



*May 2008*

You may have noticed several different Public Service Announcements, or PSA's, airing on Bright House cable recently letting you know about different crime trends that are affecting our community. Two in particular, internet safety and car burglaries, are currently airing on Bright House and I'd like to take this opportunity to reiterate these important messages to you.

The majority of car burglaries that occur are due to unlocked car doors. Would you leave your car doors open in a public parking lot or in your driveway? Well, when you leave your car doors unlocked, you might as well just leave them wide open. Thieves are always looking for a quick and easy opportunity to commit crime. Always lock your car doors, and keep your valuables hidden, not in plain sight within your vehicle. Why not help us out, instead of helping the criminals? Lock *out* crime, don't invite it in.



With over 1 billion people on the internet, keeping our children safe must be a top priority. We offer a free "Computer Cop" CD that helps parents monitor their children's activities online. To receive your free copy of Computer Cop, call our Crime Prevention Unit at 534-6677.

Remember - this software is just a tool for you to use, but **you**, the parents, must be the ones first in line to help prevent your children from becoming victims of online predators. Thank you for helping us keep Polk County safe.

*Grady Judd, Sheriff*

## Operation "Rounds Up" Criminals and Weapons



In the summer of 2007, the Polk County Sheriff's Southwest District Proactive Community Attack on Problems (PROCAP) team began gathering information regarding an organized motorcycle theft and drug ring. The investigation resulted in dozens of arrests and significant weapons seizures.

"They told us we 'brought them to their knees'," said Sheriff Grady Judd during a news briefing on the investigation held April 3, 2008. "The relentless efforts of our PROCAP team with the help of multiple agencies resulted in taking these criminals-and some very dangerous weapons-off the streets. Polk County Sheriff's deputies, US Marshals, DEA agents, ATF agents, and prosecutors from the US Attorney's Office and State Attorney Jerry Hill's Office have demonstrated that we will not tolerate this kind of criminal subculture and violence in Polk County."

Ultimately, the PROCAP team began to establish links between the crime trends and an organization of criminals, ultimately leading to the upper echelon of the organization, specifically two Polk County Men, Otis "Cowboy" Carden and Terry "Ox" Gilmore. Information gathered revealed that Carden and Gilmore were selling large amounts of methamphetamine and would take cash and stolen property in exchange for payment of the methamphetamine, to include stolen motorcycles, vehicles, and guns.

At one point during the investigation, PROCAP deputies responded to Lakeland residence and recovered a fully operable anti-tank weapon. The weapon, a PIAT Mk I (Projector, Infantry, Anti-Tank Mk I) is a British made shoulder fired anti-tank rocket-propelled grenade launcher. Several witnesses told deputies that Gilmore and Carden had fired the Anti-tank weapon into Lake Parker in late 2007. On April 2, 2008, a Federal Grand Jury indicted Otis "Cowboy" Carden on one count of a felon in possession of a firearm and two counts of possession of a machine gun.

During the duration of the investigation, a total of 30 arrests were made involving known associates of Carden and Gilmore. The charges ranged from Grand Theft, Burglary, Possession of Narcotics, Criminal Traffic Violations, to Felony and Misdemeanor Warrants. In all, 21 firearms (to include the PIAT and two fully automatic machine guns) and 14 stolen vehicles have been recovered, and 2 chop shops have been dismantled and linked to the Carden organization.

## Operation Paladin Nabs 11 Online Predators

From Thursday, April 3, through Sunday, April 6, 2008, a total of eleven men were arrested and charged with soliciting sex from a child via the internet during Operation Paladin, an extensive undercover operation led by the Polk County Sheriff's Office. The two-week-long operation also included detectives, officers, and special agents from the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE), and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), working in conjunction with members of the State Attorney's Office along with Attorney General Bill McCollum's Office of Statewide Prosecution.



The multi-agency effort, directed by PCSO detectives, is the fourth such operation conducted in Polk County that demonstrates law enforcement's continuous commitment to fighting Internet crimes against children, and the first operation conducted since PCSO became the ICAC Task Force coordinator for the central Florida area. During the operation, undercover detectives used chat rooms and instant messaging programs to pose as children living in Polk County.

