



THE MONITOR

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Volume 5, Issue 4
October 2010

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Portage Bus Bully gets four years, no probation

Published by Post-Trib.com on September 28, 2010

VALPARAISO, IN| Bullying and sexually harassing fellow students on a Portage school bus will cost Ashley Toney four years in prison. Toney, who had been waived to adult court for four felony and three misdemeanor charges, was sentenced Monday, seven days after his 19th birthday.

He sat emotionless until after sentencing, when he turned to see his mother crying. Toney then began to cry himself.

He was the only one of three juvenile defendants who went to trial. The other two, Charles McCloud-Smith and Joe Francisco Carnell, pleaded to charges that didn't include sexual felonies.

Last month, a jury found Toney guilty of two felony charges of sexual battery, felony criminal confinement and misdemeanor public indecency and criminal recklessness. The jury found him not guilty of one sexual battery felony and Judge William Alexa dismissed a disorderly conduct misdemeanor.

Alexa set Toney's felony sentences to run consecutively instead of concurrently and gave Toney no probation time. He ruled that the incidents, which happened between November 2008 and February 2009, were separate incidents involving three specific girls.

Alexa added that doesn't count other students on the bus who were subjected to Toney's misbehaviors. "It's amazing that you could treat people like that," especially when he expected respect, Alexa said.

An arresting officer said during Toney's August trial that when officers arrested him, he asked, "Do you know who I am." The presentence report stated even after the jury found him guilty, Toney admitted to making threats and verbally fighting with an adult male but denied sexual harassing.

Alexa on Monday recounted hearing their statements and said, "I don't think they were false." The judge also noted the atmosphere of fear the other students went through, based on testimony.

He said bus drivers' reports were ignored by the administration, and when a girl's life was threatened, the boy was only given a detention and was back a day later. One girl said being smacked on her butt was not considered harassment at Portage High School.

Toney indicated that he would appeal and asked for a public defender. Deputy prosecutor Tim Haraminac said, "At this stage, they can appeal all the way to the waiver to adult court."



District News Briefs

Man breaks windows, cabinets at Highland schools

Published by Nwi.com on September 2, 2010

HIGHLAND, IN Highland school officials have locked down the middle school and high school following a break-in early Thursday morning. Superintendent Michael Boskovich characterized it as vandalism and said police responded quickly but the man was not apprehended.

Boskovich, who has walked through the middle school and high school buildings with police, said both buildings have been swept and no one is there. He said the incident occurred about 4 a.m. "We have locked both buildings down as a precaution. We don't believe the individual will come back but we wanted to be safe," he said.

Boskovich said a man broke a window out on the west end of the middle school near the music classroom. The man broke in through an outside glass which is part of the door, then reached inside and let himself in.



Boskovich said the man went down the science hallway through the pool lobby, and didn't do any damage. He went down the music hallway in the high school and broke a glass trophy display case, Boskovich said.

"The individual had his face hidden the entire time, however there are about 64 cameras throughout the middle school and high school and we were able to get an image of him though his face is covered," Boskovich said.

School leaders have distributed a picture of the man to teachers and administrators as well as others to alert them. "Who knows, someone might recognize him," Boskovich said. According to the cameras, the man was in the building about five minutes, Boskovich said.

"Our midnight custodian saw the individual and as soon as they saw one another, the perpetrator walked toward the custodian who turned and left the building dialing 911," Boskovich said, adding the cameras show the individual running out.

Boskovich said the man had something in his hand which was used to break the window to get in and the display case but it was not clear exactly what the device was. Boskovich reiterated the buildings are safe, and the lockdown is just a precaution and is only scheduled for today. In addition, police were at the school as a safety precaution for students.

Student drug use in Porter County higher than state averages

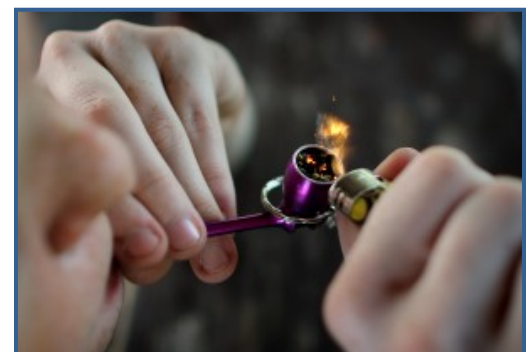
Published by Nwi.com on September 8, 2010

BURNS HARBOR Substance use among Porter County youth is higher than state averages almost across the board and follows examples set by the county's adults. Those were findings of the 2010 Porter County Epidemiological Profile presented Wednesday to county civic leaders, educators and law enforcement officials.

In one example, while use of cigarettes and alcohol in the previous month by county 12th-graders declined slightly between 2008 and 2009, the grade level's use of all other surveyed illegal and prescription drugs increased.

The study, compiled by Valparaiso University's Community Research and Service Center headed by political science professor Larry Baas, used data taken from surveys of county youth and college students, hospital and treatment records, law enforcement data, state epidemiological studies and other sources.

Overall percentages of student use of some drugs were small, but the increases and higher use rates than state averages were cause for concern.



"The news today is sobering," Valparaiso Mayor Jon Costas said. The focus of the study was on alcohol abuse and in that area Porter County registers higher rates of use among both youth and adults than state and national averages, Baas said.

In 2007 data, Porter County household spending on beer, wine and whiskey, both at home and away, exceeded state and national figures. Use of marijuana in the county was "significantly" above the state average, Baas said. About 38 percent of 11th-graders in 2009 reported using marijuana over the previous year. That rate was 12 percentage points above the state average.

Perceptions of peer approval, low risk and low parental disapproval contribute to "a culture of consumption" and very high drug usage rates, Baas said. Those in turn have created problems that include deaths, illegal activity, high demand for treatment, and high rates of accidents and hospitalization, Baas said.

The availability of substances, unsupervised youth activity, low participation in youth programs and community acceptance also contribute to the problem, he said. "We are recognizing as a county that we do need help," Portage Mayor Olga Velazquez said.

