

## Attend classes on cyber crime

*By Ashley Cunningham. March 12, 2008*

Jemison Police Department Detective Shawn Collins and Chilton County Sheriff's Office Investigator David Clackley recently attended an Introduction to Cyber Crime and Computer Forensics course at the Regional Counterdrug Training Academy in Meridian, Miss.

In this course, the two officers learned how easy it is to pull information off the Internet including personal information such as names, addresses, pictures, vehicles, date of birth and Social Security number. The officers learned how simple tasks such as sending and receiving emails can be a quick link to giving out your personal information to not only strangers but also to hackers, child predators, identity thieves and even murderers.

"I was alarmed by the information I learned," Collins said.

The officers hope to bring more information to the public here in Chilton County. With many of our local kids on Web sites like MySpace and Facebook, it is important for everyone to remember that one simple click can have your child talking to a stranger that might or might not be dangerous.

Most of these Web sites seem innocent enough, until those fun little comments and photos end up posted around your work or school. Jemison High School just had a recent encounter of this effect, also known as cyberbullying, when two girls exchanged words over the Internet that led to an actual fistfight when they later met at a school function.

Instances like this remind us just how important it is to watch what our kids are doing on the Internet. For parents who do not understand simple Internet terms such as "LOL" (meaning "laugh out loud"), "KPC" (meaning "keeping parents clueless") or "TDTM" (meaning "talk dirty to me"), then you may want to check out a few Web sites such as [www.netsmartz.org](http://www.netsmartz.org), [www.netfamilynews.org](http://www.netfamilynews.org) and [www.netlingo.com](http://www.netlingo.com).