

CAPITAL 27 OCT 2007

~~800-800-8000 from the help center.~~



REFUND ROUNDUP — Kudos to county Sheriff Ron Bateman and his staff for using their imagination to serve outstanding warrants on elusive people wanted on criminal charges.

In an attempt to clear up some of the huge backlog of unserved warrants, the sheriff sent out bogus state Treasury letters to some 500 individuals, telling them they were owed a \$572.26 refund on overpaid taxes. Forty were dumb enough to show up at the Treasury Building on the designated day to collect their “refund” — only to be promptly arrested by sheriff’s deputies.

Perhaps that’s not many, considering that the phony letters went to 500 people, and there are thousands of unserved warrants. But it saved deputies a lot of time — the people came to them, for once — and was a good publicity stunt.

Even the sheriff deserves to have a little fun sometimes, especially when it also helps him do his job.