The study was funded through a 2007 state grant awarded to counties determined to have significant needs for substance abuse prevention. The profile presented Wednesday was the third completed so far. The report's data is available at www.unitedwaypc.org under "about us" and "what we do."

Regional News Briefs

Chicago schools have 'new eyes and ears on the street'

Published by Suntimes.com on September 7, 2010

CHICAGO, IL Wearing neon yellow vests and packing cell phones, more than a dozen "community watchers" will line the busiest street leading to Corliss High School for a mile today as a new Safe Passage program sweeps across the city's public high schools.

These new "eyes and ears on the street" already have made some kids feel safer at Corliss, a year-round school that launched its Safe Passage program in early August when its classes began. "People are not going to do anything when they see adults around," Corliss junior Louise Bohannon, 17, said last week. "We have somebody now to watch us."

After the tensest budget season in years, Chicago Public Schools throw open their doors for the start of the traditional school year today with more kids than last year, fewer teachers, longer bus rides, but, around some schools like Corliss, more security.

With massive systemwide cost-cutting, the Safe Passage program is one of the few CPS efforts to expand from the \$2 million originally envisioned for this school year to \$8 million, and from the 13 high schools once planned to 23 schools by October.

Not all kids are convinced the 20 community watchers around Corliss High School, at 103rd and Corliss, will make a difference. "They can't jump in front of any bullets," said one 16-year-old Corliss junior. But Principal Anthony Spivey thinks the program already has had an impact.

On Aug. 11, Spivey said, an alert Corliss community watcher spotted a group of gang members, including some Corliss students, gathering at a park and alerted the principal and police. Spivey and security officers went to the park, averting trouble. They learned the group apparently was headed for another gang positioned at a gas station.

Officials later determined that the first group was intent on retaliating against the second for a gang shooting the day before that inadvertently claimed the life of 8-year-old Tanaja Stokes as she jumped rope with her cousin. "If the community watchers had not been out here, we'd have been on the inside, not knowing what was going on outside," Spivey said.



Troy McDaniel, a Corliss High School Safe Passage "community watcher," keeps an eye on things while students head for school last week.

The Safe Passage program is one prong of a three-part anti-violence plan designed to reduce student shootings that have plagued CPS in recent years. Budget-tightening shrank the overall \$60 million, two-year effort to a \$40 million one, but the Safe Passage part grew, as police and school officials identified more troublesome school passage ways, said CPS Safety and Security Chief Michael Shields.

Dozens of community groups vied for the chance to produce and train community watchers. At Corliss, the Nehemiah Coalition joined forces with Roseland Ceasefire to produce 20 community watchers who were given three days of training, including briefings on gang symbols and colors.

Their tools? Neon yellow vests so kids would be sure to see them, and cell phones with global positioning systems that they use to call in trouble and that their supervisors can use to locate them. As Corliss kids walked down busy 103rd Street to school last week, yellow vests punctuated their route at street corners, bus stops, gas stations and abandoned stores.

"The mere and obvious presence of community watchers functions as a deterrent, because kids don't want to create trouble while "witnesses" are around, said Bob Jackson of Roseland Ceasefire.

But watchers say they also have alerted officials to rumblings about guns, fights and retaliation plans. And they have broken up verbal altercations that could have escalated into physical ones. Some watchers recently stopped some gun-toting teens from heading toward Corliss, Jackson said. "These people had just shot a dog dead in a yard, so you don't know what they were going to do by the time they got to Corliss," Jackson said. "The community watchers are not just standing around."

The program also is providing jobs at the rate of \$8.50 to \$10 an hour -- to adults waylaid by tough economic times. It gave Troy McDaniels a job after he was laid off as an online university admissions adviser -- as well as a new way to reach kids and help the community. "It's an excellent program that helps kids stay safe in their neighborhood," McDaniels said. "We're another eye in the sky helping the Chicago Police Department."

CPS student killed in West Side shooting

Published by Wgntv.com on August 31, 2010

CHICAGO, IL | 18-year-old CPS student was killed early this morning in a shooting on the West Side after walking into the middle of an armed robbery, his father said. Police could not immediately confirm the man's account.

The Cook County office of the medical examiner identified the teen as Anthony Carter, 18, of the 4000 block of West Jackson Blvd. Police were called to the scene in the 4000 block of West Jackson Boulevard shortly after midnight and found the youth unresponsive with several gunshot wounds to his back, police said.

Carter's father, Anthony Sr., said his son was returning from the store when he noticed two of his friends across the street talking to another man. He approached the group and only after seeing a gun pointed at one of his friends, did Carter realize he was in the middle of an armed robbery. His father said he thought all three were just "hanging out".



Anthony Carter

"That's when he shot my oldest son. He shot him in the stomach, then another 7 times in the back. I want to know why did he kill my son, why?" his father said. "He killed my oldest child. And he didn't get anything for it, I want to see this guy caught." The father said the two friends were questioned by police and believed they had a good description of the suspect. He said one of the boys was pleading for his life when Anthony appeared on the scene. "He was telling the guy, 'Don't kill me, I'm too young to die', well, so was my son," the father said.

Carter was the eldest of two brothers and three sisters. He was scheduled to begin his senior year at nearby Crane High School next week. Donna Carr is the victim's grandmother. "We were all running, there were like 8 or 9 shots, just random gunfire. I found him lying on the ground. They shot him down like a dog," she said. She said Carter was the fourth grandchild who became a victim of gun violence.

"They need to stop the gang crime, they need to." Police are investigating whether the shooting may have been over gang territory. Officials say someone with a gun walked up to Carter and others and asked, "Who you working for?"

There was an argument and Carter was shot several times, officials said. No one was in custody. Relatives say people in the neighborhood witnessed the shooting and recognized the killer but haven't been helping police. "There were people outside. No one's going to say anything. We want someone to come forward and at least say what they saw," said Cashara Young, Carter's stepmother. "You can remain anonymous -- just get some type of justice."

