on his criminology dissertation in 1991, Rossmo invented the science of geographic profiling.

Geographic profiling uses thousands of pieces of data — gathered by investigators, from witness statements, from FBI psychological profiles and from anecdotal observations about local neighborhoods — to spit out really complicated Venn diagrams.

"Geography is something everyone can understand," he says, adding that most people reside in a place that fits their needs. It's either close to the amenities they want and provides distance from annoyances.

Criminals do that, too. Psychological profiles show they want to commit crime close to home. They want a deep pool of victims in places that are easy to get to, but are also out of sight. And they want to

be off the streets and safe at home as soon as possible.

Geographic profiling doesn't replace shoe leather, Rossmo says, but adds a new tool for police. Tod Burke, a Radford University criminal justice professor and a former police officer, agrees.

"Police work has become data-driven," said Burke. "It doesn't mean we've lost touch with the community. We still rely on old-fashioned police work. But with budget cuts, we're asking police to do more with less. It's not how many officers you have, but where you place the officers."

Geographic profiling, Burke says, helps departments make those decisions.

Rossmo's work was the basis for the television series "Numb3rs" and he served as a consultant for "Zodiac", a 2009 film about a still-unsolved string of crimes in the San Francisco Bay area.

In the 1990s, Rossmo helped police in Lafayette, La. and England find serial rapists who for years escaped capture. In each case, the suspect was identified through other means. But in both cases, the suspects lived in areas pinpointed by Rossmo's algorithm. In Lafayette, the target area was a half-mile square on the south side of town.

More recently, Irvine, Calif. police tweaked his formula. They weren't looking for a burglar's house, but rather his car.

Their target was the "Chair Burglar," so named because he usually employed a chair to help make his escape over backyard privacy fences. The Chair Burglar, Irvine police said, made off with \$2.5 million worth of stolen goods during more than 500 residential burglaries over

(Continued on page 15)



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Grand jury clears Beeville officer in fatal shooting

Mark Collette

BEEVILLE — A grand jury cleared a Beeville police officer who shot and killed a 29-year-old suspected thief in May.

The officer stopped the suspect's car after a convenience store theft early on May 31.

Anthony Albert Ponce of Three Rivers exited his car carrying a handgun and making threatening gestures, Beeville Police Chief Joe Treviño said.

The officer told Ponce to drop his gun several times and fired when he wouldn't comply, Treviño said.

The officer performed CPR while waiting for an ambulance.

Sheriff Wiles announces he'll run for re-election

Aaron Bracamontes, El Paso Times

El Paso County Sheriff Richard Wiles announced his bid for re-election last month during his 50th birthday party.

"I just thought it would be a good chance to announce it to my family and friends," he said.

Wiles does not have an opponent in the Democratic Party primary, which will take place next year.

Wiles, a former police chief, was elected sheriff in 2008 after defeating another former police chief, Carlos Leon, in the Democratic primary and Republican George Rodriguez Stoltz in the general election with 72 percent of the vote.

Man gets life in Dallas officer's death

A Dallas jury has sentenced a man to life in prison after his conviction in the fatal shooting of a police officer who was serving a warrant.

Charles Payne was convicted of murder instead of capital murder in the 2009 death of Sr. Cpl. Norm Smith. Twenty-nine-year-old Payne was later sentenced.

Payne had testified he thought he was being robbed and did not know that the people outside the door of his apartment were police, looking for another man inside the unit.

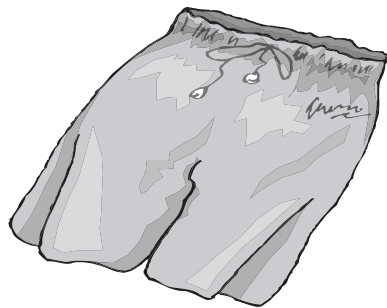
But the jury found he did not act with sudden passion, a finding that could have resulted in a sentence of two to 20 years.

Smith, who was 43, was killed almost instantly when Payne fired through the door, striking him near his left eye.

Special Crimes Unit names new leader

Amarillo Globe News

The Randall Special Crimes Unit will



soon have a new leader, the Amarillo Police Department announced last month.

Lt. Erick Bohannon assumed leadership of the unit June 27, which investigates homicides in Amarillo and Potter County.

Bohannon, who most recently headed the SWAT/Narcotics Unit, will replace Lt. Gary Trupe, who lead the Special Crimes Unit for more than eight years. Trupe will assume command of the uniform division's day shift patrol operations, which includes five supervisors and 57 officers.

