

**CONTACT:**

**Tanny M. McGinnis**  
Community Relations  
Garfield County Sheriff's Office  
107 8th Street  
Glenwood Springs, CO 81601  
Phone: 970-309-9248  
E-mail: [tmcginnis@garcosheriff.com](mailto:tmcginnis@garcosheriff.com)



**Philip A. Strouse**  
Community Relations  
Garfield County Sheriff's Office Annex  
106 County Road 333-A  
Rifle, CO 81650  
Phone: 970-309-9697  
E-mail: [pstrouse@garcosheriff.com](mailto:pstrouse@garcosheriff.com)

**SHERIFF LOU VALLARIO**  
**GARFIELD COUNTY, COLORADO**

## NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

October 8, 2010

### State-of-the-Art FRED Assists In Busting Child Porn Suspect

GLENWOOD SPRINGS, Colo. – At approximately 6:14 p.m. last night, deputies and detectives from the Garfield County Sheriff's Office arrested Michael Scott Bilotta, 28, at his residence (4904 County Road 154) for possession/distribution of child pornography. They booked him into the Garfield County Jail within the hour on one felony count of sexual exploitation of children.

At the end of last month, the local Federal Bureau of Investigations office notified the Garfield County Sheriff's Investigations Division of a local computer internet crime regarding child pornography. After thoroughly investigating the case with the FBI and Immigrations and Customs Enforcement, Garfield County Sheriff's investigators executed a search warrant yesterday morning at Bilotta's residence. Authorities removed one laptop, two external hard drives, three cellular phones, three cameras and several other related items.



Due to the existence of the Sheriff's computer forensics and Internet investigations crime unit known as FRED (Forensic Recovery of Evidence Device) in the new Annex near Rifle, investigators promptly began analyzing the material. They were able to secure a same-day arrest warrant based upon solid material evidence versus purely circumstantial findings. In the past, this type of evidence processing turn-around with the Colorado Bureau of Investigations office in Grand Junction or the Rocky Mountain Regional Computer Forensics Lab in Denver would have taken three to six months due to the enormous amount of material they must routinely process.

In just three months, Sheriff's investigators have completed 10 such evidence analyses in-house whereas, prior to construction of the computer forensics room at the Annex, they averaged 13.5 a year since late 2006. Concerning Bilotta's case, investigators are in the process of thoroughly analyzing and documenting over 750 gigabytes of data for the court proceedings.

Michael Bilotta posted his \$25,000 bond late last night. He is scheduled to appear in court on Wednesday, Oct. 27, for advisement of charges.

*The mission of the Garfield County Sheriff's Office is to provide solutions for the people by utilizing and employing strong morals, good character, untarnished integrity, technical knowledge and fiscal responsibility through professional, ethical and equitable conduct.*

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