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Gas leak sickens many at Hanover Central High

Published by Post-trib.com on February 27, 2010

CEDAR LAKE, IN - A natural gas leak that smelled like "car exhaust" sent 47 Hanover Central High School students and teachers to area hospitals Friday morning.

As a precaution, Hanover Community School Corp. officials dismissed the middle and high school students as emergency responders and investigators swarmed the school, located at 10120 W. 133rd Ave.



Investigators determined the gas leak came from a faulty stove valve in one of the high school home economics classrooms, Cedar Lake Fire Chief Todd Wilkening said.

After making several safety checks with the school's air handling system throughout the building, "everything checked out fine," Wilkening said.

School Superintendent Carol Kaiser said she expects classes to resume Monday. Earlier in the day, 45 students and two teachers went to the hospital after feeling ill with flu-like symptoms.

Students reported feeling sick at about 9:45 a.m., Cedar Lake Police Chief Roger Patz said. School officials advised students and faculty through the school's public announcement system to report to the gymnasium if they felt sick.

Reported symptoms included vomiting, nose bleeds, headaches and nausea.

Ambulances transported those who sought a medical checkup to Community Hospital in Munster, Saint Anthony Medical Center in Crown Point, Saint Margaret Mercy in Dyer and The Methodist Hospitals in Merrillville.

They were all treated and released by Friday afternoon, Wilkening said. As soon as school officials determined the school would close, they alerted parents and guardians about the situation through an automated emergency call system.

Cynthia Singleton, a mother of two Hanover Central students, received an automated phone message alerting her that school was canceled due to "unknown circumstances." "Honestly, I didn't know what to think," said Singleton, of Cedar Lake.

She said she breathed a sigh of relief only when she reached her children through their cell phones.

"I just needed more information as a parent," she said. "You panic until you find out what's going on." After dismissal, students streamed into the parking lot to get to their cars.

"I've never seen anything like this," said 17-year-old Jordan Westhoff, a high school junior, as he surveyed the scene standing in the parking lot. "When they told us to stay in our rooms, I first thought 'OK, it's a drug search,'" he said.



Hazardous materials teams and emergency vehicles from surrounding jurisdictions, including Lakes of the Four Seasons and Beecher, Ill., lined the school's athletic center entrance. Other students who either took the bus or had their parents pick them up were bused to Jane Ball Elementary School for their rides.

"I just have a headache," said Ryan Yaverski, a high school junior, as he walked to the parking lot passing by dozens of emergency vehicles. The odor reminded him of "car exhaust."



Shelby Mager, a high school senior, agreed. She was in a home economics class when she noticed the odor. Mager, 18, and some of her classmates suspected it came from the "cooking room."

"Because once we moved to the sewing room, (the odor) wasn't as strong," she said. "... I think (canceling school) was a necessary precaution."

Abby Schweitzer, a senior, credited the faculty and staff for keeping the situation orderly. "They were calm and steady," said Schweitzer, 18.

District News Briefs

Parents of Kindergarteners involved in fight with gun

Published by Post-Trib.com on March 25, 2010

GARY, IN – Gary Police are investigating a Monday incident at Marquette Elementary School in which a parent reportedly brandished a gun. A statement from Gary Community Schools confirmed the altercation between two parents, but it did not provide details.



Witnesses said the incident occurred after school when two women, the parents of kindergarten students, began arguing, and the situation quickly escalated. It is unclear whether the altercation occurred inside the school or in the parking lot.

Several students witnessed the incident. The women were reportedly rolling on the ground and punching each other. One parent got up and headed to her car to retrieve a gun, which she showed to the other parent.

School officials called police and the woman drove off. It is unknown if the woman has been arrested. Phone calls to Cpl. Gabrielle King were not returned.

Gary School Board President Kenneth Stalling said he knew little about the incident. The schools have been examining security in the wake of a December incident in which an angry parent assaulted a Beveridge Elementary teacher with a stapler after she entered the building through an unsecured rear door.

Child brings weapons to school

Published by Post-Trib.com on March 11, 2010

Lake Prairie Elementary fifth-grader had gun, BB gun, knife in backpack

LOWELL, IN - A fifth-grade student was removed from Lake Prairie Elementary School after school officials confiscated a gun, BB gun and knife from his backpack Wednesday morning.

The boy was sent home with his parents and will not return to school until the Lake County Sheriff's Department Juvenile Division completes an investigation, Tri-Creek School Corp. Superintendent Alice Neal said.



Sheriff's Department spokesman Mike Higgins said the weapons were a silver-color .38-caliber Titan handgun, BB pistol and knife. Wednesday was the second day the boy brought the weapons to school, Neal said.

He had showed them to at least one other student on Tuesday, and that child informed his parents after he returned home from school. The parent called Principal Lisa Patton after hours, and Patton informed the school district's central office Wednesday morning after receiving the message.

Nate Kleefish, Tri-Creek's safety specialist and director of operations, immediately notified the boy's bus driver, who confiscated the boy's backpack when he got on the bus. Patton inspected the backpack and found the weapons. "Indeed the child had had a gun at school Tuesday," Neal said.

Neal said Patton immediately contacted the Sheriff's Department, which is handling the investigation. Neal said the boy would not be in school today. She did not know if and when he would return, depending on the investigation. School district policy regarding bringing weapons to school is either suspension or expulsion. "The child will have a hearing officer and due process," Neal said.

17-year-old gets time served for bus terror

Published by Post-Trib.com on March 9, 2010

PORTAGE, IN - A Portage juvenile being tried as an adult was sentenced, placed on probation and freed Monday. Charles McCloud-Smith, 17, was sentenced to 199 days of time served and to six years probation for felonies committed on a Portage school bus as well as a felony theft in an unrelated shoplifting.



McCloud-Smith is the first of the three juveniles to be sentenced after facing adult charges for terrorizing classmates on the bus from fall 2008 to February 2009.

He had pleaded guilty to two felony counts of strangulation, a count of felony intimidation and a misdemeanor public indecency, as well as to the theft, on Feb. 17. That was less than a week before he was scheduled for trial.

Public defender Matt Soliday said in February he did not want his client to risk conviction for sexual battery because the boy would have to register as a sex offender. As part of McCloud-Smith's plea, felony charges of sexual battery and attempted sexual battery and of misdemeanor battery were dropped.

Joe Francisco Carnell, now 18, pleaded guilty to felony strangulation and felony intimidation on Feb. 22. Carnell is scheduled for sentencing March 29, and the prosecution will drop a felony charge of attempted sexual battery, plus one misdemeanor charge of criminal recklessness and two of battery.

The third young man, Ashley Toney, now 18, is scheduled for a June trial for three felony counts of sexual battery and for felony confinement, as well as misdemeanor public indecency, criminal recklessness and disorderly conduct. Carnell and McCloud-Smith are expected to testify at his trial.

