

## From the Sheriff's Desk . . .

by Jeff Dickerson,  
Columbia County Sheriff



### Contending for the Peace

"Those who forsake the law, praise the law-breakers. Those who keep the law, contend with them."

— King Solomon

When someone runs from the police, officers must decide if pursuing the law-break-

er is worth the risk entailed in the pursuit. Spike strips are designed to provide a safe, controlled manner in which to end vehicle pursuits. It is one of several maneuvers taught to law enforcement professionals designed to halt the dangerous driving while minimizing the potential for injury and damage to property.

Spike strips are not designed to cause a blow-out. Their design is for individual, hollow spikes to enter the tire and begin releasing air out of the tire at a measured rate, flattening the tire and ending the high speeds of the suspect vehicle over a relatively short distance. For more information, I encourage anyone interested in knowing more about the spike strip we use to halt pursuits, to check out an informational

video that can be found online at: <http://www.stopstick.com/deflation.html#video>.

Recent events involving the sheriff's office have showcased the use of spike strips to interdict criminal behavior on county roadways. In the last few weeks, reckless, risk-taking driving has been stopped by the successful deployment of this tool on three different occasions.

In June, a 14-year-old girl, took up both the eastbound and westbound lanes of Highway 30 at alternating intervals, as she drove a stolen vehicle – driving people into the ditch as she went. Efforts to stop the car by two different law enforcement agencies went

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