



NEWS RELEASE



ALACHUA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
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For Immediate Release:

Today's Date: July 14, 2008
Prepared By: Lieutenant Stephen Maynard
Release #: 08-117
Case #: 08-5687
Incident Date: May 21, 2008
Incident Time: 6:30 A.M.
Incident Location: Intersection of SW 46 Blvd and SW 94 Street Gainesville
Haile Plantation (Indigo square Neighborhood)

Haile Plantation Sexual Battery Investigation Update:

The following is an update on activity by The Alachua County Sheriff's Office during the investigation of the Sexual Battery that occurred in Haile Plantation on May 21st. This list is certainly not all inclusive but does include significant activity surrounding this investigation.

- More than 40,000 flyers depicting the forensic sketch of the suspect and reward information have been distributed countywide.
- The citizen driven reward fund managed by the Alachua County sheriff's Office now stands at almost \$23,000.
- Detectives have followed up on close to 500 leads that were provided by citizens in the wake of the attack. New leads continue to come in and the process of following up on those leads continues.
- Alachua County Sheriff's Office Detectives have reviewed hundreds of violent crimes reported to both The Gainesville Police Department and the Alachua County Sheriff's Office over the last year for a potential link. This process continues.
- Detectives have examined and continue to examine forensic evidence in the case for potential leads.
- At this time all of the almost 400 registered sex offenders residing in Alachua County have been ruled out as potential suspects.
- Detectives continue to monitor neighboring jurisdictions for similar crimes (this includes out of state cases). To date no link between this crime and any other similar crime has been established. This includes the Sexual Battery cases being widely reported in the Orlando area.
- Two separate RAD (Rape Aggression Defense) classes for women have been held for the residents of Haile. The classes are free; however, the fee for renting the facilities (Knapaha

Middle School) was graciously donated by the Haile Homeowners Association. More than fifty women attended these classes.

- Numerous Haile residents raised concerns about not receiving the automated telephone message that was sent out by The Alachua County Sheriff's Office on the day of the attack. In response to these concerns a link to the Alachua County Sheriff's Office website has been established allowing Alachua County residents to register their cell numbers in the system. This allows the user to receive important crime related messages as well as emergency updates and weather bulletins on their cell phones in addition to their home numbers. While not perfect the automated dialogic system including this new upgrade remains an invaluable resource for local law enforcement and emergency services.
- Anyone with information about this crime can call Detective Heather Phillips at (352) 367-4185 or Crime Stoppers at (352) 372-7867.

In addition, The Alachua County Sheriff's Office would like to remind citizens to be vigilant to their surroundings while exercising and to remember the following crime prevention tips:

- Avoid jogging after dark
- Jog in pairs when possible
- Always let someone know what route you will be taking and an estimated time of return
- Carry a cell phone with you
- If you utilize a MP3 player or similar device leave one of the earpieces out of your ear so that you can safely hear your surroundings while still enjoying your music
- Try to exercise in populated areas when possible
- If you see suspicious activity don't hesitate to call law enforcement

Other resources for information include the website www.hailehelp.org. The website is a valuable resource established and maintained by a local attorney. All of the information on the site has been scrutinized for accuracy by the Alachua County Sheriff's Office at the request of the website's author.

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