The three boys were accused of groping girls, exposing themselves and pushing girls' heads into each others' exposed genitals. McCloud-Smith also threatened to rape and kill one girl, and he made a blowtorch out of body spray

and a lighter while the bus was moving. A jury found the bus driver, Terry Burch, not guilty of felony neglect of a dependent on Nov. 20.

Concordia Stunned by Student Attack

Published by the journalgazette.net on January 14, 2010

Victim, 17, slashed in neck in cafeteria by 14-year-old

FORT WAYNE, IN - Concordia Lutheran High School went on lockdown Wednesday after one student slashed another in the neck with a knife, then chased him through the hallways, witnesses and authorities said.

The 17-year-old victim was in serious but stable condition at Parkview Hospital on Wednesday night. Police said his 14-year-old attacker was arrested on a charge of battery. Concordia Executive Director Terry Breininger called it the first violent attack of its kind in school history.

Classes were dismissed early, and parents and students said it was difficult to imagine something like this was possible at the private school with fewer than 700 students.

"I just can't believe something like this would happen here," said Terry Martin, 49, a Concordia alumnus whose daughter is a freshman there.

Breininger called the attack an "isolated incident" and said the school's emergency procedures worked properly. Both teens involved are good students and the slashing was "out of character," he said.

Spokeswoman Renee Pinkerton said officials don't plan to institute bag searches or major policy changes for today.

But administrators planned to meet with teachers this morning to review the school's response and make them aware of the counselors who will be available to students and staff members who want to talk about the attack, Pinkerton said.

Fort Wayne police were called to the high school at 1601 St. Joe River Drive, near North Anthony Boulevard, about 11:30 a.m. and found a 17-year-old student suffering from a knife wound to his neck. He was taken to Parkview.

Police believe the 14-year-old student was involved in a "verbal confrontation" with the older student before the attack, although officials did not elaborate on the nature of the previous conflict. The students' names were not released.

At lunchtime, the 14-year-old approached the victim in the cafeteria and slashed him across the throat with a large sheath knife, police and several students said. Kayla Barnes, 15, said she was standing in the lunch line when she saw the student, covered in blood, run out of the cafeteria holding his bleeding neck.

As the injured student ran through the hall, the 14-year-old ran after him with the knife, police said. Luke Kaiser, 17, said he saw the attacker's brother tackle him and wrest the knife away. When officers arrived, they took the student into custody and later arrested him on a charge of battery with a knife. He was being held at the Allen County Juvenile Center.

The school immediately went into lockdown, and students were not allowed to leave their classrooms until officials dismissed school shortly after 1:30 p.m., about 90 minutes early, Breininger said. Students had a final exam scheduled for the last period of the day, but officials didn't think the atmosphere after the attack was "conducive to good test-taking," he said.

Despite students being locked in their classrooms, word spread quickly through the student body, then to parents and the outside world as students sent text messages and posted information on the social-networking site Facebook. Students buzzed with eyewitness accounts of the slashing as they gathered in the parking lot after school. Most could hardly believe what had taken place.



Barnes said the attack was so sudden and unexpected that most students didn't realize what was going on at first and thought it was a ghoulish gag. "I never thought something like this would happen here," Kaiser said, echoing a popular refrain.

For video coverage of this story visit: <http://www.indianasnewscenter.com/news/local/81330922.html>

Some school cops could get cut

Published by Nwi.com on February 5, 2010

Hammond District stuck with having to chop \$4.5M

HAMMOND, IN - A proposal to reduce the number of School Resource Officers in Hammond's middle and high schools has the Police Department worried.

The School City of Hammond has to shave \$4.5 million from its general fund budget as a result of Gov. Mitch Daniels' order for K-12 schools to cut \$300 million.

Hammond school leaders have proposed cutting one of three security officers from each of the middle and high schools.



When the issue of budget cuts surfaced at the Hammond School Board's Jan. 28 meeting, Hammond Police Chief Brian Miller said he understands budget constraints because each year the mayor and City Council come to him with "big scissors." However, he said, resource officers help keep the children and staff safe.

"Years ago, we probably didn't have police officers in school and didn't need them," he said. "When my parents dropped me off at school, they were picking me up from the safest place. But incidents like Columbine have taken place at schools across the county, showing there's a need for that security."

Tom Strabavy, president of Hammond's Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 51, is concerned. He recalls an incident in which an officer took a gun from a middle school student after a vehicle break-in and another time when officers broke up a violent fight between two girls at a middle school.

"I really, really hope the board reviews these budget proposals and remembers that you can't put a price on the safety of the children and staff," he said during the School Board meeting. Miller and Strabavy hope to meet with school officials before a decision is made.

School Board President Albertine Dent said at the time school leaders have been laboring over the cuts, and all school districts are facing deficits and budget reductions.

"We are bare bones right now," she said. "This is a serious issue. We're an urban district and have faced cuts that other districts have not, and we're going to have to make some difficult decisions." Superintendent Walter Watkins said school leaders have talked among each other to try to figure out what kinds of things they could sacrifice.

"As difficult as it was and as challenging as it was, they brought to the central office administrators, a list of proposed recommendations in reductions and spending," Watkins said. "Nothing has been finalized. Nothing is more important than the safety and security of our students and staff."



Watkins said he would take the conversation back to administrators and try to come up with a recommendation that everyone would feel comfortable with. "We would like to save every position within the school city, but we may not be able to do that," he said.

"This is just one of the many cuts that we are considering. Everything is on the table. Our goal is to protect classroom sizes and making sure that we keep our program in place, making everything else an issue."

Just last year, the school district lost its GREAT program, Gang Resistance

Education and Training, when the Hammond police force was forced to make cuts and pulled the officers who taught those classes.

School Board member Anna Mamala said all school districts are in a bind, and Hammond doesn't want to do anything that would jeopardize safety and security.

"We don't want to make any rash decisions," she said. "We're going to address insurance, and we may have to make salary cuts within the administration. Nothing has been decided yet."

TSC admits driver failed to check bus for child

Published by jconline.com on January 7, 2010

TIPPECANOE COUNTY, IN - Tippecanoe School Corp. officials plan to terminate the employment of a substitute bus driver responsible for leaving a sleeping second-grader on a school bus in freezing temperatures Tuesday afternoon.

Superintendent Scott Hanback said the driver failed to follow district policy and Indiana law when he did not walk to the back of the bus to check for students before parking for the night at the TSC bus pen off Elston Road.

The child, a second-grader from Woodland Elementary School, awoke sometime between the bus being parked at 4:15 p.m. and 5:28 p.m., when police were called to a nearby convenience store to assist with a found child.

Hanback said that after reviewing videotapes and GPS records on the bus the district determined the child had been alone on the bus for no more than an hour. The 8-year-old girl, whose identity wasn't released, would have boarded the bus on route 512 when school dismissed at 3:30 p.m., Hanback said.

Her normal stop would have taken place at 4:05 p.m. It is believed she fell asleep on the bus and woke up as the temperature grew colder inside the bus, which was parked in an outdoor lot. The temperature outside at that time was 16 degrees, according to the National Weather Service.

