



***BROWARD COUNTY PBA  
DAILY CLIPS***

***August 28, 2017***

**MEDIA OUTLET:** Sun Sentinel

**HEADLINE:** Cops name woman shot dead in standoff with Sunrise police

**BYLINE:** Brian Ballou

**LINK:** <http://www.sun-sentinel.com/local/broward/sunrise/fl-sb-sunrise-police-shooting-20170826-story.html>

**STORY:** The woman shot and killed by Sunrise police after she barricaded herself in her apartment for more than three hours was named Saturday as Kristen Ambury, 28.

Police were called to the Water's Edge apartments complex at 4 p.m. Friday after getting a call about a woman who was home alone and threatening to harm herself, said Veda Coleman-Wright, spokeswoman for the Broward Sheriff's Office.

When they arrived at Water's Edge, Sunrise officers learned that Ambury, who was described as suicidal, was armed, and Sunrise's SWAT team responded to the scene, Coleman-Wright said.

When communication with the SWAT team and Ambury broke off, officers tried to enter the apartment to make sure she hadn't harmed herself, but they encountered the armed woman and shots were fired, Coleman-Wright said. Ambury died at the scene and no officers were injured.

Residents living at the complex, just north of Oakland Park Boulevard and east of Hiatus Road, said it was a tense standoff, with as many as a dozen officers positioned near the scene and other officers at many corners.

Neighbors trying to drive to their apartments after work were denied access. Residents who had been walking outside were told by police to go inside their apartments and stay there.

One resident, who asked not to be identified, said Ambury often walked her two small dogs throughout the complex, and sometimes sat for prolonged periods near the edge of the canal behind her building.

The resident said she heard as many as five shots at about 7:30 p.m.

It's not clear from information released by the police or the Broward Sheriff's Office so far whether Ambury fired her weapon at the officers.

Many residents said they were not allowed to return to their apartments until around midnight.

BSO homicide and crime scene detectives are investigating. No further information was released.

**MEDIA OUTLET:** Sun Sentinel

**HEADLINE:** Governor Scott appoints new member of Broward Health board

**BYLINE:** David Fleshler

**LINK:** <http://www.sun-sentinel.com/local/broward/fl-sb-broward-health-board-member-20170825-story.html>

**STORY:** Gov. Rick Scott appointed a Parkland lawyer Friday to the board of Broward Health, reducing the number of vacant board seats to two.

Named to the board was Andrew M. Klein, 50, managing attorney at Klein Law Group, a firm that specializes in communications law. The governor also reappointed Steven A. Wellins, 51, of Fort Lauderdale, senior vice president of investments for Wells Fargo Advisors.

The board of Broward Health, legally known as the North Broward Hospital District, has had three vacant seats for months, as it grappled with financial, legal and personnel problems. Klein's appointment leaves two seats yet to be filled.

Meanwhile, interim chief executive officer Beverly Capasso has moved to fill the organization's depleted executive ranks.

This week she named Peter Nyamora, former human resources officer of Memorial Hospital Pembroke, as senior vice president for human resources, and Beth A. Cherry, former administrator for physician integration and community practices at the Medicine Institute at the Cleveland Clinic, as vice president of physician services.

Broward Health, which is partially supported by property taxes, runs five hospitals that serve the northern two-thirds of the county.

**MEDIA OUTLET:** Miami Herald

**HEADLINE:** Florida police fatally shoot woman threatening suicide

**BYLINE:** Associated Press

**LINK:** <http://www.miamiherald.com/news/article169544997.html>

**STORY:** SUNRISE, FLA. - Authorities say a Florida police SWAT team shot and killed an armed woman who had been threatening suicide.

The Broward County Sheriff's Office says a Sunrise Police SWAT team went to an apartment Friday where 28-year-old Kristen Ambury was armed and was threatening to kill herself.

