

Police beat

State Attorney's office says deputies' shooting justified

PALM HARBOR – The State Attorney's Office says a shooting involving two Pinellas County sheriff's deputies on Dec. 22 in Palm Harbor that left a man dead was justified.

State Attorney Bernie McCabe sent a letter to Sheriff Bob Gualtieri April 7, that said, "As a result of our investigation, I have determined that Deputies Casey Hunter and Brian Sudbrink were in the performance of their legal duties when Stanley Dale Eversole defied the commands of Deputies Miller and Cahoon and pointed his cocked and loaded crossbow at them.

"Eversole's words and actions caused Deputy Hunter and Deputy Sudbrink to be in justifiable fear that Deputy Miller and Deputy Cahoon would suffer great bodily harm or death if they had not fired their weapons."

Indian Rocks Beach man allegedly targets 14-year-old for sex

LARGO – A 63-year-old Indian Rocks Beach man is out on bail after he was arrested and charged in connection with a chat conversation with a detective posing as a 14-year-old boy.

Largo police arrested Mark Harold Schmitz April 7 and charged him with use of a computer to seduce, solicit, lure or entice a child, traveling to meet a minor, misrepresentation of age while using a computer to seduce, solicit, lure or entice a child and unlawful use of a two-way communication device.

He was booked into the Pinellas County Jail at 4:41 p.m. and released on a \$17,000 surety bond at 11:48 p.m.

Largo police detectives responded to a sexually explicit ad Schmitz placed on a social media site targeting a young straight or bi-curious male. In the ad, he said he was 49-years-old, according to the arrest affidavit.

Detectives assumed the identity of a 14-year-old male and began chatting via email with the person who placed the ad. On April 7, Schmitz asked to meet who he believed to be a 14-year-old boy in the parking lot of a restaurant in Largo.

Detectives said that he provided a photo of himself, which allowed them to identify him.

When Schmitz entered the restaurant, detectives, who say he admitted during an interview to his "involvement in this incident", stopped him.

Detectives shoot and kill wanted man outside Largo Winghouse

LARGO – Pinellas County Sheriff's detectives shot and killed a wanted man about 3:30 p.m. April 6 in the parking lot of the Winghouse, 7369 Ulmerton Road in Largo.

The deceased was identified as Richard Xavier Summers, 48, of Tarpon Springs, who was wanted by Hillsborough County for failure to appear on a felony fraud criminal charge.

Detectives with the Sheriff's Violent Offender Warrant Unit were notified about Summers April 6 due to his extensive criminal history that included drug trafficking. Summers also was known to carry a firearm.

Detectives then began to investigate and found out that the suspect was gathering money so he could flee the county. They then located the man, who was a passenger in an Uber vehicle, and followed him to

a Wells Fargo Bank where he cashed a check and then left in the same vehicle.

When detectives initiated a traffic stop, the unidentified Uber driver pulled into the Winghouse parking lot. Detectives told the driver and Summers to place their hands in the air. The driver did as asked, but Summers did not.

Detectives said Summers made "furtive movements" inside the front passenger area and refused to do what detectives told him to do. Instead, Summers opened the front passenger door and exited the vehicle with a semi-automatic handgun that he pointed at detectives.

Summers then fired on the detectives, striking the hood of one of the detective's vehicles.

Lt. Steve Wagner, Sgt. Frank Holloway, Cpl. Kevin Grissinger, and detectives Clay Saunders, Jason Willis and Thomas Akin returned fire striking Summers.

Paramedics responded to the scene and Summers was pronounced dead. No detectives or deputies were injured.

The detectives involved in the shooting were placed on routine paid administrative leave.

How to contribute

All press releases are published on a space available basis.

The deadline for all Bee copy is Thursday, noon, a week preceding publication date. The newspapers are published on the first Fridays of the month. All submissions can be emailed to editorial@TBNweekly.com or faxed to 727-397-5900.

Business Showcase

Belltech Computer Solutions – Our Community's IT Department

It takes vision and foresight in these times to keep up with the ever changing technology landscape. If a high tech business is to thrive and grow, then whoever is at the helm has to see into the future and prepare the company for what's ahead. If they don't, that future will come and go before you know it.