After waking, the child was able to push open the bus door and walk to Walgreens at Old U.S. 231 and Beck Lane, a distance of about a quarter of a mile. She had to cross Indiana 25, a two-lane highway at that point, to reach the drugstore.

Detective Matt Devine of Lafayette Police Department said a family member of the child indicated they believed she had gone to a friend's house after school. "The family member had started calling her neighborhood friends checking to see where she was at," Devine said.

Hanback said no one from the family had contacted the school district. Police notified Daughtry of the incident shortly after it occurred. "It makes me sick to think of what might have happened," Daughtry said, noting the girl was OK and did not require any medical attention.

Devine said the case is still under investigation, and he isn't releasing the name of the driver. "The driver's cooperative and remorseful," Devine said. Devine will forward his findings, which he expects to finish within a few days, to the Tippecanoe County prosecutor for review.



Under a new law that went into effect in July, drivers are required to walk through the bus at the end of their route and check for children to avoid situations like this one. Not doing so is a Class C infraction, punishable by a fine of up to \$500.

The driver, whose identity also wasn't released by school officials pending school board action, was a contracted substitute driver, not the regular driver for that route.



A major component of the safety training was the new state law and what it requires of bus drivers. "With our new driver orientation this is one of the things we focus on, and in safety meetings it's a focus," Daughtry said. "It's in our policy manual, its state law, and we'll send out another memo to continue to hammer on the importance."

Video surveillance showed the driver failed to follow the policy and law and did not check for the child, Daughtry said. It was not clear from the video where on the bus the girl had been seated, but it is believed she was in the middle area.

Since 2007, new buses purchased in TSC have been equipped with a feature that forces a bus driver to go to the back of the bus before leaving the vehicle.

Those buses, which comprise more than 30 percent of the district's fleet, sound an alarm that can only be shut off by walking to the back door and lifting the safety bar. The bus the student was riding Tuesday was purchased in 2005, so it did not have that feature.

Hanback said Daughtry has submitted a letter asking for the immediate termination of the driver. Hanback will present that recommendation to the school board when it next meets on Jan. 13.

"It will certainly be my recommendation that the board acts on this as a termination," Hanback said. "We can't have this. Our employees know the rules, but all it takes is one incident of not following policy and we could be in a situation like what we experienced. We're just thankful the child is OK."

Regional News Briefs

Girl expelled for lighting boy on fire

Published by Wbbm780.com on March 23, 2010

OAK FOREST, IL - An eighth-grade girl at a southwest suburban school has been expelled after allegedly setting another student's hair on fire during a bus ride earlier this month, the SouthtownStar is reporting.

Forest Ridge School District 142 Supt. Margaret Longo confirmed the board's action Monday. The board voted to expel the girl from Hille Middle School in Oak Forest at its meeting March 16.

Longo declined to discuss specifics of the incident to protect the student's privacy. However, she said options for families of expelled students are to hire a tutor, home school or apply for acceptance to a private school.

The incident happened March 3 on a bus taking kids home after school. According to an Oak Forest police report, the girl sprayed a sixth-grade boy with perfume near his face. She then pulled out a lighter and began sparking it. Flames from the lighter and perfume singed the boy's hair and jacket.

Oak Forest police said the girl was not charged criminally.

Gun threat forces lockdown at Evanston High School

Published by ChicagoBreakingNews.com on February 17, 2010

EVANSTON, IL - Students were dismissed from Evanston Township High School without incident this afternoon following an all-day lockdown at the school prompted by a caller who threatened to open fire there. No one had been arrested in the incident as of the end of the school day, police said.

A message from Superintendent Eric Witherspoon on the Evanston Township High School District 202 Web site said there was to be a "large police presence" when school was dismissed today and that extra security would be provided during today's after-school activities and for the rest of the week.

Police and school officials said the caller said he was despondent over a breakup with his girlfriend was going to come to the school Wednesday morning and shoot people. Witherspoon said there the caller didn't indicate that his estranged girlfriend was affiliated with the school.

School Board Vice President Jane Colleton was at the school this afternoon and called it "a very normal day except for police standing near the doors and outside of the building."

She said that, as she entered the building, a security guard scanned her with a hand-held metal-detecting wand, one of the extra security measures put in place today. "We took the appropriate procedures," she said.

Longer Summers ahead?

Published by Nwi.com on January 28, 2010

INDIANAPOLIS, IN - Indiana students are one step closer to saying sayonara to short summers. Public elementary and high schools would not be allowed to start classes before Labor Day under legislation approved Wednesday by a Senate committee.



Senate Bill 150 requires schools to wait until at least one day after Labor Day, the first Monday in September, before starting classes. In addition, the school year would have to end before June 10, unless a local school board set a later date. The new start date would kick in for the 2012-13 school year. Year-round schools would be exempt.

"Today is a great day for families," said state Sen. Mike Delph, R-Carmel, sponsor of the legislation. "Families like to camp during the summer, they like to go to the pool in the summer and kids, when it's hot and muggy and when the sunlight is still out, they should be out playing and not worrying about school."

During study committee sessions this summer, some principals and superintendents told lawmakers they thought a longer summer vacation could harm student academic achievement. Delph said he wasn't convinced. "We're not going to do anything that sacrifices academic excellence, but at the same time if we can have a common sensical shift in the school calendar, I think that's the right thing to do," Delph said.

The Senate education committee approved the proposal 8-1, with only state Sen. Earline Rogers, D-Gary, voting no. The measure now advances for a vote by the full Senate.

School Bus Driver Charged with DUI

Published by NbcChicago.com on March 10, 2010

MOUNT PROSPECT, IL - A northwest suburban school bus driver was charged with DUI on Tuesday after registering nearly three times the legal limit on a breath test shortly after dropping off about 50 students, police said.

Betty A. Burden, 54, was pulled over in her empty bus after a colleague of hers called the transportation coordinator for the school district to report that Burden's breath smelled of alcohol.

Mount Prospect police Sgt. Michael Eterno stopped the bus on River Road, just north of Euclid Avenue. He said he immediately smelled alcohol on Burden's breath and conducted field sobriety tests, which she failed, according to a police report.

No alcohol was found on the bus, though Eterno said Burden admitted to drinking. He arrested her and took her to the police station, where she registered a .225 blood alcohol content, which is nearly three times over the legal limit.



Betty A. Burden

One parent that works at an area bar said she was shocked at the allegations. "I work at a bar. She's never had a drop to drink there when I was there," said Tracy Kanelos, whose son, Hunter, used to ride Burden's bus.

Burden worked for the district as a bus driver from 1991 to 1999. She then worked in a doctor's office but returned to the district as a bus driver in August 2008, officials said. Burden had a "clean disciplinary history and has passed each

of the random drug tests we require of all of our bus drivers," said Superintendent Elaine Aumiller in a prepared statement.

District officials said Wednesday that Burden has been suspended without pay and it will be recommended that she be terminated, the Daily Herald reported.