Sheriff's spokeswoman Veda Coleman-Wright said in a press release Saturday that Ambury stopped communicating with officers, so the SWAT team entered the apartment. She says the officers encountered Ambury and shots were fired. She died at the scene. No officers were hurt.

The Sunrise police asked the sheriff's office to investigate the shooting. Coleman-Wright declined to release further details. The Sunrise police did not respond to phone and email requests for comment.

**MEDIA OUTLET:** Palm Beach Post

**HEADLINE:** BSO identifies woman killed during standoff with Sunrise police

**BYLINE:** Olivia Hitchcock

**LINK:** <http://www.palmbeachpost.com/news/crime--law/bso-identifies-woman-killed-during-standoff-with-sunrise-police/Ohd71LpAF7GDajhzWu7R5O/>

**STORY:** SUNRISE - A 28-year-old woman was killed in a police officer-involved shooting Friday evening at a home in Sunrise, the Broward County Sheriff's Office said Saturday.

Kristen Ambury was shot to death at about 7:30 p.m. Friday, authorities said.

Sunrise police first responded shortly before 4 p.m. Friday to a home in Water's Edge Apartments on the west side of the city after reports of a woman who was home alone and threatening to harm herself.

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Ambury reportedly was armed, so the city's SWAT team arrived at the apartment, according to the sheriff's office, which is investigating the shooting at the request of city police.

When communication with Ambury stopped at about 7:30 p.m., authorities tried to enter the apartment to ensure she hadn't harmed herself.

They encountered Ambury, who they say was armed, and shots were fired. The details of that shooting were not immediately released.

Ambury died at the scene. No officers were injured, according to the sheriff's office.

**MEDIA OUTLET:** Palm Beach Post

**HEADLINE:** Man who won police settlements arrested for DUI manslaughter

**BYLINE:** Eliot Kleinberg

**LINK:** <http://www.mypalmbeachpost.com/news/crime--law/man-who-won-police-settlements-arrested-for-dui-manslaughter/5ZwaU38i0tIV1fkx4HzJhI/>

**STORY:** WEST PALM BEACH — Keenoen Lamont Stafenie, who won separate six-figure settlements from two agencies following a 2012 confrontation with law-enforcement officers, was in the Palm Beach County Jail on Friday, charged with DUI manslaughter.

Authorities said a passenger died in a 2015 Broward County crash while Stafenie allegedly drove and smoked the synthetic drug flakka.

West Palm Beach agreed to a \$140,000 settlement in October 2013, and the sheriff's office agreed to the same amount in June 2015 after Stafenie sued, saying officers beat him in November 2012 on a West Palm Beach street corner.

Records show Stafenie, who lives in Riviera Beach, was being held without bond at the jail, pending his transfer to Broward. He was booked Thursday night, his 27th birthday, on the out-of-county warrant.

The jail log says he was arrested by West Palm Beach police. That agency Friday was not able to provide details of the arrest.

Keenoen also faces two misdemeanor counts of DUI property damage in the 2015 Pompano Beach incident, according to the Broward County State Attorney's office and Broward County Sheriff's Office.

Palm Beach County Jail officials said Stafenie also had a hold for St. Lucie County on a charge of failing to appear in court on a traffic charge of driving with a suspended license.

According to a Broward sheriff's report, at about 5:25 a.m. April 12, 2015, Stafenie was driving a white 2011 BMW 325i west on West Atlantic Boulevard, near the Interstate 95 overpass, with Jerome Johnson, then 22, of Coral Springs in the front passenger seat and another man, Vernon Williams, in the back.

The report said Stafenie's car drifted into the right lane and rear-ended a truck — its model was not specified in the report — that was slowing for a red light. The impact pushed the truck about 180 feet, dragging the BMW, which was stuck under it.

Johnson was taken to Broward Health North in Deerfield Beach, where he was pronounced dead.

The report does not say if injuries were suffered by Stafenie, the other passenger or the driver of the truck, identified as Michael Hamilton. The report did not give Hamilton's age and hometown or that of Williams, the other passenger in Stafenie's car.