National News Briefs

Second Socastee High student facing charges; Accused shooter could face terrorism charge

Published by Wistv.com on September 23, 2010

HORRY COUNTY, S.C. | A second Socastee High School student was arrested Wednesday one day after he made comments on a social networking website about a shooting at the school. The juvenile, 14, was released to the custody of his parents on Wednesday and is facing a misdemeanor charge of disturbing schools, said Principal Paul Browning. The student also is facing possible disciplinary action by the school Browning said.

The teen and "seven to eight" other students were interviewed by Horry County police officers on Wednesday, Browning said. The officers also visited the homes of several students, he said. "We're all just trying to understand the sequence of events that surrounded Tuesday," Browning said. "Most of the kids (interviewed) seemed to be in his age group, his classmates. We're just trying to find out how much if any prior knowledge they had."

On Tuesday, a 14-year-old student shot a gun at school resource officer Erik Karney. The resulting shrapnel struck Karney, who then restrained the juvenile. Karney suffered minor injuries and no timetable has been set for his return to the school, Browning said.

Bomb squads later found two pipe bombs in the student's bookbag and detonated them, Browning said. The student was wearing the bookbag at the time of the incident and the pipe bombs were detonated, said Sgt. Robert Kegler of Horry County Police

Fifteenth Judicial Circuit Solicitor Greg Hembree said the teen "was attempting Columbine" but does not believe that students are making more threats than they were 10 years ago. But more of the threats are now visible on the internet.

The student is expected to be at a hearing at 9 a.m. Friday at the Horry County Courthouse when he may be charged as an adult and face terrorism-related and attempted murder charges, Hembree said.

At Friday's hearing, a family court judge will determine if the teen should be released to the custody of his parents or remain in custody at a juvenile facility in Columbia. Prosecutors also may file a motion to have the teen tried in circuit court, where he could be charged as an adult, Hembree said.

If that happens, the teen likely will face charged of attempted murder; possession, threatened or attempted use of weapon of mass destruction for act of terrorism; and possession of a destructive device, Hembree said. All three are felonies. The terrorism charge carries a maximum sentence of life in prison.

A request for a competency hearing also may be filed Friday, Hembree said. The teens' identities are not being released because they are juveniles. Officers arrested the second juvenile on Wednesday after learning he had made a threatening post on the social networking site Facebook, Kegler said. The student made threats after Tuesday's shooting, Kegler said, that were not connected to the incident.

Browning said the student's comments were made 'as a reaction to' Tuesday's shooting. "He made some comments on Facebook that came to light," Browning said. The student was charged and released to the custody of his parents, Kegler said. The teen is facing a misdemeanor charge of disturbing schools which carries a possible sentence of 30-90 days in jail and fines up to \$1,000.



Socastee High School students wait in two lines, one for male students and one for females as they enter the school following the shooting of a school resource officer by a 14-year-old student on Tuesday at the school.

Hembree said it's not clear if the charge and it's possible sentence fit the crime given the increase of school violence and threats on the internet over the past several years. "We do need to regulate it but the hard part is sorting through which ones are serious and which ones the kids are just popping off," Hembree said. "You don't want to send someone to jail for 20 years for blowing off steam.



"But when you have a situation like two days ago, he wasn't being a kid. He was attempting Columbine." Hembree said he is attending a Federal Bureau of Investigations workshop in October that is focusing on threats made on social networking.

"A lot of the issues now are educating kids," Hembree said. "That there is an obligation that if they see another kid's post about how they are going to blow up a building or something about death and destruction, that's a problem. They need to step up and report it. They need to ask the person, "What are you talking about?"

Browning said that beginning next week the school will start the "deterrent state" of the security plan at the school and begin to scale down searches. He said the searches will be more random. "The students need to understand that if they bring anything that is not good, there is a good chance they will get caught," Browning said.

School attacker had 10 pipe bombs, sword, Chainsaw

Published by Ktvu.com on August 24, 2010

SAN MATEO, CA | A teen armed with a sword and chainsaw in addition to eight pipe bombs strapped to his body was arrested Monday after two explosions rocked San Mateo's Hillsdale High School and more than 1,200 students and teachers were forced to evacuate, authorities said.

Police received several calls from Hillsdale High School beginning at 8:07 a.m. reporting that there was possibly a person with a gun on campus. A short time later, police received more calls reporting an explosion inside the school, located at 3115 Del Monte St.

San Mateo Police Chief Susan Manheimer said the teen had entered the campus with the chainsaw, a two-foot-long sword and 10 homemade pipe bombs attached to a tactical vest he was wearing.

He exploded two of the pipe bombs in an empty hallway near the library and the smoke activated a fire alarm, Manheimer said. There was also a power outage around that time but she didn't know whether the outage was related.

Two teachers heard the explosions, ran into the hallway and confronted the teen, who then fled, Manheimer said. A third teacher caught up with the teen and tackled him, police Lt. Mike Brunicardi said. Principal Jeff Gilbert and another teacher arrived a moment later and helped hold the suspect down until police arrived and arrested him.



Brunicardi called the actions by Gilbert and the teachers "simply heroic." "All the while that the teachers and principal are confronting this kid, holding him down and tackling him, he's got eight live pipe bombs attached to his person," Brunicardi said.

No one was hurt in the explosion and, despite the initial report, no gun was found, Manheimer said. The incident prompted the evacuation of about 1,270 Hillsdale students, who were directed to the nearby Abbott Middle School in accordance with Hillsdale's safety plan. Gilbert said there is monthly training at the school for emergency situations. "That training certainly paid off today," he said.

Classes were canceled for the day as police, with help from other agencies and the San Mateo County Sheriff's bomb squad, searched the campus to make sure no additional devices had been planted in the school. The school district

sent automated telephone calls to parents advising them that the school had been evacuated, that nobody was hurt and directing them to pick up their children at the middle school, police said.

