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Polk County Sheriff's Office



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Winter Haven, Florida  
33880

**November 2011**

Dear Friend,

Nothing is harder to open than a closed mind. This is a phrase that came to my mind as I read a recent guest editorial in the Ledger from Ms. Ebenstein of the ACLU. She was complaining about juveniles being housed at the Sheriff's Office's Juvenile Detention Facility at the Central County Jail. Her comments are not fact based; They are out of touch and not true. **Here are the facts:**

The Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) was charging unsustainably high rates to Polk County to house pre-adjudicated juveniles at their facility in East Bartow. For example, from July 2009 to June 2010, they estimated that Polk County would pay \$237.03 per juvenile per day - we actually ended up paying \$271.25. From July 2010 to June 2011 the county paid at the rate of \$286.12 per juvenile per day. For July, August, and September of this year, the county has paid DJJ at the published rate of \$360.95 per juvenile per day! We will efficiently operate our juvenile detention facility this year saving the county at least \$1.4 million.

Up until this October, juveniles detained by the court because they were considered a threat to public safety were held in DJJ's facility in Bartow, operated by state employees under state rules, but funded by Polk County taxpayers. These facilities were made of concrete and steel, with shatterproof windows, and a perimeter fence with razor ribbon.

The Sheriff's Office Juvenile Detention Facility - maintained separately from any and all adult inmates - has the same physical plant design to prevent juveniles from escaping. Our facility has specific programs for juvenile education, medical care, nutrition, parental contact, and physical activities. Our facility undergoes rigorous annual inspections by external national and state accreditation agencies to ensure best practices. There will also be an annual inspection for youth detention facilities under the Florida Model Jail Standards, which were developed



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specifically for children by comparing and integrating standards used by the Department of Juvenile Justice.

The Sheriff's Office Juvenile Detention Facility is newer, cleaner, better designed, has better support facilities, and is managed by certified deputies who are better qualified and better trained-our deputies have three times more training than DJJ staff. Our medical section is nationally accredited and staffed by highly qualified professionals. The Polk County Sheriff's Office maintains eight independent professional accreditations, compared to zero for the Department of Juvenile Justice.

So, the ACLU issued a press release out of Miami, and came to Polk County intentionally misleading and being plainly untruthful. Had they bothered, they would have discovered how much better the Sheriff's Office operation is compared to the old DJJ detention center. But, they don't care. All they care about is making headlines and supporting the old, bloated, and expensive state juvenile detention system. The ACLU wants to move backward at more cost to you, the local taxpayer.

Sincerely,  
Sheriff Grady Judd

## **BTLS Foundation "Bikes for Badges" Raises Money for Bea Reid's Sons**

On Saturday, October 22, 2011, the BTLS (Bubba the Love Sponge) Foundation, in partnership with the Winghouse of Lakeland and Polk County Sheriff's Office, held a charity motorcycle ride in honor of Beatrice "Bea" Reid, Sheriff Judd's third-in-command, who was killed on September 18, 2011.

The event was the second "Bikes for Badges" charity ride dedicated to the memory of a PCSO member, and the funds raised during the event will benefit Bea's two sons, Matt and Dillon.

Approximately 225 bikers arrived bright and early that morning, riding their bikes from the Winghouse, through south Lakeland, and back to the Winghouse -- the ride lasted approximately one hour. When the bikers returned to the restaurant, they were treated to a wing buffet.

Bea's sons, Dillon (17 years old) and Matt (21 years old) rode in the procession with PCSO Traffic Deputy Tony Allaire in his marked patrol car. They are seen here with Deputy Allaire, Sheriff Judd, and their aunt, Bea's sister, Elizabeth, who came down from New York to participate.

We would like to thank everyone for their participation in this worthy cause. Bubba the Love Sponge will present a check to Bea's sons at a future date.



## "Haunted Jail Tour" Raises Thousands For United Way

The Polk County Sheriff's Office hosted the annual PCSO Haunted Jail tour for two weekends in October and raised \$6,000 for the United Way! A total of 1,158 people toured the jail hoping to meet some ghosts who might be lurking in the old cells.

The old PCSO jail, which is already creepy, was filled with volunteer "ghosts" from the Polk County



community. The old jail is located on the second floor of the old Sheriff's Operations Center, adjacent to the Polk County Courthouse in Bartow. It was a frightful experience to listen as the tour guide told true stories of ghosts, like Calvin, who roam the jails till this day. It followed with an uncertain walk through the cold pitch-black jail. "Just stay close to the walls and away from the cells," the tour guide repeated, "you never know what could jump out or who is close by." After the jail tour, Newman's BBQ, owned by Deputy Sheriff Ricky Newman, was waiting right outside to tame the hungry appetite with pulled pork sandwiches, hotdogs, and hamburgers. Ricky donated all the proceeds from his BBQ to the United Way event as well.

Detention Deputy Kimbra Wiegert, who has been with our agency for 13 years and is our resident subject matter expert on the

history of the Polk County Jail, with the assistance of many PCSO agency volunteers and members of their families, gave the tours for a suggested donation of \$5.00 to the United Way.

A special thank you to all the volunteers and those who participated in this event. It was a great success!

## Sheriff's Facebook Posse Needs A Few Good Fans!

Here's a new twist on an old theme: Sheriff Judd has formed a "posse" but not quite like the days of the Wild West - we're hoping this posse will help us catch criminals across the frontier of the worldwide web.



Be a part of the Sheriff's Facebook Posse! Each day, on the PCSO Facebook page, we will feature people with open Polk County Warrants. Please consider sharing these posts so that we can get the broadest possible coverage. Help us take these criminals off the streets!

[Join our posse - click here to go to the Polk County Sheriff's Office Facebook page.](#)

## Fall Back And Be Safe!

Fall has arrived and with it, daylight savings time will end. On Sunday, November 6th, we will "fall back" an hour. Don't forget to set your clocks back (and this is also a great time to check and change the batteries in your smoke detectors)!



Now that it will be getting dark earlier, here are some crime prevention tips to help keep you safer during the longer evening

hours. By practicing good crime prevention you can lessen your odds of being a victim.

### **PARKING LOT SAFETY TIPS**

- Try to park under a parking lot light when you arrive to work or are returning from lunch. That way the area around your car will be well lit when you are walking to the parking lot after work when it is dark. This also pertains to when you are shopping at night.
- Make sure all your windows are up and all doors locked when you leave your vehicle. **Do not** leave cell phones, wallets, purses, briefcases, packages, shopping bags, etc. on the seat or anywhere visible in the car.
- Utilize your car alarm system if you have one.
- Stay alert and be aware of your surroundings when walking to your car.
- Have your keys already in hand when you approach your car. Searching for car keys can make you vulnerable.
- Avoid parking next to vans, trucks with campers, or vehicles with darkened windows.
- Employees should walk to their vehicles in groups when leaving work.
- A small flashlight and whistle are items that are good to have in hand or on your key ring.
- If you have a cell phone, keep it in hand while you walk to your car.

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