Lt. Terry Lichtie, who supervised the day shift, has been appointed to lead the SWAT/Narcotics Unit.

Amarillo SWAT earns second in competition

Bobby Cervantes, Amarillo Globe News

The Amarillo Police Department's SWAT finished second in its category at the 2011 Security Protection Officer Team Competition at the Pantex Plant.

Teams were separated based on whether they are affiliated with the U.S. Department of Energy, which include Pantex. APD and other security agencies, including the Pueblo, Colo., Police Department and the Canadian team Bruce Power, competed to take home the non-Department of Energy Award.

Bruce Power, which secures a nuclear facility in Ontario, defended last year's first place trophy by besting the APD this year by more than 30 points.

Alto Council Furloughs Town's Police Force

ALTO (AP) — The governing council of a small East Texas town has voted to furlough its police force for six months, believing it the best way to save the city money.

The four-member Alto City Council voted to cut off for six months the wages and benefits for Alto's police chief and four police officers, effective June 16. That's despite Mayor Monty Collins' warning that such a move is a mistake. The furlough would turn over law enforcement for the town of about 1,200 residents over to the Cherokee County Sheriff's Office. Deputies recently took over law enforcement down the road in the town of Wells. That's after the governing council in the town of 800 residents laid off its only police officer.

(Continued on page 14)



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Justice Department closes investigation of Austin Police Department

Federal officials say they have no cause to believe police violated laws.

Saying they could not find evidence that the Austin Police Department was violating the law or the U.S. Constitution, federal officials have closed a four-year investigation into the department.

In a memo to acting City Attorney Karen Kennard, an official from the U.S. Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division wrote that "because we do not find reasonable cause to believe that APD has engaged in a pattern, or practice that violated the Constitution or laws of the United States, we have closed our investigation."

The official, Jonathan M. Smith of the department's special litigation section, wrote that Austin police have implemented nearly all recommendations the Justice Department made in 2008 regarding Austin police use of force, complaint investigation procedures, training and community relations.

The memo made four more recommendations to the Police Department, including the early identification of officers with a tendency to violate use-of-force policies and scrutiny of the department's internal affairs process by the police monitor's office.

The Justice Department began an investigation into the Police Department in 2007, three years after the Austin chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the Texas Civil Rights Project filed a federal complaint that the department was violat-

ing citizens' civil rights.

The investigation was not a criminal one. It sought "to determine whether APD is systemically violating the Constitution of the United States."

Police Chief Art Acevedo on Sunday said he wanted to stress that the Justice Department "did not find a department systematically engaging in the violation of people's civil rights."

"As a new chief in 2007, I welcomed the Department of Justice review as an opportunity to make a good department better," Acevedo said. "I think it's important to realize all of their recommendations had to do with processes, procedures and systems, not officer behavior."

Acevedo said the four recommendations are all ones the Police Department has discussed with federal officials and are working on.

"We're very pleased and not surprised at all that the Justice Department did not see any systematic problems with our officers," said Sgt. Wayne Vincent, president of the Austin Police Association.

Smith wrote that he thanked the department for its voluntary implementation of federal suggestions in 2008. However, he cited four areas where the department could show improvement and further reform:

- Fully implementing a planned "early intervention system" that identifies officers with a tendency to violate police policy and use of force;
- Having the internal affairs division conduct investigations in "an objective and

(Continued on page 15)



Ticket issued to 10-year-old Leander boy is dismissed

The City of Leander's Municipal Court has dismissed a traffic ticket issued to a 10-year-old boy, officials said Monday.

The ticket was issued May 31 to Marshall May, who just finished fourth grade at Jim Plain Elementary School, for not wearing his seat belt properly. Texas law says a person must be at least 15 years old to commit such an offense.

The next day, Leander police officer Woodson Blase, who wrote the ticket, filed a request for the citation's dismissal with the court, court records show. Blase wrote that the reason for the dismissal was "erroneous issuance to underage violator."

The ticket was dismissed Thursday, court administrator Barbara Shannon said.

"Police officers make mistakes from time to time," City Attorney Barney Knight said. "By the time he got the ticket back to the office or went off of his shift, he realized he'd made a mistake and that case was going to be dismissed."

If a child isn't properly secured by a seat belt, the adult in the car would be at fault, according to the law. But Marshall's aunt, Ashley Arredondo, 19, who was

driving, didn't receive a ticket.

Marshall said the seat belt had slipped toward his neck before Blase ticketed him. The boy said he was frightened when he received the ticket.