The Police Department also sent out an automated message to nearby residents advising them to shelter in place until they could confirm that the area was safe. San Mateo Union High School District Superintendent Scott Laurence said classes will likely resume at Hillsdale on Tuesday. He said counseling services will be available on campus to students who may be shaken by today's events.

The 17-year-old suspect was last a student at Hillsdale more than a year ago, Manheimer said. The motive for his actions this morning remain unclear but police believe he acted alone. San Mateo County Assistant District Attorney Karen Guidotti said her office is deciding whether to charge the teen as an adult. The damage caused by the pipe bombs has not yet been assessed but Manheimer said she believes it was minor.

Police: South Dakota teen wanted to be 'infamous sociopath'

Published by Ap.org on September 1, 2010

SISSETON, CT | An 18-year-old high school student stockpiled bomb-making materials in his bedroom and wrote about wanting to blow up his school, target individuals he hated, rape women and "become the world's most infamous sociopath," authorities said.

Joseph Thomas Hansen, of Claire City, was arrested Aug. 23 after someone tipped off a police school resource officer that Hansen had talked about an attack, authorities said. "Thanks to an alert citizen and a school resource officer, they were able to prevent a very serious and potentially dangerous situation," state Attorney General Marty Jackley said by phone Wednesday.



Joseph Thomas Hansen

Hansen pleaded not guilty Tuesday to selling, transporting or possessing an explosive device and possessing substances with the intent to make a destructive device, and is due back in court Sept. 14. If convicted of all charges, he could face up to 25 years in prison, Jackley said. Hansen remained jailed Wednesday in lieu of \$500,000 bond and was unavailable to comment.

A man who answered the phone at the family's home who identified himself as Hansen's father, Roland Hansen, referred questions to his son's attorney, Scott Bratland. Bratland did not immediately return phone messages seeking comment.

During a search of Hansen's room, investigators found a list Hansen wrote of things he wanted to do, including blow up Sisseton High School - where he was set to begin his senior year the day after his arrest - torture and rape women and "become the world's most infamous sociopath," according to an affidavit filed Monday.

He listed 39 people he hated and the reasons why, and he researched the 1999 Columbine school massacre in Littleton, Colo., in which two student gunmen killed 12 classmates and a teacher and wounded 26 others before committing suicide, investigators said. Detectives also found drawings of swastikas, documents outlining two attempts to make napalm, instructional materials on how to make bombs, four guns and a video showing two explosive devices detonating, according to the affidavit.

Two people whose names were redacted in the affidavit told Roberts County Sheriff's investigators that Hansen told them he "had enough fireworks to blow up Sisseton and that the first day of school would be a short one," the court documents state.

During an initial interview with police, Hansen said he was fascinated by mass murder, read books on the subject and wanted to know what makes killers tick, authorities said. He also expressed an interest in the Marine Corps, demolitions and becoming a criminal profiler, according to the court documents.

Claire City has only 85 residents and there are only about 2,500 people living in the area around Sisseton, which is in northeast South Dakota, near the state's borders with North Dakota and Minnesota. Kirk Snaza, a youth director at the

Christian Outreach Center in Sisseton, said he drove a school bus for a while and occasionally picked up Hansen, who he described as a quiet loner.

Amanda Ostby, a 24-year-old hairdresser at Little Shop for Hair in Claire City, said she was shocked by the arrest. "He was a nice kid, well mannered," said Ostby. "He was a super nice kid so it's pretty unbelievable." "They are a very, very nice family." Sisseton School Superintendent Stephen Schulte said counselors have been made available to students. "We're dealing with this the best we can," he said by phone Wednesday.

Two children wounded in gunman attack on California school

Published by BritainNews.com on October 9, 2010

CARLSBAD, CA | A man in California has opened fire on young school children during lunch hour, injuring two before being tackled by nearby construction workers. The shocking attack unfolded at Kelly Elementary School in Carlsbad while the students were on the playing field for lunch Friday, the two students injured were 6 and 7 years old and were later flown to Rady Children's Hospital in San Diego.

The attacker was subdued by a construction crew working nearby, one of whom rammed the 41-year-old with his truck while others set about disarming him. Carlos Partida, the worker who rammed the attacker, said that he'd made a reference to US President Barack Obama, although when police asked him for his name he gave them three, one of which was a female name.

Local news provider, KGTV, has reported that a .357 Magnum handgun is believed to have been the weapon used. According to eye witness reports, the man fired three times at the playing field while children as young as 6 ran in terror.

2 Metro Students Arrested For Bringing Weapons On Campus

Published by NewsChanel5.com on October 14, 2010

NASHVILLE, TN | Two Metro students were arrested and suspended on Thursday for allegedly bringing weapons on to school campuses. School resource officers at Maplewood and Hillsboro High Schools arrested the teenagers Thursday afternoon.



The officers said a staff member received a tip that a 14-year-old 9th grader at Maplewood brought a pistol on campus. The .25 caliber semi-automatic pistol was then located in the teenager's backpack along with a separate magazine that contained five rounds. The student claimed that he found the gun and was going to try to trade it for an iPod.

At Hillsboro High School, a school resource officer learned that a female student was running through a hallway discharging pepper spray. The officer responded to the area and found the student had gone outside into a courtyard. On the way there, the officer ran into the 15-year-old female who was allegedly carrying both pepper spray and a paring knife. The officer and the girl struggled before she was ultimately subdued, disarmed and arrested. No one was injured.

The student was charged juvenile detention with unlawful weapon possession, disorderly conduct and resisting arrest. The school district said the Maplewood student was suspended and could face expulsion under the state-mandated Zero Tolerance policy. The Hillsboro student was suspended pending disciplinary hearings for violations of the student code of conduct.

In The News

County to eliminate middle school resource officer positions

Published by InsideNova.com on October 5, 2010

PRINCE WILLIAM CO., VA Starting next fall, middle schools in Prince William County will no longer be assigned school resource officers thanks to more cuts in state funding. Currently, there are six officers assigned to 15 middle schools, a drop from 10 from the year before because of reduced funding for police departments.

