

## Horstman, Carrie

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**From:** Polk County Sheriff's Office <theresa@polksheriff.ccsend.com> on behalf of Polk County Sheriff's Office <gjudd@polksheriff.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 03, 2015 3:43 PM  
**To:** Horstman, Carrie  
**Subject:** The Cyber Star - March 2015



Dear Friend,

Great news! According to Uniform Crime Report (UCR) statistics, as reported annually to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE), there were **703 fewer crimes** in 2014 than in 2013 in the Polk County Sheriff's Office primary jurisdiction. The jurisdiction includes all of unincorporated Polk County; cities contracted with the PCSO including Polk City, Frostproof, Eagle Lake, Fort Meade, Dundee, and Mulberry; and the town of Hillcrest Heights and the village of Highland Park (a combined population of 6,920 people).

There were 9,248 crimes in 2013 as compared to 8,545 crimes in 2014, a total reduction in reported crimes of **7.60%**. This decline continues a trend of six consecutive years of lower crime and crime rates in PCSO's jurisdiction. Crime declined 6.53% from 2012 to 2013.

Non-Violent crime is down 7.75% in Polk's unincorporated area and Sheriff's Office contract cities. There were a total of 7,922 non-violent crimes in 2013 and 7,308 in 2014, a reduction of 614 crimes.

Violent crime is down 6.71% in Polk's unincorporated area and Sheriff's Office contract cities. There were a total of 1,326 violent crimes in 2013 and 1,237 in 2014, a reduction of 89 violent crimes. **The number of homicides in 2014 was 4, the lowest number ever recorded for PCSO's jurisdictions since reliable statistics have been gathered and reported (since 1971).**

There were decreases in the following crime categories: homicides; forced sex offenses; aggravated assault; burglaries, and larcenies. Two crime categories showed small increases: robberies (+12) and motor vehicle thefts (+36).

**The crime rate, which is the number of crimes per 100 residents, is down 8.7% from 2013 (2.30) to 2014 (2.10).** This is the lowest crime rate ever measured in the Polk County Sheriff's Office jurisdiction, breaking the previous record low of 2.30 crimes per 100 from last year. Reliable crime statistics in Polk County started in 1971, when the crime rate was recorded at 4.16 crimes per 100. **Since 1997, the crime rate in Polk County has fallen by 69%. The Polk/PCSO crime rate is 42% less than the Florida state crime rate (2.1 compared to 3.63).**

Sheriff Grady Judd



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ould not be more grateful for the people of Polk County and for our men and women of the Sheriff's Office for the continued decrease in crime in Polk County. This is the sixth consecutive year of lower crime in our jurisdiction. This continues our ongoing progress towards improving the quality of life in Polk County for our communities, families, neighbors, businesses, friends, and visitors. There are many factors that contribute to lower crime-such as target hardening (anti-theft systems in cars, homes, neighborhoods, and businesses), demographic changes, and others--but there are two critically important reasons why crime remains low:

First: convicted felons who are sent to prison in Florida stay there for a minimum of 85% of their sentence (mandated by state statute). This Florida law, among other tough-on-crime measures, has been tremendously successful in holding criminals accountable for their crimes and separating them from society. When people who break the law are punished-fairly, swiftly, and without apologies, and they are temporarily separated from civil society, our communities become safer. Second: we have developed more effective policing strategies. The Polk County Sheriff's Office implemented its Proactive Community Crack on Problems (PROCAP) program in 1997. Since then, the crime rate has fallen by 69%. Our policing philosophy emphasizes proactive strategies, focusing on known community problems, effectively using technology to implement our prevention strategies, and working hand-in-hand with the community. Because we lock up those responsible for crime, and work hard with the community to prevent, solve, and fight crime, Polk County is a better place to live, work, and play.

**Grady Judd, Sheriff**

**Save the Date!**

**Polk Sheriff's Charities, Inc.**  
Presents  
**Bustin' Clays**  
with  
**Sheriff Grady Judd**

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**Saturday**  
**March 7, 2015**

**7:00 a.m. at the**  
**Tenoroc Shooting Sports!**

Register online at [www.polksheriff.org](http://www.polksheriff.org) and click on the PSCI link  
or call in a registration form to Polk Sheriff's Charities, Inc.,  
1891 Jim Keene Blvd., Winter Haven, Florida

The 2015 Polk Sheriff's Charities, Inc., "Bustin' Clays with Sheriff Grady Judd" event will be held Saturday, March 7, 2015, at Tenoroc Shooting Sports located at 3755 Tenoroc Mine Road, Lakeland.