Burden, of the 1400 block of Park Dr. in Mount Prospect, was charged with one count of aggravated DUI , a Class 4 felony, for being drunk while driving passengers under 18, Cook County State's Attorney's office spokeswoman Tandra Simonton said. She was ordered held on \$10,000 bond by Judge Joseph Urso and a preliminary hearing was set for April 1 at the Rolling Meadows Courthouse, Simonton said

National News Briefs

Kansas City superintendent defends plan to shutter schools

Published by Cnn.com on March 11, 2010

KANSAS CITY, MO - The superintendent of the Kansas City, Missouri, school district on Thursday defended a plan to shutter nearly half the district's schools.



John Covington

"No one likes closing schools. It's hard. It's tough on families, and it's certainly tough on our community," superintendent John Covington said Thursday.

"Closing schools and making the remaining schools much stronger academically is unquestionably the right thing to do. We were operating far too many schools," he said.

He said the district was only using about 60 percent of the seats in its elementary schools, 40 percent in its middle schools and an even smaller percentage in its high schools.

After weeks of contentious debate and years of dwindling enrollment, a divided Kansas City Board of Education voted Wednesday night to approve what Covington calls the "right-size" plan. The plan will close 29 education facilities, including 26 schools, according to the district. Some parents voiced anger. Some students cried.

Covington said the closures were the first phase of "right-sizing" a district where enrollments have plummeted from more than 35,000 in the 1999-2000 school year to about 17,000 in 2009-10.

Some members of the public showed up Wednesday to air their last-minute appeals. "What I'm asking you today to do is to give our children justice," said Ron Hunt, a community activist.

Others worried that school closures would lead to deterioration of communities and drive residents out of the district. The blighting of the urban core is scandalous and shameful," said Sharon Sanders Brooks.

For the full article and video coverage of this story visit:

<http://www.cnn.com/2010/US/03/11/missouri.school.closings/index.html?hpt=T2>

2 teens injured in Colorado middle school shooting

Published by google.com on February 23, 2010

LITTLETON, CO - A teacher tackled a man armed with a high-powered rifle just after two teenage students were shot Tuesday at a suburban Denver middle school that's just miles from Columbine High School, the site of one of the nation's deadliest school shootings, authorities said.

One male and one female were shot at about 3:30 p.m. outside Deer Creek Middle School in Littleton, Jefferson County Sheriff's office spokeswoman Jacki Kelley said. Both students were taken to a nearby hospital and were expected to survive.



Bruco Strong Eagle Eastwood

Student Steven Seagraves said he was about 10 feet away when an adult approached students and asked them: "Do you guys go to this school?" When the students said they did, he shot them, Seagraves said.

Seventh-grade math teacher David Benke, a 6-foot-5 inch former college basketball player who oversees the school's track team, tackled the suspect as he was trying to reload his weapon.

"He was trying to rack another round. He couldn't get another round in before I got to him so I grabbed him," Benke said, recalling that he didn't have time to fear for his life.

Benke's wife said her husband called her after the shooting. "He said there was a shooting and that he had to tackle the gunman," Sandra Benke said. She said her husband was upset that he couldn't reach the shooter before two rounds were fired. "He said, 'It was one of my students.'"

The sheriff's office identified the suspect as 32-year-old, a man they say had visited the school before and was inside the building shortly before the shooting. Authorities have not said what his connection is to the school.

He is expected to make his first court appearance Wednesday morning and may face at least two counts of attempted murder. Eastwood has an arrest record in Colorado dating back to 1996 that includes menacing, assault, domestic violence and driving under the influence of alcohol, according to the Colorado Bureau of Investigation.

A man who answered the phone Tuesday night at a number listed for Eastwood identified himself only as "Mr. Eastwood" and said he was Bruco Eastwood's father.

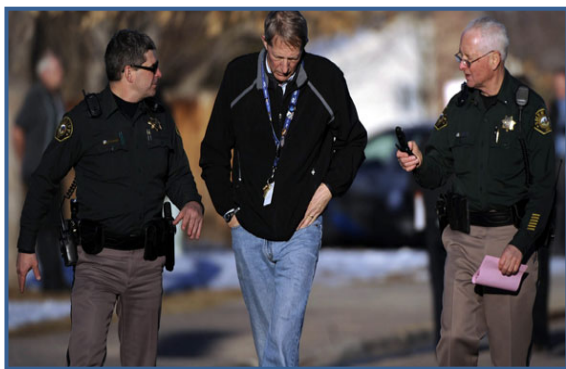
He was at a loss for words. "There's nothing you can say about it. What can you say?" the man told The Associated Press. "Pretty dumb thing to do. I feel bad for the people involved." He wouldn't comment further.

The victims, Reagan Webber and Matt Thieu, were both treated at Littleton Adventist Hospital. Christine Alexander, a hospital spokeswoman, said Webber was treated and released to her home, and that Thieu was transferred to another hospital.

Authorities say both victims had surgery Tuesday evening. Bus driver Steve Potter said he was about to pull away from the school with a full bus when he heard a loud bang that sounded like an M-80 firecracker. Students screamed when they spotted the man with a rifle, Potter told KMGH-TV.

"He looked like he was just kind of looking around for someone to shoot," he said. Potter said he saw Benke grab the suspect so he and another man jumped on the gunman and helped hold him until police arrived. "He's the real hero," Potter said of Benke. "All the credit goes to him."

Kevin Zwolinski, another student, said he had just boarded a school bus when he heard two shots and saw one of the victims fall to the ground.



David Benke, math teacher who tackled the school shooter.

"I thought it could have been like a tire might have been popped, but as soon as I turned around and saw everyone running I knew it was a gun," he said. Zwolinski said everyone on the bus was told to lie silently on the floor until authorities arrived.

The school is about three miles southwest of Columbine High School, where two teens, Dylan Klebold and Eric Harris, killed 12 students and a teacher and wounded 23 others before killing themselves in 1999.

The middle school was temporarily locked down with about 30 students in the building. They were eventually taken to a nearby elementary school, where they were to meet up with their parents.

Students' parents were alerted through text messages, phone calls and e-mails, Jefferson County Schools spokeswoman Melissa Reeves said.

Kelley said authorities don't yet have a motive for the shootings. "Why this school, why this happened, why these students, we don't have any of those answers yet," she said.

For video coverage of this story visit: <http://www.cbsnews.com/video/watch/?id=6240151n&tag=related:photovideo>

'Kind, loving' teacher killed by college co-worker

Published by Komonews.com on February 26, 2010

TACOMA, WA - A teacher was shot and killed at Birney Elementary School early Friday by a man who police said was "infatuated with her," and the suspect was later killed in a shootout with police.

Witnesses said the teacher was shot during a confrontation in the school parking lot at 1202 S. 76th Street about 7:30 a.m., which was before students arrived for the day.

