

EXTRA! EXTRA!

Major County Sheriffs of America in the News

MCSA social media Thanksgiving safety messaging

In the week leading up to Thanksgiving 2019, Major County Sheriffs of America utilized our social media to share great safety advice and holiday wishes from several member agencies with our followers. In case you missed them, click the links below to watch the videos. If you're not already following us on social media, join us today!

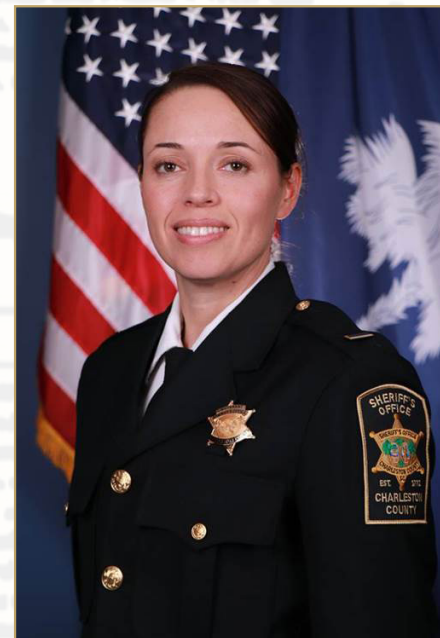


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Lieutenant accepted into prestigious White House Fellows program

Lieutenant Rita Avila, a Charleston County (SC) Sheriff's lieutenant, was recently accepted into the 2019-2020 class of White House Fellows in Washington D.C. President Lyndon B. Johnson created the program in 1964 "to give the Fellows first-hand, high-level experience with the workings of the federal government and to increase their sense of participation in national affairs." Its mission is to encourage active citizenship and service to the nation.



Sheriff Al Cannon, realizing the potential within his agency, encouraged deputies to apply for this year's session. Lieutenant Avila applied for the Fellowship, competing against applicants from across the country. After multiple interviews, Lt. Avila was chosen as one of fifteen from across the country. She is the only person representing South Carolina and is the only law enforcement officer in the program.

and I'm privileged to represent the Sheriff's Office and the Charleston County community." She is currently residing in Washington D.C. on an extended leave of absence from the Sheriff's Office. Sheriff Cannon shared that he is "very proud of Rita's ambition and determination in pursuing this opportunity. Our greatest investment is to support the endeavors of our future leaders in all facets of our communities."

Lt. Avila said, "I'm honored to be a part of this esteemed program,

Read Lt. Avila's bio and find out more about the program at: https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/white-house-appoints-2019-2020-class-white-house-fellows/?utm_source=miragenews&utm_medium=miragenews&utm_campaign=news

Advancement in tech lead to arrest in 1991 cold case murder

Sheriff Mitzi G. Johanknecht has announced the arrest of a 55-year-old Covington, Washington, man for the 1991 cold case murder of 16-year-old Sarah Yarborough in Federal Way.



28 years ago, on December 14th, 1991 at about 8 am, Sarah arrived at Federal Way High School. A member of the drill team, Sarah had arrived about an hour early to meet her team and catch the bus to an event.

Just after 9am, two 12-year-old boys were cutting through the high school grounds and saw a male walking out of the bushes. After he walked away, they looked in the bushes and discovered Sarah's body. The boys went home and told their parents, who called 911. Officers responded to the scene immediately and locked down the scene for detectives.

Autopsy results confirmed Sarah had been strangled with a ligature. DNA evidence was recovered from the scene and a suspect DNA profile was identified.

Using information obtained from the boys, a sketch was made of the suspect. This case garnered national attention and generated thousands of tips. There were almost 4,000 tips by the time of the arrest, yet none of them identified Nicholas as a suspect.

Throughout the course of this investigation, DNA evidence was re-examined several times based on advancements in technology.

In 2011, Detective Jim Allen reached out to Dr. Colleen Fitzpatrick of Identifinders regarding Genetic Genealogy. This allowed detectives to determine some physical attributes of the suspect. Later Dr. Fitzpatrick was able to determine general ancestry of the suspect.

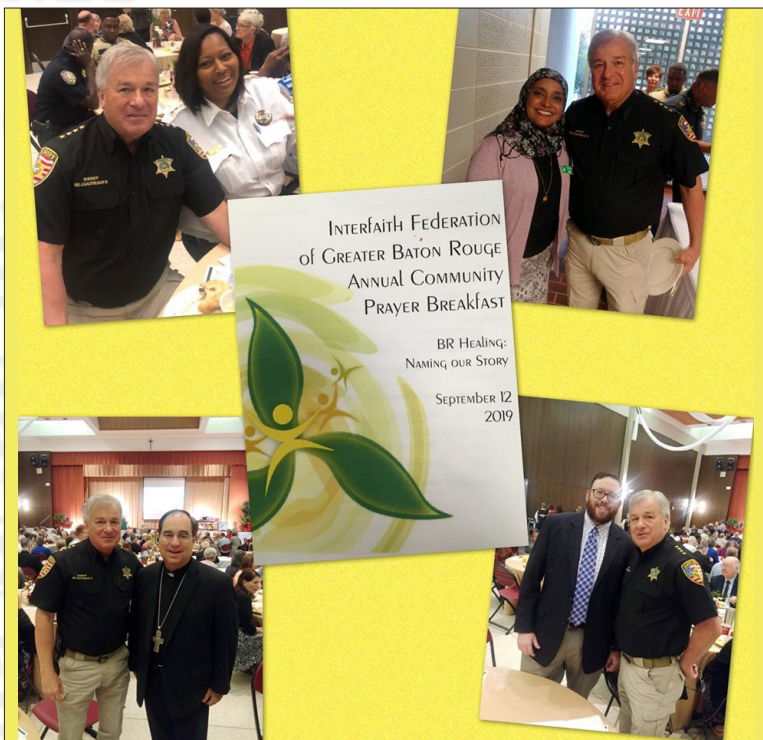
In 2018, Detective Kathleen Decker went back to Dr. Fitzpatrick again to take advantage of cutting-edge DNA and genetic testing to attempt to find Sarah's killer. On 09/27/19, Dr. Fitzpatrick contacted Detective Decker and provided a promising lead in the case.

