

Law enforcement careers still strong in weak economy

It has become clear that unemployment rates have increased throughout the nation. While many businesses and fields have cut back their workforce, some are still strong. Law enforcement is a perfect example of a career that is expected to continue hiring new employees in the next ten years.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the anticipated growth for the law enforcement field is 11 percent through 2016.

Educational requirements for a position in the field of criminal justice typically range from a high school diploma to a college degree. Applicants with a college degree in criminal justice or those with prior military experience will have the best opportunities for employment within this field. While it is not always the case, most law enforcement agencies are now requiring applicants to have six college credits or a completed degree prior to employment. In fact, this is becoming the trend in Southwest Florida.

In 2006, police and detective specialists held 861,000 jobs nationwide according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. It is also known that local level



Denise Womer

departments employed 79 percent of these individuals, while approximately 11 percent of these law enforcement jobs were at the state level and 7 percent at federal agencies.

Overall, the opportunities for local police and sheriff departments are excellent for those applicants who pass psychological, personal and physical qualification exams as well as a background investigation. The field of criminal justice has many areas that are expected to experience continued growth. Furthermore, those with a background in criminal justice can also expect to find employment as a private detective or as an investigator, which are two fields that are expected to grow by 18 percent from 2006 through 2016.

Additional opportunities include working in private security, which is expected to grow by 17 percent, or working as a casino gaming officer, which is

expected to grow by 34 percent from 2006 through 2016.

With the advent of a declining economy and housing market, there is an increased demand for qualified security personnel. An Associate degree can open the door to many entry-level positions in local law enforcement and security, while a Bachelor degree recipient can be applicable for advancement into both state and federal level jobs.

Southwest Florida College is an accredited private, nonprofit institution centrally located in Fort Myers, Tampa, Port Charlotte and also includes the Institute of Interior Design located within the International Design Center in Estero. Its mission is to provide an education to men and women, thereby enabling them to pursue successful careers and lead enriched lives. For more information, call toll-free, 888-526-7973 or visit www.swfc.edu.

Denise R. Womer has worked in the criminal justice field for over 15 years. She is currently sharing her expertise as the Program Manager of Legal Studies at Southwest Florida College. She can be reached at dwomer@swfc.edu.

Rowers from around nation come to area clinics

By **DANA SANCHEZ**
ASSISTANT ENGLEWOOD EDITOR

ENGLEWOOD — Rowers from cold climates where rivers may be frozen are coming here to train at six rowing clinics through March 1 with Boston-area crew coach Mayrene Earle.

A group of women, including members of the Lemon Bay Crew Club, met Friday afternoon for a clinic to practice their rowing skills on Lemon Bay.

Cold weather and ice on the Detroit River have kept Pat Shumate, a rower from Detroit, out of the water for too long, she said.

"Coming down here is like going to heaven," Shumate said. "I haven't rowed since the third week of October."

The normal high temperature in Detroit is 30 degrees this time of year. Rules for outdoor rowing dictate that the combined water and air temperature must be 100 degrees, Shumate said.

Not a problem in Englewood.

The owner of Masters Coaching in Cape Cod,

Earle has coached women in Englewood for five years, but this year she expanded her endeavor to six camps with 10 participants each. They're having an impact on the local economy.

"Rowers are staying at local motels, eating at local restaurants and shopping downtown," said Carolyn Pope, who coaches the Lemon Bay Crew Club. Earle coaches the women to compete in regattas around the country, including the U.S. Rowing National Championships and the Row of the Charles Regatta.

"They do this on their vacation time from full-time jobs," she said.

Over the years, Earle said she has become so fond of the Englewood area that she is staying here for three months this year and plans to do the same next year.

"I love it so much," she said.

The 18-member Lemon Bay Crew Club faces challenges this year without a permanent home base. It meets on the lawn of the Michael Saunders

building at Beach Road and State Road 776. Other nearby property owners help support the club, allowing it to use water for cleaning their rowing shells and offering storage space and other types of sponsorship.

"We're at everyone's mercy here," said club president Cathy Spencer. "We're a small club and trying to grow, but we're not in a position to buy land."

Spencer said she hopes the clinics will raise awareness of the area as a rowing venue.

Locally, members come from Boca Grande, Rotonda and Nokomis.

In cold climates, rowers can't go out on the water and usually practice on indoor exercise machines called ergometers.

"They simulate the real thing and there are even competitions on 'ergs,'" as rowers refer to them. They don't have to do that here.

"We have so much nice weather, there's hardly a time we can't use the water," Spencer said.

