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Polk County
Sheriff's Office

August 2011

Dear Friend,

A couple of years ago, the Polk County Sheriff's Office joined the social networking community. It gives us the opportunity to directly reach out to you, our community, as we share information about crimes, as well as, give you a personal look at the great work our agency members do.

We communicate daily with thousands of people - as well as with their friends and family members when they see our information linked on their loved ones' pages. A partnership like this is priceless - and it helps us solve crime.

Office of Communications members monitor our Facebook page daily, updating it with the latest Crime Stoppers bulletins, news releases, and positive PCSO stories.

We upload photos and videos, and advertise job openings. Every day, we receive overwhelming positive feedback from our "friends and fans," as well as receive questions about our agency, community concerns, and criminal intelligence.

Together, with our 'fans' we are making a positive difference.

Sincerely,
Sheriff Grady Judd



Polk County Sheriff's Office Citizen Assisted Patrol Program Recognized



1891 Jim Keene
Blvd
Winter Haven,
Florida 33880

863.298.6200



On Tuesday, August 23, 2011, the Polk County Sheriff's Office Citizen's Assisted Patrol, or CAP, volunteer program was recognized with the 2011 Public Service Award by the Florida Council on Aging. "Founded in 1955, the Florida Council on Aging is Florida's only statewide association representing virtually all aging interests and many different disciplines."

The mission of the PCSO CAP program is to assist law enforcement officers in combating crime. The program, implemented in 2004, recruits, trains, and deploys citizen volunteers who donate time patrolling Polk County neighborhoods. Although they do not carry weapons and have no law enforcement power, these volunteer patrols increase law enforcement visibility, enhance citizen interaction with the Sheriff's Office, increase crime awareness, and increases reporting of suspicious activities and circumstances for the Sheriff's Office to follow up.

CAP volunteers receive specialized training and are issued uniforms and conduct patrols in golf carts and refurbished used patrol cars, on bikes and on foot. During the first year, more than 100 members were trained for the program. Currently the program has over 2,700 volunteers representing 45 communities and two recreational trails.

"Our CAP volunteers do an outstanding job countywide each and every day. Their service is part of the equation that has helped Polk County in achieving an all-time record low crime rate," Sheriff Grady Judd.

In 2010 the CAP volunteers completed over 21,971 patrols and donated 84,355 hours of service. This represents a value of donated labor to the PCSO of \$1,552,132 based on estimated volunteer hourly value data by the "Independent Sector." (*The Independent Sector is the leadership forum for charities, foundations, and corporate giving programs.* <http://www.independentsector.org/about.>)

The CAP program has received the Gold Presidential Volunteer Service Award, the highest level of recognition given by the Corporation for National and Community Service.

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a volunteer, please contact the PCSO Volunteer Services Unit at 863.298.6681.

Polk County Sheriff's Office detectives serve warrant on "The Horseshoe" gambling business in N.E. Polk County



Detectives with the Polk County Sheriff's Office served a search warrant today, August 15, 2011, at 11:00 a.m. at "The Horseshoe," located at 150 California Blvd in Davenport, Florida. "The Horseshoe" is a gambling

"sweepstakes/Internet-style" gambling business that opened approximately two weeks ago.

On August 1st, 2011 detectives received an anonymous complaint of illegal gambling taking place at "The Horseshoe." Investigation revealed that this business was located in the Westridge Plaza (On U.S. 27, North). The business represents itself as an "Internet sweepstakes" operation.

On August 9th, 2011 detectives conducted an investigation into the illegal gambling operation. Detectives, posing as customers, entered the business and gambled on computers that represented slot devices. No customers were observed doing anything other than gambling on these devices.

This gambling operation utilized desktop computers to simulate slot machines for customers to gamble on as games of chance. Customers paid cash to an employee in exchange for a magnetic swipe card that contained the amount of money paid as credit. These magnetic swipe cards were then used to activate each computerized gambling device.