The victim's father, who arrived at the school after the shooting, identified her as 30-year-old Jennifer Paulson. "We want you to know she was a very kind, merciful loving person," Ken Paulson said. "That's probably why she was a special-ed teacher because she loved so much.



Jennifer Paulson

The gunman recently made bail after violating the order. The two had apparently known each other since college, when they worked together at a cafeteria at Seattle Pacific University, but never dated.

Ken Paulson said his daughter hadn't heard from Waits for years after she graduated, and then he called her parents' house looking for her. "Somehow he found out where she worked and would show up here from time to time," Ken Paulson said, referring to the school. "She finally got a restraining order."

Waits left her alone for more than a year, but followed Jennifer's car as she left work last Friday, Ken Paulson said. He said his daughter called 911 and she drove to a police station, where Waits was arrested for violating the anti-harassment order.

Waits posted bail and was released on Monday, Ken Paulson said. His daughter learned Waits was out and was too scared to stay at her home that night.

Washington Army National Guard spokesman Keith Kosik says Waits received a less-than-honorable discharge from the service in April, 2009. Waits was not a member in good standing much of the time, including when he was serving with his unit in Kuwait, Kosik said. Waits was formally disciplined more than once, which ultimately resulted in Waits' discharge.

Fulghum said the shooter was waiting for the Paulson on Friday when she arrived at 7:35 a.m. and shot her a number of times with a semi-automatic weapon as she was trying to enter Birney Elementary. Omar Moreno, 22, who lives across the street from the school, said he heard three gunshots.

"I heard a teacher screaming at the top of her lungs, just screaming," he said. "I looked out my window and I saw the guy. He started running down the middle of the street and got in his car."

Moreno said the man, who was wearing a white snow cap and white gloves, drove off in a tan car. Soon after, Moreno said, a custodian barreled out of the school screaming for someone to call the police. Moreno said he rushed over to the school, where he saw the victim laying on the ground, bleeding from the mouth. It was clear to him she had died, he said.

The gunman drove off, but Pierce County Sheriff's deputies tracked him down at 166th and Canyon Road East in Frederickson where he was shot and killed in a parking lot, sheriff spokesman Ed Troyer said. A nearby daycare was evacuated after the shooting, as the suspected gunman's body was in the parking lot.

Voelpel said there were other staff members at the school when the shooting happened, but most employees had not yet arrived. "We're gathering our staff together in a location off the school campus so that we can help them deal with this tragic situation," Voelpel said.

Her stepmother, Cindy Paulson, said Jennifer was devoted to her family and teaching. "She had a tender heart and would go out of her way with both time and energy, spending long hours at school... to help the students in this community," Cindy said.

"She poured out her life for this community. She poured out her life for her family. She poured out her life for her lord. "We love her. She will be missed tremendously."

For video coverage of this story visit: <http://www.komonews.com/news/local/85498962.html?tab=video>

In The News

Teen says school spied on him at home via school-issued laptop

Published by Csmonitor.com on February 19, 2010

Harriton High School in Pennsylvania gave laptops to all students. But when it appeared to use the webcam to monitor student behavior, it ran into a buzz saw of criticism, including a class-action lawsuit.

LOWER MERION TOWNSHIP, PA - A Pennsylvania high-schooler has accused school officials of spying on him at home by remotely activating his laptop webcam. The case has sparked a new flurry of attention to the legal and ethical issues swirling around technology and education.

Blake Robbins and his parents filed a class-action suit against the Lower Merion School District in Ardmore, Pa., alleging "indiscriminate remote activation of a webcam" and "intentional interception of ... private webcam images" by school officials.

The issue arose, the Feb. 11 lawsuit says, when Harriton High School assistant principal Lindy Matsko told Blake that he was suspected of engaging in improper behavior and that the evidence was an image from the webcam embedded in the school-issued laptop.

"If the facts are as they appear to be in the claims by the student, it's shocking," says John Palfrey, a law professor and co-director of the Berkman Center for Internet & Society at Harvard Law School.

High school gave laptops to all students

The district was one of the first in the United States to provide laptops to all high school students to enrich their education, Superintendent Christopher McGinley notes in a letter on the district's website.

The letter attempts to reassure families that protecting student privacy is paramount. It explains that a feature allowing a still image to be taken via webcam remotely was intended to track lost or stolen laptops, and that it was deactivated yesterday.

A review is also under way of the security feature's use and of "any other technology areas in which the intersection of privacy and security may come into play," the letter notes. As news about the lawsuit surfaced, some students began putting tape over their laptop cameras and microphones, the Associated Press reports.

"If the district's version of the story is true, it still reveals a bad judgment call ... to have had such a technology feature in place," says Mr. Palfrey. "The bigger picture is that schools have no idea by and large what to do with technology ... and an incident like the one alleged does a huge disservice to efforts to modernize the way we are educating our kids for a 21st-century workforce by integrating appropriate use of technology."



Harriton High School, Bryn Mawr, PA

Student's expulsion feeds debate on online rights

Published by UsaToday.com on February 3, 2010

NASHVILLE, TN - The expulsion of a high school basketball player who posted angry messages on Facebook highlights a growing debate over students' privacy and free-speech rights online.

Taylor Cummings, 17, a senior at Martin Luther King Jr. Magnet High School, had been butting heads with his coaches. He logged onto Facebook at home on Jan. 3 and wrote, among other things, "I'ma kill em all." He was suspended the next day and expelled Jan. 14, Cummings and his family say.

School officials decline to discuss the case but say they have suspended and expelled students in the past for infractions that involved social networks, text messaging, e-mail and other technologies. "We have to take any threat as a potential for being a real threat," says Olivia Brown, spokeswoman for Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools.

Dan Domenech, executive director of the American Association of School Administrators, says schools are wrestling with how to handle students' free-speech and privacy rights online.

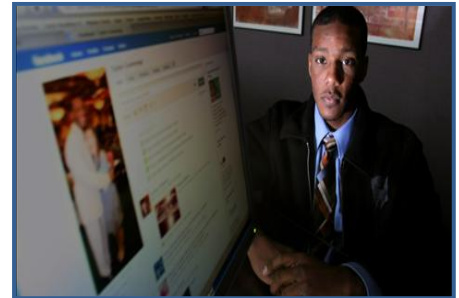
Recent cases include the suspension in suburban Syracuse, N.Y., last month of a seventh-grader who created a Facebook page that school officials say included obscene postings about a teacher.

Mouthing off to a friend about a teacher isn't new, says Lisa Soronen, attorney for the National School Boards Association. What's new is that "technology allows you to do it very anonymously and also permanently and publicly," she says.

The Supreme Court has yet to weigh in, so "the jury is still out on whether courts are going to allow schools to punish students for this type of speech," says Catherine Crump, an American Civil Liberties Union attorney.

The ACLU believes schools don't have the authority to punish students for speech out of school, Crump says. In a case such as Cummings', officials must consider whether the threats are serious or whether the speech would cause a substantial disruption to the school, says David Hudson, of the First Amendment Center, a non-partisan center at Vanderbilt University that studies free-expression issues. "True threats are not protected by the First Amendment."