Those arrested lived in cities around Florida and traveled to the undercover location in Polk County with the purpose of having sex with a child. Most of them sent pornographic images to the undercover detectives who were posing as children; some brought alcohol or drugs (see our news release in the News Room at [www.polksheriff.org](http://www.polksheriff.org) for a list of suspects). One suspect, Michael Tyburski, asked the undercover detective twice during their online chat if the detective was part of a "Dateline" sting or if he was a cop. Tyburski came to the residence armed with a box cutter hidden in his sock, telling detectives during a post-Miranda interview that the box cutter was for protection in case it was a "set up." Tyburski also told detectives he had in his possession a compact disc which contained child pornography-and it contained 30 images.

Sheriff Grady Judd expressed his ongoing commitment to protecting children's emotional and physical well-being. "Paladin means 'someone who fights for a cause.' These dedicated men and women of law enforcement are fighting for the most important cause-our children. They are fighting to keep them safe from online predators. We have proven time and again that these pedophiles will stop at nothing to satisfy their perverse desires, no matter how many times we conduct operations such as this one. Despite the repeated warnings and media coverage, they still show up, and they are all arrested."

## Our Volunteers are Top Notch!



On Thursday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, Sheriff Grady Judd recognized the over 1400 volunteers who donated over 50,000 hours to PCSO at the annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon at Nora Mayo Hall in Winter Haven. BoCC Commissioners Bob English and Sam Johnson also stopped by to express their gratitude to these CAP communities, STAR program volunteers, chaplains, and many others who selflessly give us their time to help keep Polk County safe. As an added bonus, not only did we serve up some delicious Jimbo's barbeque lunches to these folks, but local magician Luis Campaneria made Sheriff Judd's head disappear! (He re-attached it shortly thereafter, no worries.)



Sheriff Judd also presented the following awards:

- **Dick Fearnow, Volunteer of the Year** - Dick worked 710 hours with the Seniors vs. Crime program
- **Robert Schwegler, 2007 CAP Volunteer of the Year** - Robert put in 811 hours of work at the Kings Pointe CAP program
- **Citrus Ridge, 2007 CAP Program of the Year** - The CAP members in this community volunteered 5026 hours to prevent crime!
- **Mr. and Mrs. Jack McHugh - STAR Program Volunteers**
- **Mr. Lindsey Yates - STAR Program Volunteer**

## PCSO K-9 Team Earns Top Honors at Regional Field Trials



Polk County Sheriff Office K-9 members traveled to Pensacola, Florida from March 31, 2008 through April 04, 2008, to compete in the United States Police Canine Association Region One Field Trials. Our canine teams attending spent many long hours preparing for this, and the **PCSO team finished second place overall** just behind the Lakeland Police Department team.

There was a striking improvement by these members against a markedly more "seasoned" Lakeland team and numerous others from around the state. As the final tally was posted it was evident that canine training in Polk County is as good, *or better*, than anywhere in the

country. Six of the top ten, and seven of the top twenty teams, were from Polk County (BARTOW, PCSO, and LPD).

PCSO members who placed:

**Paul Wright and K-9 Riso, 4<sup>th</sup> overall and 4<sup>th</sup> in apprehension work. Final score 677**

**Kurt Walker and K-9 Moe, 10<sup>th</sup> overall and 5<sup>th</sup> in obedience. Final score 666.83**

**Tyson Choquette and K-9 Mike, finished in the #20 spot. Final score 646**

**Russ Hilson and K-9 Moose, Final score 615**

**Paul Leslie and K-9 Shea, Final Score 550.83**

A score of 490 points is required to certify. Any score over 560 earns the team an opportunity to compete in the Nationals.

The PCSO K-9 Unit proclaims that the Region One four-man team first place "Matt and DiOGi" trophy will come home to Polk County next year. The citizens of Polk County can rest easier knowing we have some of the finest working canine teams anywhere in the country. Great job competitors, all of you!