E-mail: dsanchez@sun-herald.com

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

Eco-Kids Club goes 'buggy'

The Eco-Kids Club, an environmental club that meets once a month and is sponsored by People for Trees Inc., is open to all children (recommended ages 5 and up) who want to explore everything about the Florida outdoors.

At the next session, "Bugs" children are invited to bring a bug-in-a-jar for expert Fred Santana to identify. Kids will make a mealworm necklace and follow the migratory path of a

Monarch butterfly. The group will meet from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday at Myakka-hatchee Creek Environmental Park on Reistertown Road. Call 941-426-9752 for more information.

Concert Band performance

The North Port Concert Band will present its next concert, "Music, Music, Music" at 3 p.m. Sunday at the North Port Performing Arts Center, 6400 W. Price Blvd.

This concert will feature the solo performances of Gail and Leonard Klebanoff. This husband and wife team have been performing together for 55 years. Gail will perform Richard Addinsell's "Warsaw Concerto" and Leonard will perform Alexander Goedicke's "Concert Etude" with the band.

Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$4 for students. They are available at the box office at 941-426-8479 or 866-406-7722 between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Monday to Friday.

OBITUARIES

NORTH PORT

Larry W. Landon

Larry W. Landon, 66, of North Port, Fla., passed away Friday, Feb. 13, 2009.

He was born October 11, 1942 in Zion, Ill. and moved to this area in 1981 from Korea. Mr. Landon was a retired master sergeant after 22 years of service in the U.S. Air Force. He was a former member of the V.E.W. and Elks.

Survivors include his wife, Kil Cha; mother, Jean Landon-Bigler of North Port; daughter, Lori Subject of Texas; son, Michael of Texas; four grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Memorial services will be held at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 20, 2009 at the Korean Church of Venice, 3665 E. Venice Avenue, Venice, Fla. Arrangements were made in Port Charlotte, Fla.

Charles D. Sutton

Charles D. Sutton, 77, of North Port, Fla., died Saturday, Feb. 14, 2009.

He was born April 21, 1931 in Troy, Kan. Charles was an avid reader, a music enthusiast, a late-blooming oil painter and a Cubs fan.

Survivors include his wife, Carol Sutton of North Port; daughters, Megan Wills of Yuma, Colo., Paige Saefkow of Dubuque, Iowa; step-son, Chris Bonney of Winfield, Ill.; brothers, Roger and Dale; and eight grandchildren.

A Memorial Service will be held at 11 a.m., Thursday, Feb. 19, 2009 at the Living Waters Lutheran Church, 12475 Chancellor Blvd., North Port. In lieu of flowers, memorial donation may be made to the Living Waters Lutheran Church, P.O. Box 8064, North Port, FL 34290 to benefit the Special Time Adult Respite Program. Please visit kays-ponger.com to leave the family condolences and to sign the online guestbook.

Arrangements are by Kays-Ponger & Useton Funeral Home, Port Charlotte chapel.

CHARLOTTE

Nicola Falcetta

Nicola Falcetta, 85, of Cape Coral, Fla., passed away Sunday, Feb. 15, 2009. Arrangements are by Coral Ridge Funeral Home and Cemetery, Cape Coral.

Charles M. Folds Jr.

Charles M. Folds Jr., 67, of Cape Coral, Fla., passed away Friday, Feb. 13, 2009. Arrangements are by Coral Ridge Funeral Home and Cemetery, Cape Coral.

Matthew W. Kania

Matthew W. Kania, 66, of Cape Coral, Fla., passed away Tuesday, Feb. 10, 2009. Arrangements are by Coral Ridge Funeral Home and Cemetery, Cape Coral.

Rosetta Moskowitz

Rosetta Moskowitz, 87, of Cape Coral, Fla., passed away Monday, Feb. 16, 2009. Arrangements are by Coral Ridge Funeral Home and Cemetery, Cape Coral.

John M. Pierce

John M. Pierce, 65, of Punta Gorda, Fla., passed away Friday, Feb. 13, 2009. He was born October 6, 1943 in Pascagoula, Miss. John was a retired painter in construction.

He will be greatly missed by his wife, Gloria; daughters, Cheri (Rod) Rodman of Gainesville, Fla., Brenda (Sedric) Anderson of Cedar

Springs, Mich., Karen (Joe) Brecker of North Port, Fla., Kathy Holloway of Port Charlotte, Lori Atchley of Tampa, Fla. and Dede Roughton and Eric Steck of Port Charlotte; and several grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

A celebration of John's life was held Monday, Feb. 16, 2009. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Pierce family in care of Larry Taylor Funeral and Cremation Services, 1515 Tamiami Trail, Punta Gorda, FL 33950 to assist with funeral expenses. To express condolences to the family, please visit www.ltraylorfuneral.com and sign the online guest book. Arrangements are by Larry Taylor Funeral and Cremation Services.