The family appealed the expulsion to a board made up of principals from other schools; it was upheld last week. The boy's parents plan to home-school him for the rest of the semester. He plans to go to college and law school. "I have a lot of regrets about the situation, especially the outcome," he says, "but I am not willing to let it define me or what I can accomplish."



Taylor Cummings, expelled for making threats on Facebook.

Recent School Violence

8 suspended over beating of student at Rich Central High

Published by WBBM780.com on March 9, 2010

OLYMPIA FIELDS, IL - Eight students were arrested after a fight last month at a south suburban high school that left one student unconscious. The fight was reported on Feb. 25 at at 3600 W. 203rd St. in Olympia Fields, the SouthtownStar is reporting. Students were letting out for the day when the fight occurred about 3:10 p.m., police Detective Mark Okiyama said.

A Rich Central student was beaten during the altercation, Okiyama said, but he declined to provide additional information because the victim is a juvenile.

Rich Township High School District 227 board member David Morgan said the student was kicked and beaten for about five minutes, and was unconscious after the attack, which started over accusations of a stolen cell phone.



Rich Central High School

Morgan said he was told by school employees that a staff member assigned to supervise the locker room was not in the room at the time of the beating, nor were two additional teachers who were supposed to be monitoring students. The locker room attendant is on videotape talking to a receptionist in another part of the building at the time of the beating, he said.

Principal Maceo Rainey said Tuesday morning he couldn't answer specific questions about the incident, citing an ongoing investigation. But he did say all eight students have been suspended pending a decision from the District 227 board.

"Any type of fighting or belligerent behavior which results in the injury of a student or staff member will not be tolerated," Rainey said. Police also may be investigating allegations that a teacher ordered a student to erase a video of the beating recorded on a cell phone. Neither police nor school administrators would comment on the existence of the video.

New York City Teacher turns classroom into a fighting ring

Published by Huffingtonpost.com on February 2, 2010

NEW YORK, NY - A teacher at a New York City public school has been charged with turning his fourth-grade classroom into a fighting ring. Joseph Gullotta told two of his students, ages 9 and 10, to settle an argument with a classroom fight, Queens District Attorney Richard Brown's office announced Tuesday.

One of the students suffered a cut lip, and the other sustained a bruised and swollen head during the Jan. 28 incident at P.S. 65 in the Ozone Park neighborhood, prosecutors said.



PS 65 in Queens, New York City

After the boys began fighting, prosecutors said, Gullotta told a third student to close the classroom door. Gullotta then instructed the other students to back up to give the boys room to fight, prosecutors said.

When Gullotta sent one of the boys to the school nurse two periods later, authorities said, he told him to lie and say he was hurt by bumping into another student while trying to pick up a pencil from the floor.

The nurse later summoned the other boy, prosecutors said. Authorities said they learned about what happened after one of the boys' parents overheard him talking about it.

Gullotta and Abraham Fox, a teacher's aide who prosecutors say witnessed the incident, are charged with two counts of endangering the welfare of a child, a misdemeanor. If convicted, each faces a maximum one year in jail. The men were arraigned in Queens Criminal Court on Saturday. A judge released them on their own recognizance. They're scheduled to return to court Feb. 25.

Gullotta, 29, of Long Island, has been reassigned outside of the classroom, said Department of Education spokeswoman Margie Feinberg. Fox, 43, also of Long Island, has been suspended without pay, she said. A woman who answered the telephone at the office of Michael Spiegel, the lawyer for both men, said he had no comment.

A message left at the telephone number for Gullotta's address wasn't immediately returned. A woman who answered the telephone at the address for Fox said, "I'm sorry, I can't help you" before hanging up.

Technology & Internet Safety I-Team Special Report: Cyber Bullying

Published by WishTv.com on February 17, 2010

INDIANAPOLIS, IN - A father is calling the state of Indiana negligent after his daughter tried to commit suicide. Our I-Team 8 investigation shows you growing concern about what the state isn't doing. Police and prosecutors say they can do little to keep your child from being bullied online. So how come 16 other states can? It's especially concerning when so many kids across the country are cyberbullied into suicide.

Our investigation was a wakeup call to a lot of parents. But has anything changed in those four years? Did the state of Indiana listen to the call? I-Team 8 talked to one girl who remains anonymous who says, "we saw txt messages you're a whore, you're a slut."



For the high school senior, the cyberbullying started with one girl but quickly spread to hateful messages from people she didn't even know. She says, "Five months of harassing. You can't even imagine how that is. Getting Facebook messages, phone calls, and text messages, it never stopped."

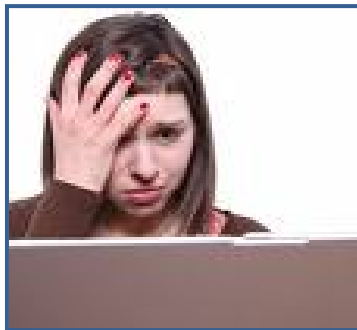
In the world of cyberbullies, just one click is all it takes and a humiliating message is sent to hundreds of other kids in one night. It can follow the child for a lifetime. It got to the point she would watch her walk to her car.

Then she found the mom was not only involved, but in the car with the girl doing the bullying. So, she deleted her Facebook account, but the bullying "just never went away". It continued. It intensified. She says, "I would come home and if I got a message, I would cry. Even if I didn't get a message I would come home and cry."

It became a breaking point and she confesses she had suicidal thoughts, saying, "I felt as though I didn't want to live anymore. I was going to harm myself." The insults, the hurt, the humiliation all became too much to handle. She says, "I felt like I was just done with life. If people are going to take it to that measure and hurt someone like that, you just want to give up." Her father took the case to Lawrence Police. Detective Matt Miller told I-Team 8 when asked if there was anything that could have been done in Indiana.

"It depends on the nature of the bullying. If the bullying had risen to the level of threat to life, in those situations we may have had a criminal act," said Miller. Karen Hensel/I-Team 8 asked, "There's not a lot you can do about it with the laws on the books now?" Detective Matt Miller said "Unfortunately, no."

Police are frustrated and so are prosecutors. Marion County Prosecutor Carl Brizzi says, "I think the laws right now in Indiana are inadequate". Right now, those who cyberbully can be prosecuted with harassment and intimidation. But Brizzi says, "It would be great if we had a cyberbullying statute on the books that would help us deal with that kind of behavior."



Cyberbullying is underreported considering experts say it happens every seven seconds on the Internet. This kind of bullying doesn't last a few seconds or a few minutes as it does on the school playground. Thanks to technology it can last hours...days...or even years.

I-Team 8 questions has Indiana not kept up with technology? Senator Wyss says "It's a fact that we haven't." Indiana Senator Tom Wyss authored Indiana's first bully law after watching our I-Team 8 investigation that took hidden cameras onto school playgrounds.