## PCSO Member Has Art on Display



The Polk County Sheriff's Office, with over 1400 members, has had agency members who have been published and agency members who have been recognized in our community, but here's a first for our agency: one of our members has her artwork hanging on the walls of a local library!

Ms. Stephanie Montanez, who works in the Office of Communications as a Communications Editor, graduated from Florida Southern College on May 3, 2008, with a degree in Fine Arts and Graphic Design. As part of her senior thesis in the Fine Arts program, Stephanie had to create 5 works of art. Her oil paintings were so good that the college asked to hang them in the school library. A few of her pieces can be seen in the photos here, but to really appreciate them we encourage you to go check out all of the pieces yourselves!

**Congratulations, Stephanie!**



## What Others Are Saying



-Thank you Sheriff Judd. I am so thankful to have you as our Sheriff and the great men and women deputies. You are all in my prayers.

Thanks Again,  
*Bennie Whaley*

-This was the first time I have ever visited a jail. D/D Kenneth Swenson treated everyone with respect and dignity. I didn't have any idea of what the rules were. He gracefully told me and helped me greatly in a very stressful situation.

*Jerome Warren*

-Dear Sheriff Judd,

I am writing this letter as a "grand" compliment regarding the Court Process Section. Recently, I forwarded a summons from Leon County, Florida to the Court Process Section, and when I called regarding the matter your staff was professional and extremely helpful. I was impressed. They also gave me the direct cellular number to the special process server.

Sheriff Judd, I would like to make a personal acknowledgement to the individual who served the summons; not only was she pleasant but effortlessly performed her job exceptionally well. Many thanks to Ms. Geraldine Vanesta Stephens, Deputy Sheriff and Special Process Server.

Sheriff Judd, you should be very proud of your personnel I cannot say enough great things about them.

Sincerely,  
*Audrey J. Bowden*  
"A grateful Floridian"

-In light of this latest investigation and apprehension of the child porn suspects we can only say that your persistence and dedication has left us in awe. The magnitude of this cannot be overstated and the work involved staggering.

We are proud to know that the Polk County Sheriff's Office is doing everything in their power to combat this epidemic that we face; there is no greater service than the ones you provide in the protection of our children.

We are extremely grateful for the support you have shown Kids Come First and our Florida Chapter and cannot thank you enough.

God Bless and be safe!

*Gene and Barbara Black, Founders*

*Kids Come First*

## Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches Appreciate Support



During the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches (FSYR) Youth Villa Open house on April 12, 2008, and on behalf of the men and women of the Polk County Sheriff's Office, Sheriff Grady Judd accepted an award for the agency's dedicated support of the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches.



Sheriff Judd is seen in the photo above receiving the statue from Roger Bouchard, President of the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches. The statue is being proudly displayed just outside of Sheriff Judd's office in Bartow.

Also during the open house, Ron Parks, President of the Republican Club of Lakeland presented a check for \$1,000 to the FSYR. Thanks for your support!

## Operation I.D. - A Free Crime Prevention Program

The Polk County Sheriff's Office has found that most burglary victims do not have their serial numbers logged. This makes it very difficult to recover stolen property and even more difficult to prosecute a suspect. Operation Identification (ID) was established to help recover stolen valuables and property.

Participants of Operation ID will log serial numbers and engrave their Florida Driver's License numbers on their valuables. If you do not have a FL Driver's License and are over 18 years of age, any Florida Driver's License Issuing Station can issue a Department of Motor Vehicles I.D. card. Or you can contact the Polk County Sheriff's Office Crime Prevention, Child Safety, Victim Services Section to request a "FLO" number. Do NOT mark valuables with your Social Security number. Federal regulations governing the identity of Social Security registrants make the numbers next to impossible to trace. Also, displaying your Social Security number can put you at risk for Identity Theft.

Valuables that cannot be marked, such as antiques, silver, china, coins, jewelry, etc., should be color photographed with a complete description of the article on the back of the photograph. These photographs and your log sheet should be kept in a safe place and used for identification purposes in the event of theft.

Please contact the Crime Prevention Section at 863-534-6677, for additional information on Operation ID and other crime prevention programs.