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**Merry Christmas** 

# JUSTICE COALITION'S VICTIMS' ADVOCATE

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## FBI-SOS Internet program alerts students to predator techniques

By Shirley Shaw

Attorney General Bill McCollum announced in his November 14 newsletter that "the fight to protect Florida's children from Internet child predators reached an important milestone yesterday. The first man prosecuted by my CyberCrime Unit and convicted by a jury under the CyberCrimes Against Children Act of 2007 was sentenced last night to 10 years in prison for traveling to meet someone he thought was a child, intending to have sex with her.

"This arrest was one of 98 the CyberCrime Unit has made since its inception, and I am extremely proud that this particular case sends a strong message to anyone who might contemplate victimizing our children. I applaud the judge and jury in this case for recognizing the seriousness of this crime and affirming that our state will absolutely not tolerate Internet child predators and child pornographers."

The FBI also wants to present a strong message about Internet safety for children in its SOS program by placing it in all middle schools in the country. Joanne Santivasci, Program Coordinator of SOS through Nova Southeastern University, explains how it works.



### What is this SOS program about?

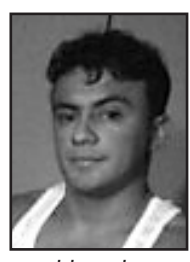
The FBI-SOS (Safe Online Surfing) Internet Challenge is a free, educational online program designed to teach 5th through 8th grade students how to recognize and react to online dangers. During the program students take a 15-question multiple-choice Pre-Quiz to test their Internet safety knowledge, then they complete an online Scavenger Hunt and visit select websites where they pick up Internet safety information. Once they finish the Scavenger Hunt, students take a 15-question Post-Quiz to demonstrate what they have learned. At the end of each month, the school with the highest student scores on the Post-Quiz wins the FBI-SOS Trophy and a visit from the FBI.

FBI-SOS... Continued on page 14

## Halloween murders prompt pond search JSO needs your help for this and other cases

By Shirley Shaw

The two brothers had just arrived home at their apartment, ready for dinner after a hard day's work as framers at a local construction site. The younger man, 22-year-old Eddie, remembered he had left something in the car and went outside to retrieve it. Suddenly, the sound of gunfire erupted, and the family rushed outside to find one man, a neighbor they slightly knew, dead on the steps and their beloved brother mortally wounded.



Eddie Tabora

Edin Tabora and the neighbor, Ceferino Valle, were ruthlessly gunned down by yet another pair of thugs preying on victims for money they are too sorry to work for themselves. The grieving Tabora family say Eddie was a "good kid, loved music and never met a stranger." He loved life in America and looked forward to a successful career in carpentry.

No arrests have been made in these cases, but according to a news report, a JSO dive team searched a retention pond at the Leigh Meadows Apartments on Sunbeam Road looking for evidence. There is no word to date if such evidence was found.

Despite all the efforts of many in

our community - from elected officials and law enforcement to civic/social groups and churches - murders continue to occur at an alarming rate. Often those killed are involved in gang- or drug-related activities, but many innocent victims just happen to be in the wrong place at the wrong time.

It's been a year since Jack Reed was murdered in his cab early one



Jack Reed

morning by shots from a high-powered automatic rifle, an apparent robbery victim. His widow, Terri, still grieves for her husband, struggling to cope with his loss and the economics of making it on her own.

Last December Donna Mills was sleeping in her apartment on Confederate Point Road when bullets fired from a passing car killed her, leaving a sister and parents to mourn her tragic death. They still work tirelessly to find the conscience-less murderer(s) and bring him/them to justice. A \$16,000 reward has been offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for her death.



Donna Mills

And there are many others: last September Kelli Chapple was slain, along with a friend in an apartment on University Blvd. No suspects have been apprehended, and her family still grieves for their



Kelli Chapple

talented 23-year old daughter/sister.

Special Forces veteran Chip Oney was killed in January this year by a bullet to his head as he was preparing for work early one morning. No one has been arrested to date for this crime, nor for the murder of 19-year-old Barry (BJ)



Chip Oney

Brooks who was slain at an apartment on Timuquana Road last November.

All these cases keep JSO detectives working full time, and new ones are added every week. In every one of these situations - in fact, in ALL unsolved murders - SOMEONE knows who committed the crime. SOMEONE can provide the piece of evidence detectives need to bring a killer to justice. SOMEONE can help bring a measure of closure to grieving families who have lost loved ones. Are YOU that SOMEONE?

## Grief does not take a holiday

By Janie Simpson

Fall brings reminders all around that the holiday season is coming. There are decorations, parties, presents, celebrating and families getting together. To someone in emotional pain the indicators that Thanksgiving and Christmas are coming are like stabs in the heart.

When individuals are grieving, they usually dread facing the holidays without the one who has died. They most often lament, "I wish we could just skip Thanksgiving and Christmas this year!" About the time Halloween comes around, the realization hits that Thanksgiving and Christmas are not far behind.

Holidays are times for families and friends to be together and can be painful reminders that a loved one will be missing. This season for parties, celebrations, presents, special dinners, etc., are difficult for most people when they are depressed. All are wonderful occasions but much energy is required to enjoy them. When a person is sad and mourning, there is not a lot of energy left to participate in the holidays. Grieving does not take a holiday.