Wyss watched our video and said "some states lead in this and others follow." He agrees Indiana is a follower when it comes to cyberbullying.

Senator Wyss is already vowing to get a cyber bully law in Indiana. It is a protection already in place in 16 other states. In fact, three students in Massachusetts face charges in court this week after they allegedly created a fake Facebook page in another student's name, using his picture and bad mouthing other students.

Police there say they "take the charges seriously due to the number of cyberbullying incidents nationwide". Reports say one local girl committed suicide last month after being taunted online. (Source: Newburyport Police Department, Mass)

But in Missouri, there were no cyberbully laws when 13-year-old Megan Meier committed suicide over the stress from cruel cyberbullies. So they couldn't prosecute the other girl or her mother who posed as a teenage boy to ridicule her. However, federal prosecutors in LA saw the case as a clear cut violation of the consumer fraud and abuse act, saying the mother violated the terms and condition of her MySpace account.

They almost did. She talked with us just two weeks after trying to commit suicide. If you are concerned about your child being cyberbullied look at their Facebook, their text messages. It is your phone, your computer...not theirs. Secondly, there is cyberbully alert software you can put on your child's computer. If your child receives a threat online he can click on the icon at the top and send an immediate message to a computer or cell phone.

The software also immediately captures a shot of the active screen which is stored in a cyberbully alert folder in the computers my documents folder. Friday...I-Team 8 looks back at the investigation that prompted Indiana's first bully law. Is it strong enough?

For the full article and video coverage of this story visit: http://www.wishtv.com/dpp/news/i_team_8/i-team-special-report%3A-cyber-bullying

School-violence texts get adults' attention

Published by SouthwestIowanews.com on February 10, 2010

Police presence increases at five schools; parents take 100 kids out of classes

OMAHA, NB - With parents pulling about 100 students from North High on Tuesday over text messages mentioning the possibility of school violence, Omaha police said they are stepping up their presence in schools.

The police response includes additional officers at some schools and police in cruisers outside, Deputy Police Chief Todd Schmaderer said. The officers will be visible during the school day and at extracurricular activities, including basketball games, he said.

Luanne Nelson, spokeswoman for the Omaha Public Schools, said five schools would see extra police. Nelson said students' text message rumors of lockdowns and potential violence caused concerns Tuesday at North and Benson High Schools. Those rumors also reached into one or two elementary schools, she said.



Stacy Hunter, father of a North sophomore, said he took his daughter home at midday. He was surprised to see several police cruisers at the school. Hunter said he'd heard rumors that something was supposed to happen at North. There were text messages saying North students should "watch their backs" and "please be careful," he said.

"Upon seeing those, I thought I made the right choice," Hunter said, adding a regret: "My daughter needs to be in school and needs to get her education."

Police said they are investigating whether much of the recent rash of violence is gang-related -- and specifically whether the fatal shootings of a 19-year-old on Saturday and a 15-year-old on Monday might be related.

School and police officials have been working together on a plan to deal with the violence. The beefed-up police presence is not a reaction to one recent incident, but a number of them. "School safety for students and staff is our highest priority," Schmaderer said.

Several incidents have occurred in recent days. Last week, a student was accused of using a stun gun on a school administrator during a fight. An Omaha North student who told police he was a gang member was charged with trying to bring a shotgun to the school in a duffel bag. He told investigators that he brought the gun for protection against members of rival gangs.

And eight students were arrested after a large fight at Omaha Central, which sprang from tensions stoked at a Central-North basketball game. This isn't the first time local schools have received extra help from Omaha police, Schmaderer said, but it has been a while.

Hunter, the North parent, didn't know whether he would send his daughter back today. He called North an excellent school with great leadership and described the negative attention and concerns "a shame." "Kids shouldn't have to worry about this," he said. "They should just have to worry about school and activities."

Drugs & Alcohol

Fake Weed, Real Drug: K2 Causing Hallucinations in Teens

Published by LiveScience.com on March 4, 2010

Teens are getting high on an emerging drug called "fake weed," a concoction also known as K2 and "spice" that is also causing hallucinations, vomiting, agitation and other dangerous effects.

In the last month, Dr. Anthony Scalzo, a professor of toxicology at Saint Louis University, has seen nearly 30 cases of teenagers experiencing these adverse effects after smoking the fake weed, a legal substance that reportedly offers a marijuana-like high.

"K2 use is not limited to the Midwest; reports of its use are cropping up all over the country," Scalzo said. "I think K2 is likely bigger problems than we're aware of at this time."

For instance, Atlanta has seen about 12 cases recently. K2 has been sold since 2006 as incense or potpourri for about \$30 to \$40 per three gram bag – comparable in cost to marijuana.

"K2 may be a mixture of herbal and spice plant products, but it is sprayed with a potent psychotropic drug and likely contaminated with an unknown toxic substance that is causing many adverse effects," said Scalzo, who also directs the Missouri Regional Poison Control Center.



Origin of K2

This K2 compound was first created in the mid-1990s in the lab of organic chemist John W. Huffman of Clemson University, who studies cannabinoid receptors. He's not sure how the recipe for what is named JWH-018 (his initials) got picked up, but he did publish details on a series of compounds including JWH-018 in a book chapter. Even before that book came out, he recalls learning that in China and Korea people were selling the compound as a plant growth stimulant.

"Apparently somebody picked it up, I think in Europe, on the idea of doping this incense mixture with the compound and smoking it," Huffman told LiveScience. "You can get very high on it. It's about 10 times more active than THC," the active ingredient in marijuana.

From a chemist's perspective, that means K2 has an affinity for the cannabinoid brain receptor (CB1) that's about 10 times greater than THC. For the less chemically inclined, it means you can smoke a lot less K2 to get just as high.

The compound works on the brain in the same way as marijuana's active ingredient THC, or tetrahydrocannabinol. Both compounds bind to the CB1 receptors, which primarily affect the central nervous system. JWH-018 also binds to the peripheral brain (CB2) receptors, which are involved in the immune system, Huffman said.

Hallucinations and delusions

Since JWH-018 or K2 acts like marijuana, you'd expect to see the same effects, including sleepiness, relaxation, reduced blood pressure, and at high doses, hallucinations and delusions.

While some patients between the ages of 14 and 21 were showing up with hallucinations, other symptoms, such as increased agitation and elevated blood pressure and heart rates, didn't match up with marijuana. Scalza speculates either another compound is responsible for the nasty side effects, or the concentration of JWH-018 is too high.

To answer this question, Scalzo is having doctors test patients' urine for JWH-018 and other compounds, but he is having trouble getting patients to agree to the test. "This is not something that people are agreeing to," Scalzo said during a telephone interview. "Here's a legal substance that we don't know really that much about and people are putting into their bodies without quality control."

