

Spotlight:
State Employee Going Above & Beyond
KSP telecommunicator makes a difference

On January 9, 2015, Nita Franklin, a police telecommunicator at Kentucky State Police Post 4 in Elizabethtown, answered a call from a male subject regarding a custodial interference complaint. He explained that the biological, but non-custodial mother of his 10-year-old daughter had failed to return the child from a visitation with her in Texas. This resulted in a warrant being issued for the mother by the Meade County Attorney's Office.

"The father told me he had received a message from the child's mother that she would not come back to a state where she would be arrested and she was headed for the border," said Franklin.



Franklin immediately accessed FBI National Crime Information Center resources and discovered that while the mother had already been entered into the database as wanted, the child was not listed as missing. She took it upon herself to straighten out the situation and entered the child as "missing endangered" due to the mother's past history of mental and physical abuse.

Her next move played a critical role in bringing the situation to a positive conclusion. "I obtained the mother's cell phone number and requested a "ping" on her phone," she said.

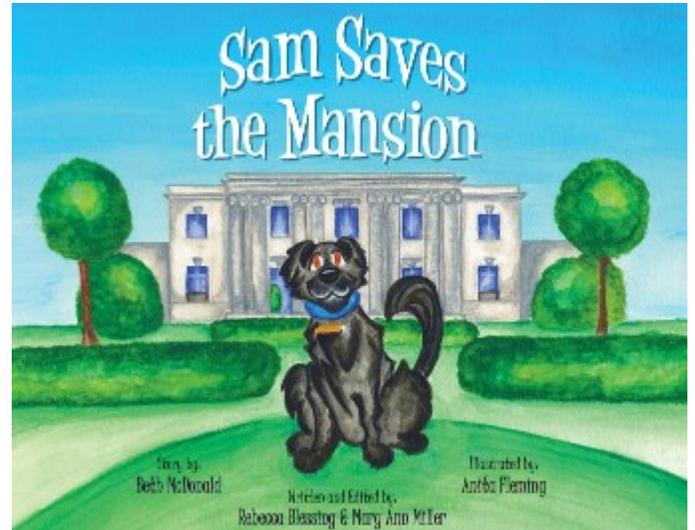
When this process located the mother in Marshall, Texas, Franklin contacted local authorities and provided them with a description of the vehicle, suspect and child.

"Subsequent pings, which were coming in at about 15-minute intervals, tracked the vehicle travelling south through the Texas

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**For Your Kids and Grandkids...
Sam Saves the Mansion eBook Available Free**

A new children's book about the Kentucky Governor's Mansion, titled "Sam Saves the Mansion" is now available as a free, downloadable e-book. Paperback copies of the book are also available for students to read in public libraries and elementary schools across the state.



First Lady Jane Beshear, a former teacher, requested the book be produced as an educational resource for young Kentuckians in coordination with the Governor's Mansion Centennial Celebration in 2014.

"Sam Saves the Mansion' is both informative and entertaining," said Mrs. Beshear. "It not only provides young readers with a rich history and a visual tour of the mansion, but the story also imparts some important lessons on friendship, compassion and doing the right thing."

"Sam Saves the Mansion" is the story of a stray dog named Sam, who one evening sneaks into the Governor's mansion to escape from a thunderstorm. While inside, Sam befriends another dog, Tory, who lives in the mansion and gives Sam a tour and history of the 100-year-old residence. Afraid he will be captured and sent to a shelter, Sam, with Tory's help, devises a plan to leave the historic home without being seen. Just as he's getting away, Sam witnesses a disaster in the making and chooses to risk his freedom and stay behind to save the day.

The dogs in the story are named after two of Mrs. Beshear's own dogs, one of whom, Tory, lives with the Beshear family at the mansion.

Kentuckians Rebecca Blessing, a long-time journalist, and Mary Ann Miller, a former teacher, wrote the book based on a story by Frankfort story/creator Beth McDonald. Artist Anita Fleming, of Frankfort, provided the illustrations. Photographer Amy Wallot supplied pictorial support.

The response to 'Sam Saves the Mansion' has been overwhelmingly positive," said Mrs. Beshear. "Children love it and so do adults.

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Telecommunicator Cont'd from Pg. 1

counties of Harrison, Panola and Shelby, heading toward the Mexican border," Franklin recalls. "I was contacting authorities in those jurisdictions while continuing to monitor the pings."

To her relief, it wasn't long before she received a call from the Shelby Co. (Texas) Sheriff's Office advising that the vehicle in question had been stopped and the occupants detained. (The mother was taken into custody and the child was eventually returned safely to her father.)