Larry Bell, owner, president and CEO of Belltech Computer Solutions, founded the company back in 1998 and it has grown from a one man show to a full fledged operation servicing all technological aspects of the community ... "We do it all in house," says Larry. "We are focused on all of your computer/IT needs. Anything from virus removal, data recovery and website design for both residential and commercial enterprises ... MAC and PC as well."

Bell says he has always taken the repair/recovery of data and computers seriously. Soon after he founded the company, he realized there was more to the computer world than just repairing a laptop. He said he could see things changing. With Cloud services coming Larry knew where computer data and archiving was headed. "I was always aware that data recovery is the major aspect of the services we provide. We always have the highest respect and are extremely serious about the handling of not only personal and business data. It is a priority to make sure our customers know and feel that their data is safe and secure."

One place Bell was headed was to Belleair Bluffs where, in addition to running his own business, he is that community's IT specialist. He realized that local businesses had to grow technologically if they were to keep up in this world. Debra Sullivan, the City Clerk for Belleair Bluffs said, "I first called Larry Bell of Belltech Computer Solutions to solve an issue we were having at city hall with our computer system. He not only fixed our immediate problem, but upgraded our system. He has since become the city's local Information Technology company. We are collaborating on a revised website for the city, which will be revealed shortly."

"People used to have a business card but now they need a digital business card which is a website," he said. "That allows people to understand what your business is, how professional and serious you are taking your own business."



Vanessa Baker, Public Relations Specialist; Larry Bell, Owner; Zoë Bell, Daughter; Susie Q, Social Media Specialist; Matthew Beers, Manager;

As a result Belltech Computer Solutions pushed ahead to provide competent solutions for businesses stuck with a website that they do not own, know how to edit or let alone access. Sometimes they do not even know if they own the domain. Bell said "We are here to help correct such issues and allow the business owner to have control, comfort and confidence with all aspects of their website, SEO and social media."

Michelle Orvis of Belle's Olive Branch in Belleair Bluffs explains her experience with Larry Bell and Belltech: "Creative and dedicated to make my website the best it could possibly be to bring business in through the Web. Larry went above and beyond to make this site work to full capacity. He knows everything there is about Web design and ecommerce. He didn't stop with just the Web design but built everything to work seamlessly, making it easy for the user to maintain."

Belltech offers free consultations for all services. "Websites today are not what they used to be," said Bell. "Websites need to be mobile friendly websites. Google is no longer going to allow a non-mobile friendly website to be relevant on smartphones, tablets and social media platforms. They want a serious company." Bell explained that a responsive website is

one that is designed to fit whatever format the user has at hand, whether it is a desktop computer, a smartphone or a tablet.

"Your website needs to respond to the device, (smartphone, iPads, etc.), because it is being viewed from companies like Google and Bing which have decided you aren't relevant anymore if your website is not mobile-friendly."

In addition to designing websites, Belltech Computer Solutions also helps provide content for websites. Belltech has specialists for social media optimization and search engine optimization. They also create and produce 4K video commercials that will run on the company's website, social media and any other outlets you have in mind.

Larry Bell says despite the company's venture into the high tech world, he wants clients to know he and the Belltech team are people who care about what they are doing. "Real people not glorified geeks," is the fun slogan that he hopes conveys the message.

Larry is the proud father of his 6-year-old daughter Zoë, who attends Indian Rocks Christian School. Zoë is simply an inspiration. "When my daughter was on the way I decided to build a business that makes a difference in our community," he said. Zoë's name is prominently displayed inside the company's store. Just inside the front door is the sign Zoë's Attraction, a room where clients meet with the Belltech team to discuss their needs and plans for the future.

Despite the company's venture into Web design, Bell says they haven't forgotten their roots, the repair of the everyday computer. "In addition to working on PC's, we also service MAC's," he said. "People don't have to drive all the way over to Tampa to get their work done, we do it right here. We'll also go to the customers' homes or businesses." Larry Bell is proud of his company's growth over the past several years. He says it has grown because his customers pass along their experience to friends. "It is all word of mouth," he said. "We are thankful for all of our loyal customers."

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