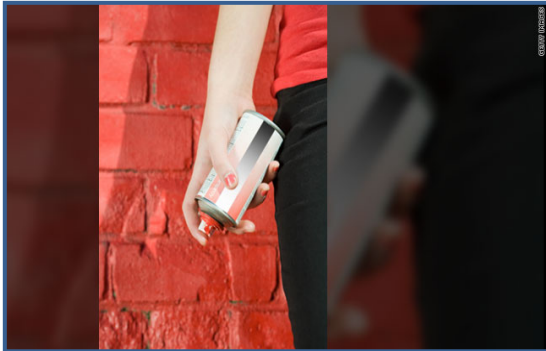
And even though doctors like Scalzo say they'd like to help the teen that's not enough. "Phenomenally, people are saying no. They're afraid someone is going to find something," though Scalzo has no idea why they'd be afraid.

12-year-olds abusing inhalants, report says

Published by CNN.com on March 11, 2010

WASHINGTON, D.C. - When their kids turn 12, parents are concerned about peers pressuring them to smoke cigarettes, drink and use drugs, but it turns out 12-year-olds are doing something else: getting high on inhalants.

A new national survey from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration report finds that they're using inhalants more than marijuana, hallucinogens and cocaine combined. Some young people are sniffing inhaling a wide variety of products to get high. Inhalants are legal, cheap and everywhere.



They can easily be found in most homes: spray paint, shoe polish, glue, air fresheners, hair spray, nail polish, gasoline, aerosols, computer cleaners, even the refrigerant from air conditioners.

"We continue to face the challenge of increasing experimentation and intentional misuse of common household products among the youngest and most vulnerable segments of our population: 12-year-olds," said Harvey Weiss, executive director of the National Inhalant Prevention Coalition.

"The data are ominous, and their implications are frightening because of the toxic, chemical effects of these legal products on growing minds and bodies." According to the survey, 6.9 percent of 12-year-olds have "huffed," while 1.4 percent have used pot, 0.7 percent hallucinogens and 0.1 percent cocaine. The report found 5.2 percent smoked cigarettes. Huffing can be fatal, leading to "sudden sniffing death."

Dr. Jennifer Caudle, director of the family medicine section of the Department of Internal Medicine at Sinai Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland, said it's critical to educate adolescents about the dangers of huffing.

"Young people do not always realize the consequences of their actions. However, it is possible to die from trying inhalants even once. 'Sudden sniffing death' causes the heart to beat rapidly, which can result in cardiac arrest."

Kevin Talley and his wife, Deborah, know that all too well. Their 17-year-old daughter, Amber Ann Suri, died after using inhalants in February 2009. Talley said the teenager apparently had been inhaling for six months, but by the time they began to suspect something was wrong, it was too late.

"Parents must wake up to the reality that their child might try huffing and the consequences could be devastating," said Pamela S. Hyde, administrator for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

"That's why SAMHSA is leading the way to get information out to health care providers, kids, parents and everyone in the community so that our children hear a consistent message about the dangers of huffing."

It's a message 17-year old Ashley Upchurch said she now takes seriously. She said she started huffing when she was 11. "Inhalants were cheap, legal and an intense high that would also enhance the feeling I would get from other drugs," she said. "These highs nearly destroyed my life." She's been in recovery for two years.

Many experts said 12 is considered a gateway age for inhalant use, but the National Inhalant Prevention Coalition and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration would like to slam that gate shut. It is kicking off National Inhalants and Poisons Awareness Week, which starts Sunday. The American Osteopathic Association also is joining the national effort.

Youth Gang Awareness -Imperial Gangsters

IMPERIAL GANGSTERS

Alliance: Folk Nation

Gang Make Up: Mostly Latino but fairly mixed.

Gang Colors: Black and Pink

Monikers/Graffiti: A.I.G.N., The Pink Panther, shotguns, pitchforks, numbers such as; 210, 197, 19714, and a five point crown.

Primary Rivals: Latin Kings

Primary Allies: Gangster Disciples, Spanish Cobras, and the Latin Dragons.



Sayings: "Gangsta World," "Gangsta Krazy," and "G U Some" to show their affiliation.

Basic Gang History: The Imperial Gangsters originated around the West Humboldt Park area and also on the North Side of Chicago in the late 1960s, originally calling themselves the Imperial Bachelors. The IB's were run by two individuals who were given the title of "Grand Bachelors," one of them was named "Bala B" (Bala meaning Bullet). In 1975, the two leaders of the Bachelors began to feud over power of the gang and a civil war began with the IBN. This civil war resulted in the death of Bala B. After his death, half of the remaining members changed the gangs' name to the "Imperial Spanish Gangsters" and broke away from the IBN, which only intensified the gang war between the two.

The war continued for over two years, resulting in the defeat of the Imperial Bachelors while taking out most the ISG's as well.



In 1978, the remaining members of the Imperial Bachelors merged with the Imperial Spanish Gangsters to form the current name, "Imperial Gangsters" and was led by "Flaco G", and "Casper G." Shortly after the IGs' formed they joined the Folk Nation as well as the United Latino Organization.

Since the late 1970s they have continually fought the Latin Kings over territory. Several Latin King members became IG's, resulting in a gain of territory for the IG's.

The Imperial Gangsters adopted the rounded crown as their symbol after they got the idea from the Parkay butter crown found on Parkay butter products, it was said it was used to insult the Latin Kings. The IG's also adopted the pink panther into their symbols as well, and the pitchfork to symbolize that they were folks.

From the 1980's on the IG's have had a handful of leaders, who coincidentally have all gone to prison for either murder or drug charges. The last known leader, "Casper G," was shot and killed in Chicago on an EL-Train in the mid 1990's. Currently the Imperial Gangsters continue to mark their presence in Chicago, IL, but have migrated to other major cities in States such as Texas, California, Florida, Alabama, and Georgia.

Structure and Criminal Activities: Current gang structure is mixed between traditional membership and new breed factions, who claim the name, but have no affiliation with the Chicago Chapter. They are well known in violent crimes such as carjacking, car "ramming", robberies, money laundering, drive-by shootings, violent assaults and are considered to be armed and dangerous.

Source: The Chicago Crime Commission Gang Book, Chicagogangs.org, Knowgangs.com, Myspace.com



SRO Resources

National School Incident Map



Stay informed on school incident information in your area by visiting the National School Incident Mapping Resource hosted by SafePlans, LLC.

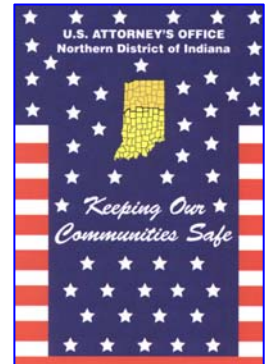
The map is provided to improve situational awareness through the posting of school safety related incidents and success stories. To protect privacy, these postings will be limited to information that is readily accessible through the media and includes topics such as school shootings, bomb threats, evacuations, severe weather, bus accidents and school safety improvements.

The Map can be found @ <http://www.safeplans.com/schoolmap/>.



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

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For further information on the L.E.C.C. please visit: www.keepingourcommunitiessafe.us