Williams later told investigators that Stafenie and Johnson had been smoking flakka, the report said.

At Broward Health Imperial Point in Fort Lauderdale, the report continued, an officer who talked to Stafenie said his mannerisms "did not appear to be 'normal,'" and a doctor advised he appeared to be

under the influence of flakka, the synthetic drug often marketed as bath salts, which can be snorted, smoked, injected or swallowed and gives users a euphoric buzz. Called “\$5 insanity” because of its low price, the drug can also cause hypothermia, paranoia and psychotic breaks.

The report said Stafenie agreed to have blood drawn. On March 8, 2016, it said, tests reported positive for the compound that makes flakka. The criminal charges were filed Nov. 2, 2016, authorities said.

State driving records show Stafenie’s license currently is suspended. In January 2014, he was ticketed for speeding, for driving 93 in a 65 mph zone in Palm Beach County. He later was convicted. He also was charged in October 2014 in Broward with failing to use due care during a crash. He was found guilty in both cases, records show.

The only other time Stafenie has been arrested before Thursday, according to state records, was Nov. 7, 2012. His Palm Beach County jail photo showed him with a battered and swollen face. He later sued the Palm Beach County Sheriff’s Office and West Palm Beach police, saying a deputy and officer, respectively, severely beat him that day.

Stafenie, then of Palm Beach Gardens, alleged in his October 2013 federal lawsuit that deputy Keith Stokes conspired with West Palm Beach police officers Zachary Immler and Jonathan Galui to falsify a police report to justify beating him outside a friend’s house in the 700 block of Seventh Street in West Palm Beach.

The suit contended that, in the confrontation, Stafenie complied with Immler’s command that he show his hands but that, “without provocation or incident,” Stokes pushed him into Immler. It says Immler either punched or pushed him back into the deputy, who “body-slammed, face-planted, and pile-driven Plaintiff (Stafenie) to the ground using a choke-hold” and pinned him to the ground with a knee.

West Palm Beach police charged Stafenie with one count of battery on an officer and one count of resisting an officer without violence. The case later was reduced to a misdemeanor, and prosecutors eventually dropped all charges.

The Palm Beach County State Attorney’s office did not pursue a criminal investigation of any of the officers’ actions. Immler was suspended for three days. Stokes and Galui were cleared of wrongdoing.

Stuart N. Kaplan, who represented Stefanie in the lawsuit, said Friday he had not heard of the arrest.

**MEDIA OUTLET:** Broward Beat

**HEADLINE:** The Name Game: Running For Broward Judge

**BYLINE:** Buddy Nevins

**LINK:** <https://www.browardbeat.com/the-name-game-running-for-broward-judge/>

**STORY:** Speaking to a room full of would-be judicial candidates earlier this year, political consultant Michael Ahearn made a surprisingly candid admission:

Candidates for judge win because they have the right name, not because anything that a consultant does.

A consultant Ahearn was telling potential candidates, i.e., customers, that his help wouldn't make a difference!

Amazing. Amazing and absolutely, positively true.

No consultant and no amount of money can guarantee a win in a judicial race.

The track record that consultants claim are pure heifer dust. No one has ever shown me evidence during my decades of covering politics that the strategy of any consultant produced a victory.

Ahearn is just the only one honest enough to say it.

Consultants like Ahearn can help organize a campaign. They can tell a candidate who among community leaders is important to meet. They can pinpoint what meetings to attend.

Consultants can place ads, sometimes taking a hidden rake-off for themselves. They can be a sounding board and a shoulder to cry on.

But nothing they do will sway voters. That is because few voters are paying attention to judicial campaigns.

Costly advertising mailed to home end up in the garbage unread. Internet, video ads and robo calls are ignored. Judicial candidate forums are attended by few.

Candidates for judge campaign in the dark. That will be true more than ever in 2018.

Call it the Trump Effect.

President Donald Trump continues to suck up all the air in the political world.