Knight said he does not know whether Blase will be disciplined for the mistake. That would be up to the chief of police, he said.

Discipline for the officer is unlikely, though, Knight said.

"People make mistakes," Knight said. "They make a mistake, they find out about it, and they run the correction through. It just happens."

The Leander Police Department did not return phone calls Monday requesting comment about the incident. Blase also did not return a call.

Marshall's father, Gabriel May, said he was pleased the ticket had been dismissed.

"It does concern me a little bit that something like that would happen in the first place," he said. But "when it's all said and done, I'm relieved it was dismissed."

Reprinted from Austin American Statesman



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(Continued from page 6)

chat features or manage with whom and how a user can communicate and play;

- ⇒ Enable or disable Web browsing;
- ⇒ Permit or block access to online games; and
- ⇒ Restrict games based on maturity

Parental control features on a wireless phone or game system are designed to give parents peace of mind. While these tools are important, actual parental supervision offers the best level of control. To keep young Texans safe while they enjoy their summer break, parents should communicate openly with their kids and set clear limits on Internet, wireless device and gaming system usage.

SMITH Co

(Continued from page 11)

a daunting task that keeps officers busy all the time.

"On these old guns, he has to do research to find out what happened in the case, if the person is out of jail or what has happened. If a judge gives us a destruction order, then we can have it destroyed, or if it is an antique gun, we can auction that item off to a licensed dealer," he said. Garmon and Dana were quick to point out that guns or other weapons used to facilitate a homicide never could be destroyed because the statute of limitations never expires and because of requirements with the Combined DNA Index System, which stores DNA in felony crimes. Dana said CODIS allows DNA evidence from crimes and convicted felons to be

stored, and the information can be accessed by law enforcement to see whether there is a match.

He said another reason it is important to keep weapons used in sexual assaults or homicides is because many people convicted for crimes they did not commit have been released after DNA testing of evidence in the case.

But, Dana added, "It takes as much time to get a destruction order on a pair of pliers used in a burglary as it would in a felony case, other than murder and sexual assault, where a weapon was used." Garmon said the sheriff's office has met recently to discuss the need for additional space to store evidence.

"This is a huge responsibility and it takes a lot of space, but it is something we have to do, and we have to make sure that it is kept safe," he said, looking at rows of moving boxes piled up in a large room.

Reprinted from Tyler Morning Telegraph

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SHORTS

(Continued from page 12)

SAPD veteran promoted to deputy chief

A 22-year veteran San Antonio police officer became a deputy chief of patrol in a ceremony Friday morning.

Roy Waldhelm, 47, will oversee the south, west and central patrol divisions as one of two patrol supervisors, he said. Chief William McManus said the Portland native was hesitant to accept the new assignment because of his relationship with his family.

"There's nothing in the world for me that's more important than my family," Waldhelm said Friday. "But I will find that balance."

His daughter Briana, 21, a student at the University of the Incarnate Word, pinned on Waldhelm's badge at the promotion ceremony. Waldhelm had been an acting deputy chief for about four months after former Deputy Chief Mike Burns retired.

"He's always been a solid police officer and is a proven commodity," McManus said. "Without leadership, the department is rudderless."

HPD officer shoots two in break-in at his home

A Houston police officer shot at least two men who broke into his home Thursday evening, officials said.

Lt. Donald Hamilton, 53, said he was getting ready for his shift at the Houston Police Department's Southeast Patrol Division about 6 p.m. when he heard a knock

at his front door, on President's Drive near Cullen.

Hamilton didn't answer the door, investigators said.

"According to him, there are solicitors in the neighborhood all the time," said Harris County Sheriff's Sgt. Greg Pinkins, whose agency is leading the investigation because the shooting was in their jurisdiction.

Soon after that, Hamilton said, someone started banging on his back door. When he went to investigate, the HPD officer saw that at least two men had forced their way inside by breaking a window and were moving toward him, sheriff's detectives said.

"He discharged his weapon, striking one or maybe two of them," Pinkins said of Hamilton.

Detectives said they don't believe the men were armed, but the fact that they had broken into his home would have given Hamilton justification to defend himself.

The wounded suspects and a third person, believed to have remained outside, ran toward a car in front of the house. Hamilton also fired at the now-fleeing vehicle, investigators said.

Detectives said one of the suspects was later taken to Ben Taub General Hospital by an ambulance while the other went there by himself.

A third person, who appeared to have been uninjured, was later questioned back at the shooting scene.

Detectives said Hamilton, who's a 28-year HPD veteran, identified the man as being one of the burglars. Hamilton was not injured.