This widely popular annual event is the primary funding source of PSCI and proceeds from the event help to support the charities' efforts.

Download the event brochure and learn more about "Bustin' Clays" by clicking this link: <http://bit.ly/1zE6CHw>

**Keepin' With Judd Big Fun - Big Success**



On February 6, through February 7, 2015, the Polk Sheriff's Charities hosted the first ever Jeep-centered fundraising event called "Jeepin' with Judd" at Clear Springs Ranch in Bartow.

The Clear Springs Ranch is situated off of Cox Road in Bartow and provided over 2,000 acres of the company's beautiful and topographically varied 18,000 acres for participants to ride trails and test their vehicles' capabilities.

There were 436 jeeps with over 2,000 people in attendance over the two day event. Some 170 volunteers donated their time helping to raise approximately **\$25,000** for Polk Sheriff's Charities and the Florida Sheriff's Youth Villa.

There was something for everyone. The purpose of the event was threefold: First, to create a safe, family oriented Jeep festival where memories can be created that will last a lifetime. Second, to design challenging and enjoyable obstacles and trail rides which feature the best that Jeeping in Florida has to offer. Third, and most important, the event was set up to raise money for local worthwhile charities.

The event and property included a total of six trails and a nearly mile-long obstacle course. The trails were rated beginner, intermediate, and extreme. There was also a popular night ride around Clear Springs Ranch. Vendors from as far away as Illinois, New York and Georgia provided food, Jeeps and Jeep related merchandise and equipment. There was an outstanding "show and shine" at Tom Edwards Chrysler-Dodge-Jeep in Bartow. Thank you to all of our sponsors, vendors, volunteers, and participants for making this event so much fun, and so successful! We hope to see you all again next year!

## Polk County Noise Ordinance FAQs

On December 16, 2014, the Polk County Board of County Commissioners adopted the **Polk County Excessive Noise from Motor Vehicle Ordinance #2014-073**. This ordinance is "designed to help prevent, prohibit, and provide for the abatement of unreasonably excessive noise emanating from motor vehicle radios or other motor vehicle sound making devices." The noise is "considered a public safety hazard that can inhibit a driver's ability to hear, as well as create a hazard and annoyance to other citizens in Polk County." The ruling is expected to aid in the conservation and protection of natural resources and scenic beauty of all Polk County communities.

The law defines "unreasonably excessive" as sound produced from within a motor vehicle by the vehicle's radio or other mechanical/electrical sound making devices/instruments. The noise can be clearly heard by a person who is 50 feet or more from a motor vehicle using normal hearing. The sound must be "plainly audible" at the distance of 50 feet or more.

The noise ordinance applies in all of Polk County unless a municipality adopts their own ordinance or notifies the county that they wish to opt out of the ordinance. Enforcement can be conducted by any law enforcement officer within their jurisdictional boundaries. The law enforcement officer must have a direct line of sight and hearing to the motor vehicle producing the sound and follow normal procedures for a traffic stop.

Citizens will be afforded a grace period through March 31<sup>st</sup> in which educational information about the ordinance will be provided. During this time, first time violators will receive a warning and be provided a

by of the noise ordinance which will explain the parameters of the violation in an effort to prevent future incidents from happening. After the educational period, a civil citation may be issued to a person, group or organization if a violation occurs. Citations carry fines with them and will increase with offenses. The fines outlined in the ordinance as such:

- First offense: A fine of \$100.00;
- Second offense: A fine of \$250.00; and
- Third or subsequent charge: A fine of \$500.00.

to prevent being stopped for a noise violation, ensure your vehicle is in proper working order and make repairs as needed to eliminate any loud sounds coming from within. Keep your radio or any other sound making devices that are in your vehicle to a minimum volume so as to not disturb others. Help maintain the natural order of Polk County by being part of the solution - please abide by the Polk County Excessive Noise Ordinance.