Few voters pay much attention to politics. What little space in their brains is left to politics is being filled by Trump's wild unpredictable presidency.

It's Trump 24/7 and no time for anything else. Judicial candidates are even more on their own than ever.



That's sad because judges touch peoples' lives like no one else on a local ballot. Inside a courtroom, a judge decides everything from finances to freedom.

Roughly two or more dozen Broward lawyers believe they have the wisdom, experience and temperament to be elected judge next year.

Candidates already running, a year before the primary. Four are campaigning for open Broward Circuit Court seats. Four incumbent Circuit Court judges in other seats have kicked off campaigns, too.

Candidates are running hard, too, although they are mostly shouting in the wilderness.

One of the few groups that pay attention this early to candidates for judge are cops for obvious reasons. They deal with judges on a daily basis.

The Broward County Police Benevolent Association gave family lawyer Camille Coolidge Shotwell a notable early endorsement this month.

She has a police pedigree — her husband, Fort Lauderdale Police hero homicide detective Mark Shotwell, was critically wounded during a gun battle at an Irish pub in 2014. Shotwell fatally shot a gun wielding man threatening a waitress.

So Coolidge Shotwell, 47, starts with a base of support among cops. Not bad, but her name is more probably important.

Coolidge Shotwell — there are plans to inject a hyphen in the name to read Coolidge Shotwell, thus moving her higher on the alphabetical ballot — is a neutral name. That name and its placement on the Group 39 ballot could sway many, who will vote without a clue other than the name.

The politics of the right name is what prompted one Circuit Court candidate now running to alter his name.

He ran last year for Circuit Court using his complete name — Haccord James Curry Jr. His real first name is unusual and that might be the reason that he came in third in 2016. So now he is running as H. James Curry.

There is nothing new about this. In 2006, then candidate Marina Garcia-Wood ran as Marina G. Wood for Circuit Court and won.

(Full disclosure: When asked by her at the time, I was one of the ones who told her that historically a neutral name was more electable in judicial races.)

Coolidge Shotwell says she will spend the next year campaigning throughout Broward County, a community that is bigger than several states.

Voters who are diligent will have plenty of opportunity to see and hear her. The others, the vast majority, will decide whether to vote for her based on whether they like the name Coolidge Shotwell.

And maybe that's another argument for appointed judges.



**MEDIA OUTLET:** NBC Miami (Channel 6)

**HEADLINE:** Police Fatally Shot Woman Barricaded in Sunrise Home, Threatening Suicide

**BYLINE:** Brandon Lopez

**LINK:** <http://www.nbcmiami.com/news/local/Woman-Barricaded-in-Sunrise-Home-Leads-to-Police-Involved-Shooting-441789533.html>

**STORY:** Detectives are investigating a deadly shooting following a standoff between police and woman who barricaded herself inside of a Sunrise apartment building.

The incident started Friday around 3:56 p.m. at the Waters Edge Apartments located along the 10000 block of Northwest 40th Street.

According to Broward Sheriff's Office, a woman, who was identified as Kristen Ambury, 28, was home alone and threatening to harm herself. When officers received information that the suicidal woman was armed, Sunrise Police Department SWAT team responded.

Once communication with the woman stopped, officers attempted to enter the apartment to make sure she hadn't harmed herself. According to BSO, authorities encountered the armed woman and shots were fired.

NBC 6 Reporter Michael Spears is in Sunrise, where a woman barricaded herself in her apartment, and was eventually killed by police following a standoff. (Published Friday, Aug. 25, 2017)  
Police said she died at the scene and no officers were injured during the incident.  
Detectives are investigating the circumstances that led up to the fatal shooting.

A witness who spoke to NBC 6 said there were about 30-40 officers in the neighborhood when she got home at about 4 p.m.

The witness told NBC 6 that she watched on her patio as SWAT attempted to get inside the barricaded woman's home by ramming the door. Eventually, flash bangs were used and the door was rammed with a SWAT vehicle.