Michael L. Torres

Michael Luis Torres, 25, of Cape Coral, Fla., passed away Friday, Feb. 13, 2009. Arrangements are by Coral Ridge Funeral Home and Cemetery, Cape Coral.

William R. Welch

William R. "Bill" Welch, 72, of Port Charlotte, Fla., passed away Wednesday, Feb. 11, 2009.

He was born Dec. 15, 1936 in Portland, Maine to Gordon and Alice (nee St. Clair) Welch.

Bill served in the U.S. Marine Corps for 15 years and was awarded three Purple Hearts for wounds he received in Vietnam. Bill was chief of prosthetics for the Veterans Administration for 15 years before retiring to Port Charlotte. He enjoyed boating and was a member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

He will be greatly missed by his friends and family, wife of 46 years, Elizabeth "Liz"; sons, William Jr. (Susan) and Robert;

granddaughters, Gabrielle and Reagan; sister, Mary (Norman) McNailey and sister-in-law, Linda Welch. Bill was preceded in death by his parents, Gordon and Alice; sister, Patricia and brother, Louis.

Services will be held 10:30 a.m. Monday, March 2, 2009 at Saint Frances of Assisi 5265 Placida Rd. Englewood, Fla. Friends and relatives are welcome. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Bills name to The American Cancer Society, 922 Tamiami Trail C2, Port Charlotte, FL 33953 or to TideWell Hospice and Palliative Care, 1158 Veronica St. Port Charlotte FL 33953.

Arrangements are by National Cremation Society.

ENGLEWOOD

Patricia E. Jarrett

Patricia E. Jarrett, 77, of Englewood, Fla., formerly of Indianapolis, Ind., entered into eternal rest

Saturday, Feb. 14, 2009 at Englewood Community Hospital.

She was born in Indianapolis Aug. 31, 1931 to George and Mary Snavely.

Patricia spent 25 years as an account executive with Indiana Bell Telephone (AT&T) where she retired in 1984. After retirement she and her husband, Robert, moved to Clearwater, Fla., to begin their golden years together. In 1987 they moved to Englewood and have resided there ever since.

She is survived by her loving and devoted husband of 47 years, Robert (Bob); daughter, Sandra Jarrett, Tampa, Fla.; son, David Jarrett, Sr., Newport News, Va., two grandchildren, Danielle Schommer and David Jarrett, II, both of Newport News; one great-grandchild, Paisley Schommer; brothers, Harry Snavely, Mooresville, Ind., George Snavely, Bangkok, Thailand; brothers-in-law, Frank Vollrath, Englewood, and Sal Taibi, Long Beach, Calif.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 18, 2009 at Lemon Bay Funeral Home, Englewood Chapel. Burial will follow at Gulf Pines Memorial Park, Englewood. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in Patricia's name to TideWell Hospice and Palliative Care, 1144 Veronica St., Port Charlotte, FL 33952 and St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, Tenn. 38105. You may express your condolences to the family at lemonbayfh.com

Arrangements are by Lemon Bay Funeral Home, Englewood Chapel.

OBITUARY POLICY

Obituaries are accepted from funeral homes only. There is no charge for publishing an abbreviated death notice online. Full obituaries and repeat death notices will be subject to an advertising charge.

Obituaries must be received by 2 pm for Tuesday through Saturday publication. For Sunday and Monday publication deadline is 4:30 p.m.

Friday. The American flag accompanying and obituary indicates a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces.

Please send e-mails to obituaries@sun-herald.com.



2820 D Highlands Road, Northport Heights, FL 33953

Traditional Funeral with Cremation & Live Broadcast **from \$2400**

R.S.V.P. for Seminar **941-240-2515**
888-713-1224

JAMES W. MALLONEE, P.A.
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

JAMES W. MALLONEE	ELLIE K. HARRIS
• Real Estate	• Probate
• Guardianship	• Wills
• Wills/Trusts	• Trusts
• Probate	• Landlord Tenant

Office Hours — Monday to Friday, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
946 Tamiami Trail, Unit #6, Port Charlotte, FL 33953
(941) 206-2223

VA BENEFITS
For Veterans, Spouses and Widows

Xavier Fernandez PA
Attorney at Law
Port Charlotte • Punta Gorda

Free Consultation • Your Home
CALL 239-332-4519
877-332-4519