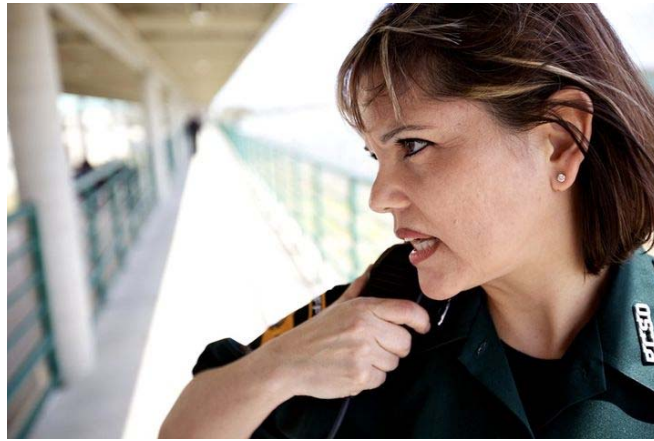
The computers are modernized versions of slot devices and represent the older style handle driven slots. Instead of pulling a lever on a device, each patron presses a key on a computer keyboard. Each device contains multiple games of chance for the customer to win or lose money. Once the desired game is completed the patron then takes the magnetic swipe card back to the cash register to cash out.

The charges that are filed are: keeping a gambling house, FSS 849.01 (F3) and operating a gambling device, FSS 849.16 (M2), 50 Counts each.

Arrested were 30-year-old **Ryan Ault** (DOB 3/25/81) of 10626 Demilo Place Apt. 207 Orlando, owner, and 37-year-old Angela Byers (DOB, 1/17/74) of 2422 Otis Dr. Deltona, clerk.

Interestingly, the sign on the front door of the business reads: "**THE HORSESHOE - NOT A GAMBLING ESTABLISHMENT**"

THE PCSO INTEGRITY SCHOLARSHIP



*Got integrity?
Want a great
career? Want to
get a full
scholarship for
tuition, books,
uniforms, and
exam costs?
Want to get paid
\$2,000 per month
to attend the dual
law enforcement
and corrections
academy? Now is
your time-this is a
limited offer!*

The Polk County Sheriff's Office is seeking quality candidates who will embody the values and diversity of the community as a dual-certified (law enforcement & corrections) Sheriff's Office deputy. Individuals selected will receive a scholarship for tuition, books, uniforms and exam cost. In addition, while attending the Dual Academy (approximately eight months), the Sheriff's Office will provide a monthly stipend of \$2,000 dollars per candidate (first and last month pro-rated). This program does not include health insurance or worker's compensation benefits because you are not an employee of the Sheriff's Office during the academy.

Hurry! We need your application ASAP to get it processed in time for the dual academy. The deadline for submission is September 30, but you should get it in as soon as you can. There are 28 openings. The Academy starts October 24, 2011. There is no cost to submit an application. You will have to take a drug screening along with our other required screenings and tests. For a list of these required tests and minimum requirements, please go online to www.polksheriff.org and click the careers tab. You can also download an employment application from the site.

To get started, or if you have any questions, contact Kim Bowman (kbowman@polksheriff.org, Office: 863-298-659) or Petrina McCutchen (pmccutchen@polksheriff.org, Office: 863-298-6271).

As a member of the Dual Academy, you will complete both the Law Enforcement and Corrections Academy. Upon graduating from both academies in good standing and successfully passing both state exams, you may be offered employment with the Polk County Sheriff's Office. Once you are selected as a member of the Polk County Sheriff's Office, you will be assigned to the Department of Detention as a detention deputy for a minimum of two years. Upon completing two years as a certified detention deputy, meeting requirements outlined in the General Orders, and maintain a good employment record while working in the Department of Detention, you will be eligible to submit a request of transfer to the Department of Law Enforcement as a Deputy Sheriff.

While attending the Academy classes, you are representing the Polk County Sheriff's Office and you are expected to conduct yourself in a professional manner while attending class, as well as outside of class. Misconduct or lack of integrity will not be tolerated and may result in termination of the scholarship.

The Polk County Sheriff's Office Investigates Illegal Dumping



Illegal dumping isn't just unsightly; it threatens our quality of life. Refuse which is not properly disposed is a hazard to people, animals and ultimately consumers. And property values can dramatically decrease as a result of illegal dump sites.

The most frequent victims of illegal dumping are agricultural property owners. Back pastures and groves are frequent locations used by suspects who often think no one will ever find the tires, building materials, or yard waste they dump.