Franklin remembers that the most challenging part of the incident involved her unfamiliarity with the geography. "While trying to stay ahead of the vehicle between ping notifications, I was on line researching maps and contact numbers for agencies in Texas as I was unfamiliar with the area," she said.

"The ping information just listed the GPS coordinates and showed a small map of the location," she adds. "Finding the appropriate agency to contact took time and kept me busy so I really didn't think about the stress until it was over. It was a rewarding feeling when we received the call that the vehicle had been stopped."

"Due to Nita's persistence and desire to go above and beyond her job duties and responsibilities, the child in this case is currently safe and with her biological father," notes Capt. David Millay, commander of KSP Post 4. "Had the suspect made it across the border, the child's life could have turned out much different."

Franklin is a 14-year veteran of the Kentucky State Police. Prior to her service with KSP, she worked at the Grayson County Dispatch Center for six years. She started dispatching as a part time job while going to college.

"I really enjoyed the job and being able to help people, so when a full time position became available, I took it," she says. "To be a good telecommunicator, you have to be able to multi-task and make decisions quickly while remaining calm. If you remain calm, you are less likely to make a mistake."

"In a lot of ways, you have to think like a trooper, what they want to know, be nosy, be investigative when questioning callers and pay attention for things that may not sound right."

"Telecommunicators are the life line for our troopers every day," says Capt. Millay, "and Nita has proven to be an invaluable asset to the Kentucky State Police."



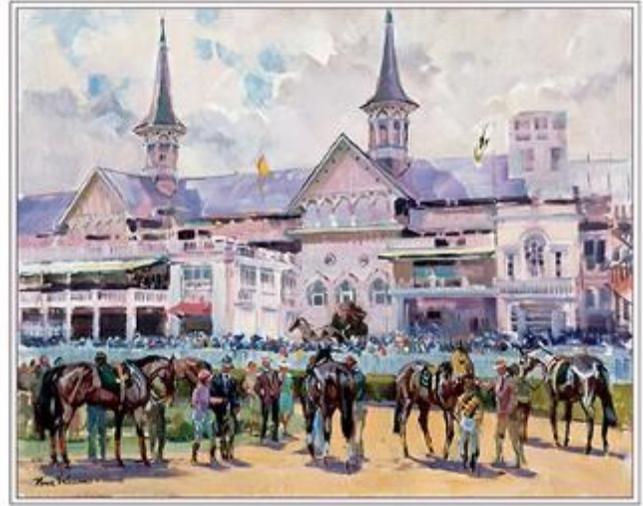
Sam ebook cont'd from Pg. 1

"The mansion has played an important role in the Commonwealth's history and hopefully will continue to do so for years to come. I am pleased that we could share the significance of this state treasure with Kentuckians – young and old alike."



Bring Family & Friends to 79th Annual Governor's Derby Celebration

Bring family and friends to historic downtown Frankfort for the 79th annual Governor's Derby Celebration. The event will be held Kentucky Derby Day, Saturday, May 2 from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. and is free and open to the public.



2015 Governor's Kentucky Derby Celebration.
Celebrating Kentucky's Thoroughbred Racing Tradition

Illustration and photo by Sarah's Business Communications Derby Photo - The City That Lived The Derby by Peter Phillips, courtesy of the artist.

"We look forward to hosting folks and joining in the celebration once again, as it is sure to be an exciting day for family and friends, Gov. Beshear said."

Visitors can expect the traditional fare of past Derby Celebrations such as a farmer's market, a variety of arts and crafts, specialty vendors, children's activities and live music on the Jim Beam Entertainment Stage.

This year's celebration will also include the fourth annual Derby Dash. Sponsored by the Frankfort YMCA, the event includes several races for children ages 2-12.

Many downtown Frankfort restaurants and stores will be open with unique and traditional Derby offerings during the celebration. Visitors will also be able to tour the Capital City Museum, the Thomas D. Clark History Center, the Old State Capitol and the Old Governor's Mansion, which are all located downtown.

More attractions and a complete entertainment schedule will be released closer to the event date.

While the book is currently not for sale, it is now available as an e-book so that teachers, students and parents access it. The e-book includes interactive features such as word definitions and optional narration, as well as additional information on the mansion. The e-book was produced by Marty Park, with narration provided by Neilsen Park.

An electronic version of "Sam Saves the Mansion" is available at no-cost from the Kentucky Department of Education [bookstore](#) at no-cost.