## PCSO Receives Ninth Accreditation



The men and women of the Polk County Sheriff's Office continue to meet the challenge of setting a high professional standard. Out of 17,985 law enforcement agencies in the United States, PCSO is **the only agency** to have received three "Accreditation with Excellence" awards from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA). And in February 2015, PCSO received its 9<sup>th</sup> Accreditation from the Florida Police Accreditation Coalition.

This achievement is more than PCSO members just doing a good job, it represents the fact that our members always go above and beyond setting the bar for others to reach.

The award will be presented by the Florida Telecommunications Accreditation Commission; a program of the Florida Police Accreditation Coalition (FLA-PAC). This network of 250 law-enforcement agencies recognizes and supports accreditation as a means of enhancing the quality of law-enforcement services within Florida. PCSO is among six Florida law

enforcement agencies to hold this award.

Now when we say that we are the best in the business - we have the paperwork to back it up!

## PCSO Seeking State Certified Law Enforcement Officers





Florida State Law Enforcement and Corrections Officers: We value your service and we offer you a \$2,000 bonus, a fast-track hiring process, competitive compensation, and great benefits. The Polk County Sheriff's Office is hiring deputy sheriffs and detention deputies. The Polk County Sheriff's Office will pay a \$1,000 bonus upon hiring and a \$2,000 bonus at the end of successful completion of probationary status (about a year).

The proposed state budget includes no raise for state law enforcement and corrections officers. Frankly, this offers a unique opportunity. I need help filling our vacant positions and it costs Polk County taxpayers much less money to hire already trained and experienced law enforcement and corrections officers, saving us thousands of dollars in academy costs. We offer hard working state law enforcement officers and corrections officers a great new career at a professional nine star accredited agency with top notch training and equipment, competitive salary, and a \$2,000 bonus to help them transition from the state to the Polk County Sheriff's Office. We are looking for top notch officers to go to work." --Grady Judd, Sheriff

For more information regarding application procedures and the \$2,000 bonus for qualified Florida state law enforcement officers and Florida state corrections officers, or to obtain an application by mail, contact the Polk County Sheriff's Office's Human Resources Division directly at 863-298-6440, toll free 1-877-477-7276, or email [hr@polksheriff.org](mailto:hr@polksheriff.org). An application may also be downloaded from [www.polksheriff.org](http://www.polksheriff.org) under the careers tab. The Polk County Sheriff's Office is an EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER M/F/D/V.

**Do You Like Jogging?**

# The Judd Jog

BENEFITING THE UNITED WAY



**LIVE UNITED** 



**April 18, 2015** Registration begins at 8 a.m.  
(at Polk State College, Lakeland Campus, in the LTB building)  
the run begins at 9 a.m. at the  
**Fort Fraser Trail** 4120 US Highway 98 South  
Lakeland, FL 33801

Please visit [www.active.com](http://www.active.com)  
— search "Judd Jog" to sign-up.

If you would like to be a sponsor or donate call Felipe Garces at 863-298-6319.

## 2015 Sponsorship Information for The 5K Judd Jog



### Sheriff Level

- Contributions and Donations equal to \$500+
- Opportunity to have a table on site to promote your business during the event
- Opportunity to speak to the participants at the award ceremony
- business logo on back of The Judd Jog Benefiting the United Way I-Shirts
- Verbal recognition on the day of the event
- Two (2) participant registrations to include I-shirts
- One (1) Polk County Sheriff's Office 150 Years of Service Commemorative Coin

### Chief Level

- Contributions and Donations between \$276 - \$499
- Business name printed on back of The Judd Jog Benefiting the United Way I-Shirts
- Verbal recognition on the day of the event
- One (1) participant registration to include I-shirt
- One (1) Polk County Sheriff's Office 150 Years of Service Commemorative Coin

### Major Level

- Contributions and Donations between \$100 - \$275
- Verbal recognition on the day of the event
- One (1) participant registration to include T-shirt
- One (1) Polk County Sheriff's Office 150 Years of Service Commemorative Coin

### Individual

- Sign-up at active.com, search "Judd Jog" \$25 before April 8<sup>th</sup> or \$30 after April 8<sup>th</sup>
- One (1) participant registration to include T-shirt

If you would like to be a sponsor or donate call Felipe Garces at 863-298-6319.



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