But the Polk County Sheriff's Office Environmental Crimes deputies are hard at work to prevent, and investigate illegal dumping charging those responsible.

The PCSO Environmental/Marine Unit is responsible for the investigation of unlawful dumping cases that include a wide variety of materials from household garbage to chemical spills. A close working relationship with Federal, State and local environmental compliance agencies is essential to the protection of our natural resources.

Illegal dumping is a violation of Florida State Statute 403.161. Environmental deputies made a total of 49 arrests in illegal dumping cases in the first six months of 2011. In addition, Environmental deputies issued 92 affidavits charging suspects with illegal dumping in Polk County.

One of the most frequent items illegally dumped is used tires. And while stacks of tires are certainly unsightly, the piles themselves pose other environmental and health related issues. Disease carrying rodents use the piles as dens, mosquitos find the smallest amount of water to propagate and potential fires can threaten property and people.

The PCSO Environmental deputies proactively combat these potential hazards by visiting all tire facilities informing owner/managers of Florida laws and of their responsibility to the community's quality of life. The PCSO Tire Facility Compliance Record program focuses on ensuring that Polk County tire facility business owners are familiar with Florida Statutes regarding the storage of tires and requirements of the Department of Environmental Protection Agency.

Businesses which store an excess of 1500 waste tires on site without a permit are in violation of FSS 403.16, and subject to charges. In addition, owners/managers are reminded of the potential hazard of mosquito infestation if tires are improperly stored. Owners are advised that if there are more than 25 tires collected and hauled from their facility comprehensive records must be maintained to ensure proper disposal procedures are in place.



This proactive approach provides deputies with the opportunity to deter illegal dumping of tires. The PCSO Agricultural and Environmental Units work hard to maintain partnerships with citizens, property owners, and businesses throughout the county. These partnerships improve our ability to do our jobs and have been valuable in helping to reach a historically low crime rate. The crime rate is down

6.8% in PCSO jurisdictions. Polk's crime rate is 28% less than the state-wide crime rate & the violent crime rate is 37% less than the state-wide violent crime rate.

Please remember to immediately call the PCSO if you see something suspicious. Together, we are making a positive difference.

Sheriff "Wyatt Earp" Judd And His Posse Hit The Streets Of Polk County

When Today & Tonight magazine contacted the PCSO recently and asked Sheriff Judd and his Executive Staff if they might be interested in helping re-create a poster advertising the movie "Tombstone" (see below), these four modern day cowboys answered with a cautious "Yes." The end result, as you can see, is a creative Polk County depiction of Wyatt Earp and the gang - Wyatt Earp is portrayed by Sheriff Judd, accompanied by his posse -- Doc Holliday (portrayed by Chief Steve Lester), Virgil Earp (portrayed by Chief W.J. Martin), and Morgan Earp (portrayed by Chief Bryant Grant). When the free monthly publication hit the streets on August 2nd, it seemed like everyone wanted a copy! The magazine publisher couldn't distribute them fast enough.

Due to the image's popularity, local photographer Mike Potthast, who took the photo and then created the rest of the image in his studio, and the great folks at 97 Country, agreed to partner with Polk Sheriff's Charities, Inc., and print 200 12x18 posters - available for a small donation to the charity. We still have posters available - just call the SOC front desk at 298.6200 or stop by!



150 Anniversary Commemorative Coin



A "150th Anniversary Commemorative Coin" has been designed and is being sold for \$5 each.

If you are interested in owning a Commemorative Coin, please contact the PCSO at 863.298.6200.

The proceeds will go to Polk Sheriff's Charities, Inc.

Polk Sheriff's Charities, Inc., a 501(c)(3) not for profit organization, is currently raising money to provide funds to place additional bronze statues of our agency's fallen officers at the Polk County Sheriff's Office Law Enforcement Memorial.

The memorial is located at the Sheriff's Office Operations Center in Winter Haven off of 540A.

Join us on Facebook and Twitter!

The latest news, events and day-to-day activities are posted on our social networking sites. Just "click" the links below and join our groups. See you there!



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[Forward email](#)



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This email was sent to te6466@polksheriff.org by gjudd@polksheriff.org | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Polk County Sheriff's Office | 1891 Jim Keene Blvd. | Winter Haven | FL | 33880