

PRESS RELEASE 10/14/08

On 10/10/08 Powell Officers responded to an underage drinking party located in the 600 block of North Bernard. During the subsequent investigation, 16 young people were arrested for Underage Drinking. During the past several months officers have made similar arrests at house parties, but none this large, this school year. These arrests are a part of the Powell Police on-going efforts to reduce underage drinking. Individuals charged as a result of this investigation are: Jason Madsen (20) Sydney Mt, Jessica Campbell (18) McLeod Mt., Eric Hoxter (18) Monarch Mt., Kirsten Jugler (18) Douglas Wy., Logan Naylor (18) Miles City Mt., Lauren Wellman (20) Mattawan Mi., Joseph Vardanega (19) Terrebonne Or., Bret Metcalf (19) Big Timber Mt., Augustus Thoreson (19) Dubois Id., Jess Evans (19) Pavillion Wy., Chelsea Chase (19) Big Piney, Wy., Jordan Ibarra (19) Laramie Wy., Travis Winters (18) Joliet Mt., Bronc Pippert (18) McKenzie Co., Pamela Vanek (18) Silesia Mt., and Kallie Boyce (18) Winifred Mt.

In September 2007, the City of Powell was chosen as one of five communities to receive funding from the Wyoming Association of Sheriffs and Chiefs of Police through their Wyoming Communities in Action program to provide resources to reduce underage drinking. This is a strategic, case study initiative to reduce Underage Drinking and Underage Drinking and Driving in selected communities in Wyoming. Since the inception of the initiative five more communities have been added, with another 5 communities coming on board in May of 2009. Funding is provided by OJJDP (Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention) for training, equipment, and officer overtime.

On April 7 and 8, 2008, Powell and Cody officers along with Park County Deputies received training from OJJDP for the "Best proactive strategies to reduce underage drinking". This training was provided at no charge to the agencies. Part of the training was helping agencies work together to make a difference with underage drinking and underage drinking parties.

According to a 2006 survey conducted by the University of Wyoming, 96% of the respondents in Park County believe that law enforcement should enforce laws regulating alcohol use by persons under the age of 21. The Powell Police have a zero tolerance for underage drinking, and will strongly enforce those laws, with a special emphasis on charging the adults who provide alcohol to persons under the age of 21.