More cuts this year meant making tough decisions, county Police Chief Charlie T. Deane told the Board of County Supervisors. "We are getting into times where we must cut programs, and that's one we care very much about," Deane said. These six officers will serve for the remainder of the year before being moved into vacant patrol positions in the department. Two other vacant police officer positions will be eliminated from the crime prevention unit.

School resource officers, who also work at county high schools, do risk assessments on possible violent behavior, handle runaway cases and often develop meaningful relationships with students at their schools, Deane said. Through the dip in funding —totaling more than \$520,000 for fiscal 2011, the county will also no longer be helping to plan the local National Night Out. In the past, the regional Crime Prevention Council sponsored this annual event with the coordination of the police department.

School safety presentations and child passenger seat checks will be affected by this cut, as well. The remaining full-time positions in the crime prevention unit will focus on the county's Neighborhood Watch program, said county budget director Michelle Casciato.

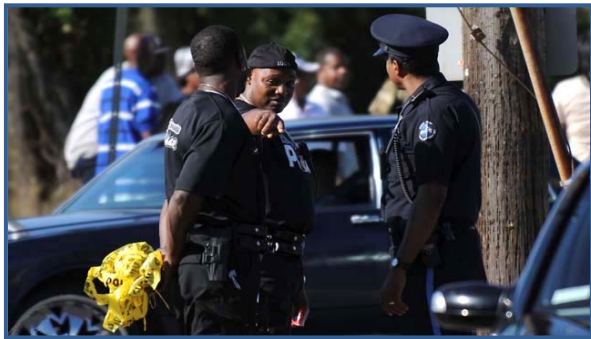
Recent School Violence

2 DPS teens shot after first day of school

Published by DetNews.com on September 8, 2010

DETROIT, MI The first day at Detroit Public Schools started and ended badly as two teens were shot near Mumford High shortly after dismissal and dozens of buses were late picking up students earlier in the day.

The two Mumford teens were wounded after leaving the high school Tuesday, and at least one Mumford student is being questioned. A bullet grazed the forehead of a 14-year-old girl, and a 16-year-old boy was shot in the buttocks about a block away from the school, district officials say.



Investigators check out the crime scene after a drive by shooting at Detroit's Mumford High School on the first day of classes.

"I don't want to send my child back to school (today)," said Sharon Kelso, whose granddaughter attends Mumford. She wants extra security around the school to protect the children from after-school violence that could have been brewing during the day. "They just don't have the security they need up that street."

The students were conscious after being shot and taken to a Detroit hospital with non-life-threatening injuries, said DPS Police Chief Roderick Grimes.

Later Tuesday, Detroit Police officers fatally shot an armed male while investigating the Mumford shootings. The incident happened in the corridor of an apartment building after police ordered him to put down his gun.

He refused and pointed it at officers, said Detroit Police Sgt. Eren Stephens. Police didn't identify him or say whether he was a Mumford student or if he was a suspect in the earlier shootings. During the school day, there was no known altercation at Mumford, and police are trying to piece together what happened, district officials said.

Kecia Smith, a teacher at Mumford, was surprised by the shooting. "We were ready for the kids, but this violence is happening everywhere," Smith said. "I'm really scared for these kids. That's how they live."

Security to be tightened after wrench attack at Bridgewater-Raynham

Published by TaughtonGazette.com on October 18, 2010

TAUGHTON, MA | Police and school officials next week plan to boost security measures for Bridgewater-Raynham Regional High School students in response to a Friday afternoon fight involving a wrench that left one student injured and another under arrest.

Seventeen-year-old Colin Harrington, of Bridgewater, grabbed a wrench from a classroom and used it to repeatedly strike another male student over the head as students moved between classes Friday, police said. Bridgewater Police Chief Christopher Delmonte said that in addition to the school's resource officer, school officials and police are working together to increase student safety at the high school.



Bridgewater authorities have been called to the regional high school at least three times in the last three weeks, in addition to Friday's fight, according to police records. "We are making some plans for assisting the school on Monday," Delmonte said Saturday. Police are still investigating what might have sparked the bloody fight, he said.

Benjamin Donovan, an 18-year-old senior, also of Bridgewater, said the suspect was trying to protect another male student. "(Harrington) is a good kid who was defending his friend," Donovan said Saturday in a Facebook message to an Enterprise reporter. "He just made a bad decision on how to go about it."

The suspect was arrested and charged with assault and battery with a dangerous weapon and disrupting a school assembly. The victim, a junior at the school, was treated at Morton Hospital and Medical Center in Taunton and later released.

According to police and student accounts, the 17-year-old suspect stole the tool-turned-weapon from a classroom. Ron Pacy, chairman of the Bridgewater-Raynham School Committee, said school policy allows students to use tools only when classes are in session, or when a teacher is present. "When there's no one in the room," Pacy said, "tools are usually locked up."

After the incident, students remained in their classrooms as part of a "shelter-in-place," the term the school uses to describe a partial lock-down drill. Police said the suspect is serving probation for a juvenile offense, but he has no criminal record. Delmonte said the suspect was no longer in custody as of Saturday afternoon, and is scheduled for arraignment Monday in Brockton District Court.

Technology & Internet Safety kids send message about Internet safety

Published by Newstimes.com on September 22, 2010

DANBURY, CT | Sisters Chayce and Kylie Schultz are agile on computers, but they know about the dangers of the Internet. Now they're spreading the word about those dangers by appearing in public service announcements about Internet safety. Created 1 1/2 years ago in Stamford, the ads are starting to air nationally.



Chayce, 11, a sixth-grader at Broadview Middle School in Danbury, urges users "to be more careful on the Internet and not go on sites that give away personal information." Chayce, Joslyn Chen, 11, of New Fairfield, and Wren Odim, 12, of Bellport, N.Y., are shown surfing a celebrity fan site. While at the site, they're confronted with a request for a credit card number.