Detectives from the Sheriff's Office surveilled the subject and collected discarded items containing his DNA. On 9/30/19, these items were submitted to the Washington State Patrol Crime Lab for comparison to the unknown suspect profile in this case.

On 10/2/19, Detective Decker was contacted by the crime lab and was advised of a positive match.

Detectives arrested the suspect at a business in Kent without incident. He is currently booked in the King County jail.

A search warrant was served at his residence, and the investigation remains ongoing but detectives have learned he was arrested in King County in 1994 for Child Molestation. The case was eventually resolved as an Assault 4



Sheriff Sid Gautreaux attended the Interfaith Federation of Greater Baton Rouge Annual Community Breakfast. Prayer was for "BR Healing: Naming Our Story." Pastors spoke about the tragedies of the Summer of 2016 following the shooting of law enforcement and record flooding. They discussed hope and purpose.

"Kindness not only opens doors, but kindness heals. Pain has united us all, but kindness will heal us all," Sheriff Gautreaux said. "It's been said that when you break a bone, it heals back stronger than it was before. Our city has, and will continue to grow stronger than we were before—united in kindness."

Pictured: Constable Terrica Williams, President of Interfaith organization Mloufer Mohammed, Bishop Duca of the Catholic Diocese and Juvenile Court Judge Adam Haney

Polk Sheriff Grady Judd announces record drug bust, talks politics

By Jack Evans

Polk County Sheriff's deputies had a "happy Thanksgiving" last Thursday, Sheriff Grady Judd said — not because the turkey and gravy were particularly good, but because it marked the end of a months-long drug operation that concluded with the largest heroin seizure in the agency's history.

A news conference Monday also gave Judd a chance to tie the operation to a swath of political planks, as he took aim at undocumented immigration, California's legal system and advocates of drug decriminalization.

The sting, dubbed Operation Tri-fecta, spanned nearly eight months, four states and six arrests, Judd said. Over the course of it, law enforcement officials seized 137 pounds of meth and, in two separate Thanksgiving Day busts, five kilos — about 10 pounds — of heroin.

The drugs had a total street value of about \$9.5 million, Judd estimated.

"This is a huge amount of drugs when we're used to seeing it by grams, by hits," he said. "And we know how dangerous heroin is of its own nature, and then along the way it gets cut with fentanyl."

He said an operation like this should cast shame on advocates of drug decriminalization — even though that advocacy typically focuses on the consumption of drugs, not sales.

"I'd love to tell you how many lives our detectives saved," he added later. "I can't."

The drugs weren't making their way through central Florida when deputies seized them, though. Undercover deputies instead built relationships with the accused drug traffickers in California, Illinois and Texas, Judd said, and convinced them that they could build pipelines in this part of the state. Then, when the drugs made their way to Florida, the arrests began.

Undercover deputies arranged purchases of about 40 pounds of meth from California between April and July, Judd said, in one case flying to Los Angeles to make a deal. Then in August, Polk deputies went back to California, where along with local agencies they arrested two accused traffickers and seized another 100 pounds of meth.

Judd said both men arrested in California, Albaro Armando Carillo Jr. and Jose Juan Tafolla-Navarrete, were undocumented immigrants. Throughout the news conference, he used their status to advocate for tighter borders, saying that "why in the world we accept people coming across this border from other countries to prey on and commit crime against innocent people is beyond me."

He also said Tafolla-Navarrete has been released from jail in California on bail and that neither of the men has been reported to Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

"California's a trainwreck," he said. "If you want to see how not to deal with criminals, go to California."



Around the same time period, he said, undercover deputies connected with accused heroin traffickers in Houston and Chicago. In early November, deputies said they bought a kilo of heroin from Julio Cesar Don Juan, of Houston. They arranged for him and his brother, Rene Don Juan-Gonzalez, to deliver another 1.25 kilos on Thanksgiving. Judd said deputies met them at a Walmart in North Lakeland and arrested them. They both face heroin trafficking charges.

Earlier that day, Judd said, deputies also arrested Francisco Reyna-Duran and Susana Salgado-Solis, who they said traveled from Chicago to deliver 3.25 kilos of heroin. Judd said Salgado-Solis' two young children made the trip with her and are now in the custody of the Department of Children and Families. Reyna-Duran and Salgado-Solis face heroin trafficking charges, and Salgado-Solis faces a charge of negligent child abuse.

See the article here:
<https://www.tampabay.com/news/crime/2019/12/02/polk-sheriff-grady-judd-announces-record-drug-bust-talks-politics/>