So, how do the ones left behind get through this difficult period?

For survivors of a homicide, often trauma and grief reactions can be worse during the holidays. Their sense of emotional balance is thrown off and there is fear because life feels

so out of control. There can be shame or guilt or depression over the powerless feelings. Sometimes a person will experience flashbacks of the events around the trauma. If these symptoms are persistent, professional help might be needed.

There is no right or wrong way to experience the holidays after a loved one has died. The tendency is to avoid talking about the holidays within the family. If the family doesn't talk, they can't plan or tell each other what they need. It might help to have a family conference to let each person have a chance to express his or her personal needs and wishes before deciding what to do for the holidays.

GRIEF... Continued on page 8



# FBI-SOS...

Continued from page 1

## Why is it so important to the community?

The program teaches students why it is important to protect their identity when online and gives them strategies to avoid revealing personal information about themselves. It also equips them with the knowledge to recognize the "red flags" that might indicate they are in contact with an online predator and how to report illegal or suspicious online activity. Once students complete the program, we hope they will have a better understanding of how to stay safe while on the Internet.

## Do you have statistics about threats on the Internet? Which group is more susceptible to the threats?

According to the latest online victimization research found on the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's Web site:

- Approximately 1 in 7 youth online (10- to 17-years-old) have received a sexual solicitation or approach over the Internet.

- 4 percent received an aggressive sexual solicitation, a solicitor who asked to meet them somewhere; called them on the telephone; or sent them offline mail, money, or gifts.

- 34 percent had an unwanted exposure to sexual material.

- Only 27 percent of the youth who encountered unwanted sexual material told a parent or guardian.

## How can the community access this program?

A teacher or school administrator may register their school by visiting [www.fbi-sos.org](http://www.fbi-sos.org).

## How many cities and states in the United States participate in the program? Is this program running in Jacksonville? Since when?

Since the program's inception in 2005, approximately 27,000 students from 124 schools representing 26 states have participated in the FBI-SOS Internet Challenge. Currently, no Jacksonville-area schools have implemented the program; however, efforts are underway to

inform teachers and school administrators about the program so they can implement it with their students.

## Who is in charge of this program in Jacksonville?

Christel Chichester in the Jacksonville FBI Office is working to get the program implemented in Jacksonville-area schools.

## What is the History of this project? Who developed this program? Who is involved?

At Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, FL, the Common Knowledge Scholarship Foundation (CKSF) at the Fischler School of Education and Human Services was established to create and implement fun, educational, competitive online programs for students of all ages. In 2004, CKSF's online quiz mechanism was expanded to test and increase elementary and middle school students' knowledge about online safety upon the request of Jeff Greene, FBI Community Outreach Specialist in Miami and Special Agent Jim Lewis from the Miami FBI Crimes Against Children Unit.

With the help of corporate sponsors, CKSF and the FBI were able to launch the FBI-SOS Internet Challenge in 2005. Originally a resource for middle schools in South Florida, the FBI-SOS program grew in popularity and was forwarded to FBI headquarters in Washington D.C. Impressed with the effectiveness and potential reach of the program, FBI headquarters shared FBI-SOS with all 56 FBI field offices and recommended implementation in each community to help teach students about protecting themselves from online predators.

This is an excellent and interesting program that will provide an additional level of awareness about Internet safety to students, and we encourage schools to implement this program. Home-schooled students can also participate. For more information, please call Christel Chichester at Jacksonville's FBI Field Office: 904/721-1211.

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# Understanding "Grooming"

Although the Internet has become an invaluable resource to users of all ages, some of the same technologies that were developed to enhance the way we communicate and socialize are being abused by sexual predators. Currently, the Internet is the number one tool used by sexual predators who are trying to victimize young people. The main aim of these predators is to meet with a child or young person in the real world for sexual purposes.

Sexual predators continually troll the Internet looking for child targets. They browse personal profiles that children, typically 12- to 15-year-olds, post on social networking sites or instant messaging services. Sometimes they will collect information on particular children before trying to make contact, and other times they'll make an immediate contact if the child seems lonely or his/her postings seem provocative.

By using manipulative tactics including flattery, sympathy, intimidation and offers of gifts, money or modeling jobs, Internet predators trick their prey into trusting them by "grooming" them. Grooming is the process used by pedophiles to lure children or teenagers they target online to meet with them face to face. Many times Internet predators will spend weeks or months grooming their targets before arranging a meeting in the real world.

Every day, somewhere, a child is being victimized online. To help students protect themselves, make them aware of the dangers and how to react to them. According to iSafe America, it is important to teach students the 4 Rs: **Recognize, Refuse, Respond and Report.**

- **Recognize** techniques used by Internet predators to groom and deceive their victims.
- **Refuse** all requests for personal information (name, address, phone, school name), refuse to keep the relationship secret and refuse to meet.
- **Respond** assertively by exiting the program (chat room, instant messenger, or online game), logging off, or turning off the computer.
- **Report** suspicious or dangerous behavior.

The Internet has become the sexual predator's playground; however, with active parental involvement and Internet safety education at home and in school, young people will be more prepared to recognize and react to online dangers.

- FBI-SOS Safe Online Surfing News, Vol. 1, Issue 2

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