Kylie Schultz, 13, a ninth-grader at Danbury High School, appears in an ad with 15-year-old Corina Lopez, of Stamford, and 14-year-old Caitelin McCoy, of Riverdale, N.Y., in which they post questionable photographs on a social networking site. A mother then enters the room and discovers the photos online. "Kids are getting new computers all the time," Kylie

said. "There is a bigger need for parents' guidance since they start at such a young age now."

Kylie's mother is strict about what she can post and Kylie has privacy settings that restrict who can read her posts. "We see a lot of girls who are Kylie's age who post inappropriate pictures and videos," their mom, Stephanie Lyons said. "It's frightening to me."

Wayne Keeley, of New Fairfield, director of the Children's Advertising Review Unit of the Council of Better Business Bureaus, wrote and produced the public service ads for his agency. Keeley cast his two sons, Wyatt, now 13, and Dylan 11, in one ad with Zachary Tripodi, 12, and Justin Randle, 13, also of New Fairfield. The four boys are trying to download a video game when the website requests a Social Security number.

"One of the biggest problems today is the growth of the Internet," Keeley said. "We wanted to raise the awareness and prod parents with the question, 'Do you know where your children are ... on the Internet?'" Actress Catherine Hicks, best known as the mother from the hit television series, "Seventh Heaven," serves as host of the PSAs.

The Children's Advertising Review Unit was established in 1974 by the advertising industry to promote responsible national advertising to children and to respond to public concerns. These are the CARU's first ads. "We monitor truth in advertising for children and we also monitor websites to make sure they are compliant with the federal law," Keeley said. The federal Children's Online Privacy Protection Act prohibits websites from asking for personally identifiable information from children without getting parental consent.

The ads lead viewers to the CARU.org website, which offers tips to parents about Internet safety and links to other resources. Television stations must choose to run public service announcements and so far these ads are airing on CBS, WABC and the Discovery Kids channel. In addition, they're posted on YouTube, where they have racked up at least 6,500 hits.

The Toy Industry Association, a major trade group that reaches industry professionals and parents, has committed to airing the ads on its site and Wired Safety, the world's largest Internet safety, help and education resource, also plans to air the announcements.



"All the media is coming together in one spot. Not only is there an expansion of the Internet, but an integration of media. The kids can use one screen to play games, and go on the Internet while some phones allow you to call, text and use the Internet," Keeley said, "It's hard to monitor them all. It's up to parents to be vigilant."

Drugs & Alcohol

Gangs and drugs prevalent in public schools, survey finds

Published by LaTimes.com on August 20, 2010

WASHINGTON, D.C. | More than a quarter of public middle and high school students say both gangs and drugs are present at their campuses, according to a survey released Thursday by the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University.

Those roughly 5.7 million students nationwide are also more likely than their counterparts at private and religious schools to smoke, drink and use drugs, said Joseph A. Califano Jr., chairman and founder of the center, which has been surveying youth for the last 16 years.

Califano said the survey illustrated "a trajectory of tragedy for millions of children and their parents." Forty-six percent of teens report gangs at public schools, compared with just 2% of teens at private and religious schools. Forty-seven percent of public school teens said drugs are used, stored or sold at school, compared with 6% of private school students.



The "most disturbing finding," Califano said, is that 1 in 3 middle school students say drugs are used or sold at their school a 39% increase since last year. Not everyone reacted with alarm. David J. Hanson, a professor emeritus of sociology at the State University of New York at Potsdam and a longtime critic of surveys by Califano's group, said

Califano was "making much ado about nothing, because if we compare 2010 to 2001, there's been no change" in middle school numbers.

In 2001, 31% of public middle school students said drugs were present at school, compared with 32% in 2010. Similarly, though Califano noted a "steady rise" since 2006 in students who report the presence of drugs at their high school, Hanson said that when compared with 2001, there again had been no change.

The annual survey, timed to coincide with the back-to-school season, was conducted in April and was based on responses from more than 2,000 students and 456 parents from across the country who were surveyed by phone or over the Internet.

Hanson, who reviewed the survey and its methodology, said numerous data points were "simply deceptive," because they relied on second-hand information, some of which was supplied by students whose parents could see or hear their responses. The tendency of students to report what they have heard at school but not seen skews the portrait of what actually is occurring, he said.

Califano said his organization expected that some students might have underreported their own use of substances or alcohol. Students from Southern California and other areas in the Southwest were among the most likely to report gang activity, Califano said.

He said students at schools where drugs and gangs were present were almost 12 times more likely than private school students to use tobacco, three times more likely to use alcohol and five times more likely to use marijuana. Students consistently rate drugs, alcohol and tobacco as the "top concern" facing their age group, Califano said.

Dextromethorphan Abuse and "Robo-Tripping"

Published by TeenOvertheCounterDrugAbuse.com

Some adults have trouble believing that more than three million teenagers are abusing cough medicines and cold and flu tablets. It may be impossible for them to picture their teen chugging down three or four bottles of cough syrup or twenty or thirty NyQuils ® in one sitting. However, "robiting" (Robo-Tripping) as teens call it is one of the most common ways to get high.

In the early 2000s, many drug experts believed that the cough syrup fad was on the decline. However, the opposite scenario occurred, as usage kept increasing. A 2006 study called Monitoring Their Future found that four percent of eighth graders and seven percent of twelfth graders had tried cough medicines to get high. Between 1999 and 2004, usage increased tenfold, with 75 percent of abusers between ages 9 and 17 years old.

About seven percent of all drug-related emergency room visits in 2004 involved dextromethorphan, the hallucinogenic ingredient in cough syrups that teens seek, and 44 percent of those visits were about non-medical usages of that drug. It was also implicated in 14 percent of suicide attempts treated in ERs.

Dextromethorphan, or "DXM," is celebrated in teen culture. Some of rapper Pimp C's most popular music was about "Sizzurp," and his work was at the top of the Billboard charts when he died of a drug overdose involving DXM in December 2007.