The witness said she heard five gunshots.

**MEDIA OUTLET:** FOX Miami (Channel 7)

**HEADLINE:** Police fatally shoot armed woman barricaded in Sunrise apartment

**BYLINE:** Brandon Lopez

**LINK:** <http://wsvn.com/news/local/police-shoot-kill-armed-woman-after-barricade-situation-in-sunrise/>

**STORY:** SUNRISE, FLA. (WSVN) - Authorities are investigating after, they said, an armed woman who had barricaded herself in an apartment in Sunrise was shot and killed by a police officer, Friday night.

Just before 4 p.m., Sunrise Police responded to the Water's Edge Apartments, located at 11025 NW 40th St., regarding an armed woman who was barricaded inside her home alone and threatening to harm herself.

The woman's mother was in contact with her during the situation.

Investigators later identified the woman as 28-year-old Kristen Ambury.

Once communication with Ambury stopped, a SWAT team attempted to enter the apartment to make sure she hadn't harmed herself. Officials said she confronted the officers with a firearm.

Police fired shots at the woman, shortly before 7:30 p.m.

Ambury died at the scene. No officers were injured.

It is unclear if the woman had fired at the officers.

Officials said she had a history of mental illness and was drinking and taking pills.

Broward Sheriff's Office detectives are investigating the circumstances that led to the fatal shooting.

**MEDIA OUTLET:** ABC Miami (Channel 10)

**HEADLINE:** Police officers kill US Army war veteran with mental health issues

**BYLINE:** Andrea Torres

**LINK:** <https://www.local10.com/news/florida/broward/police-officers-kill-us-army-war-veteran-with-mental-health-issues>

**STORY:** SUNRISE, Fla. - Kristen Ambury was a U.S. Army explosive ordnance specialist and an emergency medical technician. The 28-year-old war veteran also worked for the American Heart Association and was a critical care paramedic for the American Medical Response.

The Broward College and Broward Fire Academy graduate worked with Fort Lauderdale Fire Rescue. She was passionate about saving lives and she also loved dogs. She died when the Sunrise Police Department could not help her Friday.

Broward Sheriff's Office deputies said SWAT broke into her home to try to save her life. Sunrise police officers responded to the Water's Edge apartments because she was suicidal. Relatives said she appeared to be under the influence of alcohol and struggled with her mental health.

BSO spokeswoman Veda Coleman-Wright said Ambury was home alone. When police officers couldn't negotiate with her, SWAT team officers entered her home. Neighbors said there was a tense standoff and they heard five to six shots about 7:30 p.m.

Ambury was pronounced dead at the scene. The Sunrise Police Department handed over the case to BSO deputies, who were still investigating the incident Sunday afternoon. Deputies confirmed police officers shot at Ambury.

Ambury's death comes at a time when the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs is asking for more funding. President Donald Trump appointed Dr. David Shulkin, whose father served as a U.S. Army psychiatrist, to reform the troubled VA.

Veterans returning from Afghanistan, Iraq and other hostile areas of the Middle East "are not only at high risk of homelessness, but at high risk for suicide," Shulkin said during an interview with Local 10 News earlier this year.

Shulkin also said he had the support of Trump to improve health services for veterans. The president signed into law new measures meant to accelerate the appeals process for disability claims, make it easier to get rid of ineffective VA employees and improve access to emergency mental health assessments.

Women veterans are more likely to have to deal with the added trauma of sexual and physical abuse suffered during their service. Post-traumatic stress disorder patients tell horrific stories of sexual assault, and the military struggles to punish non-active duty and retired personnel responsible.

Sunrise police officers didn't know much about Ambury's struggles when they responded to the medical call Friday. When they couldn't help her, they got some of their best trained officers to get Ambury to leave her apartment.

Ambury's family and neighbors said they knew she was in emotional pain and was going through a tough time financially. When law enforcement arrived, Sunrise officers told BSO deputies that she was holding on to her gun, and in the end, she turned to her gun.