The investigation is continuing, officials said.

CHAPLAIN

(Continued from page 8)

2. The problem is not something visible. When I looked the scanner over, it looked like everything was good. We look in the mirror and we tend to only see what's reflected. Taking the time to "loosen the screws" and look deeper for the problem isn't necessarily something we want to do, but it is necessary to locate the problem.

3. Changing "positions" won't fix the problem, because the problem is elsewhere. You know, you can go to church somewhere and sit there in the pew and think that just because you're there, the problem will automatically be fixed. No...when you get up and walk outside, you simply "reset" and the problem remains because you still haven't identified the problem.

4. It takes an expert to fix some things, but the expert can't fix what I don't take to him. There was a time when things in my life were not right, but I realized I couldn't fix them. I found out that God could, but only if I let Him have a hand in my life.

5. Sometimes things require replacing. Sometimes we need a "change of heart" –

a fresh start. God offers us that chance. If we will recognize that we have a "heart problem" and go to God and confess; ask forgiveness; ask for a fresh start, He'll be glad to do that for us.

Let me take us to The Book to rephrase point 5:

If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us. (1 John 1:8-10)

Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Uh Oh... I'm getting long-winded again, so I'd better wrap this up by simply referring you to Psalm 51 in the Old Testament to see how King David "fixed things."

Hey, thanks for listening. I hope you have a great shift. Until next time: Blessings to you and yours.

Chaplain Bill

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JUSTICE DEPT

(Continued from page 12)

probing manner," though it notes that the department has made sweeping changes of that division's staff;

- Having review boards identify tactical or training issues that could be corrected to minimize uses of force against citizens;

- Allowing the Office of the Police Monitor to provide objective and public reports on the conduct of the internal affairs division. The memo notes that the monitor should provide an analysis of the internal affairs process, not just give reports on the number of cases they review.

Nelson Linder, president of the local chapter of the NAACP, said that he believed the Justice Department conducted a good investigation and that he was not disappointed with its findings.

"There is no doubt that Chief Acevedo and his team have made a lot of reforms," Linder said. "I think he should be congratulated."

Linder said that the department can't

rest when it comes to finding the best policies and training for officers. He stressed the value of having an early-warning system to identify troubled officers.

Linder said that if such a system were in place, former police Sgt. Michael Olsen and officer Leonardo Quintana — two officers involved in "office of the police monitor" controversial shootings — "would not have been police officers."

Acevedo fired Olsen for excessive force and said he demonstrated poor judgment and tactics leading up to his fatal shooting of Kevin Alexander Brown in 2007. Quintana, who shot and killed Nathaniel Sanders II in 2009, was fired twice from the department — once for a drunken driving arrest and later for a domestic violence allegation.

The fourth point Smith made in his memo is a timely one. In recent weeks, Austin Police Monitor Margo Frasier, whose agency provides training and policy recommendations to the department, has proved to be a visible and vocal critic.

Reprinted from Austin American Statesman

PROFILING

(Continued from page 11)

20 years.

As Rossmo tells it, police determined the burglar was moving undetected through upper-middle class neighborhoods via green belts. Figuring a burglar couldn't afford to live in these neighborhoods, crime analyst Lorie Velarde used geographic profiling to cross-index streets near a green belt; houses that afforded easy access from back doors and windows; times of day when previous burglaries had occurred; and proximity to parking areas.

Armed with that and on the watch, police caught Ray Lopez, then 47, in the act. With his arrest, home burglaries in Irvine dropped 40 percent.

In recent years, Rossmo has been fine-tuning the algorithm to work with the military and federal agencies to plug holes in the U.S. border, thwart counter-insurgency overseas and find terrorist cells at home. As with criminals, illegal immigrants, insurgents and terrorists act

are based on convenience and opportunity.

"If you want to understand criminals," he said, "you have to understand what they're doing in the 95 percent of the time they're not engaging in criminal activity."

In border crossings, the profile calls for an urban area on the Mexican side, a rail spur as a way of moving without being seen, and a terrain feature that makes the travel easier, such as a low-water crossing. Terrorists, Rossmo said, need storage space, proximity to mass transportation and cheap housing. Both profiles can be plugged into Rossmo's algorithm.

Two years ago, Rossmo was asked to help track down great white sharks. His work established that, like serial killers, sharks stay in a comfort zone and base their attacks on calculations of success.

Serial criminal, terrorists, insurgents and sharks all share one common trait, Rossmo says.

"They all need geography that works for them."

Reprinted from San Antonio Express News

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