Teens share online information about how much cough medicine to take in order to achieve different levels of highs, and they buy it over the Internet in powder form. DXM is a synthetically produced cousin of codeine and morphine. It is an antitussin or cough suppressant that works by reducing the sensitivity of the brain's cough control center. It replaced codeine in over-the-counter medicines in the 1970s.



Currently, the United States government is not regulating DXM under the Controlled Substance Act. However, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency is reviewing that decision because of the drug's widespread abuse among young teenagers.

Forms and Brands

DXM is an ingredient in over 120 common over-the-counter medicines. Most combination drugs for colds and flus contain DXM, including ones with trademarked names including Alka-Seltzer, Actifed, Bayer, Comtrex, Coricidin,

Contac, Vicks, Pediacare, Theraflu, Sudafed, Triaminic, and Tylenol. Any medicine with "tuss" in its name contains DXM, such as Robitussin, Pertussin, and Tussafed. Other common trademarked products are Benylin, Bromarest, Calmylin, Cardec, DayQuil, NyQuil, Delsym, Dimetane, Dristan, Dexan, Ornex, and Viravan.

DXM is sold illicitly over the Internet as a white powder that teenagers inject into their veins.

The street names for DXM are DM, CCC, Triple C, Skittles, Candy, Velvet, Rojo, Robo, and Poor Man's PCP. The name "skittles" comes from the fact that pills containing DXM can look like a popular, colorful candy.

Effects and Use

"Syrup-heads" drink entire bottles of cough syrup as quickly as they can without vomiting. They may take 20 to 30 pills containing DXM at one time, especially at raves and dance clubs. The effect of the drug varies according to a person's body size and genetic makeup. It also depends upon the amount of drug ingested and whether the person has built up a tolerance to the drug.

In general, at 100 to 200 mg, DXM is a mild stimulant. At 200 to 400 mg, you may experience euphoria and hallucinations; at 300 to 600 mg, distorted vision and loss of motor control; and at 500 to 600 mg, a dissociative (out-of-body) reaction may occur. However, many people will experience only extreme nausea and vomiting or go into convulsions or comas. Between five to ten percent of Caucasians are "poor" metabolizers of DXM and at risk for serious side effects if they take it at levels above the medically recommended dose of 15 to 30 mg.

The drug takes between fifteen minutes and half an hour to take effect if taken by mouth. If injected as a powder mixed with water, the effect is quicker. Hallucinations, dissociative experiences, and feelings of euphoria can last up to six hours. Even at prescribed levels, DXM causes dizziness, drowsiness, and lightheadedness. No one should drive or operate machinery while using DXM.

Dangers and Risks

Chugging cough medicines is extremely dangerous because users are not only taking in DXM at high levels, but other ingredients such as acetaminophen (Tylenol), ibuprofen (Advil), anti-histamines, guaifenesin, phenylpropanolamine, alcohol, chloroform, and non-narcotic opiates.

Even one very high dose of acetaminophen can permanently damage the liver. A normal dose is between 325 to 1000 mgs; however, twenty NyQuils® contain 6500 mgs. Acetaminophen combined with alcohol can cause permanent liver damage, and most teens drink when they are "syruping." Ibuprofen (Advil) interacts with alcohol to cause stomach bleeding and ulcers.

Phenylpropanolamine (Sudafed PE®) decreases swelling in nose and ears. At high doses, it can cause hallucinations, dizziness, faintness, changes in heartbeat, seizures and slow breathing.

Since "robiting" is a new phenomenon, no one has studied the long-term effects of using common medications at such high levels. Many "syrup-heads" take 20 or more cold pills a day for months on end. Prolonged exposure to acetaminophen causes liver damage, and long-term usage of anti-histamines damages bone marrow and nerve cells and causes cardiovascular toxicity and high blood pressure. Some teens have died or suffered permanent brain damage from robiting.

Signs of Use

Teens use hallucinogenic drugs either by themselves in their rooms or at social settings like raves. The first kind of user is secretive and wants a lot of privacy. He or she may get high at night and then sleep all day. The party user has often found a new group of friends and is staying out all night.

The Partnership for a Drug-Free America has posted videos of teens who abused DXM. They tell how the drug took over their lives, often for years. They felt "chosen by God" and "enlightened." Part of the problem is that this drug is available cheaply at any drug or grocery store, so every time they went out, they were tempted to buy it again.

When they were using DXM, they said they were selfish, uncooperative, hostile, and mean to their parents and siblings. They lost interest in school and their grades fell. They stopped taking care of themselves. Many experienced major health problems, such as severe headaches, stomach cramps, problems with urination, and fevers.

Overdose

A teen overdosing on DXM may appear to be intoxicated or in a stupor. There may be a fever, numbness of toes and



fingers, and facial redness. The person may lose all muscle coordination, stagger, and experience visual distortions, hyperactivity, restlessness, shallow breathing, vomiting, irritability, changes in heartbeat, seizures, and coma. At the highest levels of overdose, teens have lost their ability to move their arms and legs and to talk, and have suffered strokes and permanent brain damage.

If teens combine DXM with depressants, they can die from serotonergic syndrome. An overdose of phenylpropanolamine is similar. The person will hallucinate, have seizures, dizziness, faintness, and slow breathing, along with upset stomach and tremors. Taking antihistamines at high levels can cause convulsions, hallucinations, and/or coma. People who are overdosing on acetaminophen may have sweats, diarrhea, cramps, convulsions, coma, blood in their urine, and black stool.

Another common ingredient in cold medications is Guaifenesin, an expectorant. At very high doses, Guaifenesin abusers may have difficulty breathing and may vomit. Allergic reactions can include closed throat, swollen lips, hives and rashes. Ibuprofen at very high doses can cause convulsions, blurred vision, black stools, tight chest pain, psychosis, eye pain, nosebleeds and faintness.

