

Did You Know . . .

By Chief Mathew Workman
Vernonia Police Department



I have commented in a previous article how I enjoy a periodic snow fall, but also like it when it melts as quickly as it came. I'm not

changing my opinion but I must say that while driving down the hill on Hwy 47 last Friday it was absolutely beautiful! The blanket of snow on the ground and the snowy accents on the trees made for a picturesque postcard setting. When in Nebraska, my wife and our family spent a great deal of time in the Colorado Rocky Mountains and what I saw on my drive down 47 was as beautiful, or more so, than the Rockies.

My first topic has to do with the internet and the very popular website called "YouTube.com". YouTube is a video sharing website that has become extremely popular with young people and juveniles. The site allows you to share small video clips with the world. Many of the clips are mini-movies made by some very talented young people, while others are clips taken with cell phones or whatever device you can think of.

Most of the clips are fairly innocuous, innocent and funny, while others are not funny and some are disturbing.

When I say disturbing I am not commenting as to my opinions, but on those images that depict dangerous acts, drug use, intoxication, and self-destructive acts that are perpetrated. Teens have always done dangerous things (including myself) but the trend is to stage these acts and then film them

so they can be posted. As a parent or guardian I suggest you speak to your teens about dangerous behavior and peer pressures to perform this behavior for the camera. Ask if they have a YouTube account and ask to see what they have posted or what they have saved in their YouTube favorites.

The second topic I want to quickly discuss is the increase
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