Withdrawal and Treatment

There are very few studies on DXM withdrawal and treatment, but that is changing as more teenagers with DXM problems enter rehabilitation programs. Physical withdrawal is usually not an issue, although many DXM teens will have developed serious health problems that need medical attention. Psychological dependence on DXM is hard to treat because of its easy availability and low cost.

Teens must completely change their lifestyles and find new interests to fill the void in their lives that will be created when they stop using DXM. Some teens have undiagnosed psychological problems such as depression or attention deficit disorder that led them to self-medicate with DXM. Often the underlying problem is an undiagnosed learning disability that has made it impossible for school success.

For these reasons, many teens benefit from going away to a therapeutic boarding school, where they receive intensive counseling on a daily basis. These schools often offer superior academic programs with a teaching staff trained to help teens with learning disabilities and other problems. Caring professionals can help a teen with a drug abuse problem develop new interests, set career goals, and catch up to their peer group.

Youth Gang Awareness - *Spanish Gangster Disciples*

Alliance: Folk Nation

Gang make-up: Mainly Hispanic males, but does consist of White and Black males.

Gang Colors: Black and Blue

Monikers/Graffiti: Black and blue clothing, a six-pointed star, a heart with horns, wings and a tail. A gangster crown and Spanish cross. Everything to the right side of the body, (tattoo's, hats, ect...)

Primary Allies: Folk Nation, Black Disciples, Crips, Gangster Disciples, Spanish Disciples (Vato Loco Boys), Los Zetas

Primary Rivals: Latin Kings, Latin Counts, Latin Dragons, Latin Eagles, Spanish Cobras



Basic Gang History: The Spanish Gangster Disciples (SDG's) were formed in the early 1980's by a former member of the MLDs (Maniac Latin Disciples), Rudy Rios. While in Prison, he helped form the "Spanish Growth and Development" group in order to settle any problems within Latino Folk Gangs. Once released, he transformed this organization into the Spanish Gangster Disciples after receiving permission from the BGD's on the south side. They quickly earned a reputation for extreme violence. Initial territory included the Trumell Park Homes at 106th and Bensley. Their territory grew rapidly to include the area of 87th to 90th between Baltimore and Commercial Avenue on the east side (85 and Houston is the heart).

A north side and somewhat distinct sect of the Spanish Gangster Disciples appeared at about the same time that the Hispanic members of the GD's joined with the MLD's to adopt a combined GD and Spanish Growth and Development

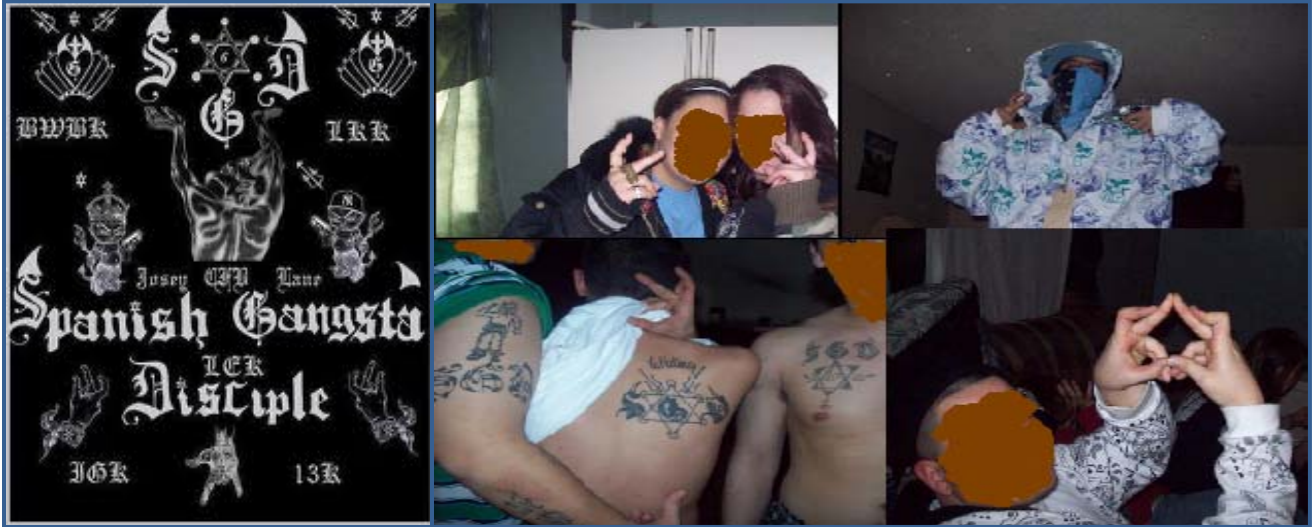
creed. They quickly gained recognition among fellow gangs as main suppliers of marijuana and have since been operating in the Rogers Park, Uptown and Albany park areas.

Exact ties between the north and south groups remain somewhat vague, but over the years, the SGD's have fought several wars with other Hispanic Gangs, including many of their former allies. As a result, in the past 20 years, four ranking members of the gang, including Rudy Rios, have been slain. Along with a visible lack of unity within the gang itself, their activity and membership has declined. They still, however, maintain a presence in the aforementioned areas of Chicago and a presence in certain outlying Illinois areas such as Calumet City, Lockport, Prospect Heights and Romeoville.

Criminal Activities: Drug trafficking, armed robbery, murder, assaults and auto theft.

Gang Structure: Faction based.

Hand Signs:

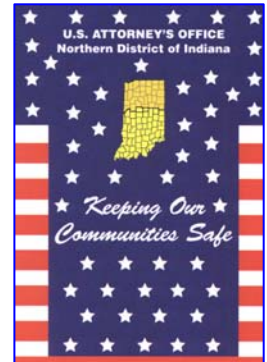


Sources: Wikipedia.com, HammondPolice.com/gangs, Chicago Crime Commission Gang Book (2006) and MysPace.com.



Please send your comments and suggestions on the "The Monitor" Newsletter to:

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