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POLICE LINE DO NOT CROSS POLICE LINE DO NOT CROSS

Gary Boxer Convicted of Running Drug Ring

Article published in the Times

11/07/2006 Hammond, IN | Charles "Duke" Tanner was found guilty of federal drug and conspiracy charges Monday, ending the boxer's six-day trial and winding up a federal investigation that appears to have destroyed Gary's Renegades street gang.



Tanner also was convicted of a charge of buying what he thought was 15 kilograms of powder cocaine -- a purchase that was captured on undercover video and played for the jury.

The jurors also convicted Lance "Smurf" Foster on Monday of buying more than 50 grams of crack cocaine, but acquitted him on a second charge of participating in the drug-ring conspiracy centered around the Renegades street gang.

Tanner and Foster each face sentences of 20 years to life in prison when they are sentenced during a future hearing. Although Tanner was convicted of two crimes, Foster faces the same minimum sentence for one because of a prior conviction.

"The agents put together an outstanding case on this, and we believe justice was done," Assistant U.S. Attorney David Nozick said Monday night. "We take it as a very solid victory."

As evidence in Foster's charge of buying drugs, prosecutors presented undercover video of him buying powder cocaine and then "cooking" it into crack cocaine in a frying pan in his mother's kitchen.

Tanner and Foster were among 14 people indicted by federal prosecutors for selling drugs and conspiring in the drug ring, but 11 of them pleaded guilty and agreed to cooperate against Tanner and Foster. One person, a brother of Tanner's, still is at large.

See the Full Story:

http://www.nwitimes.com/articles/2006/11/07/news/lake_county/d749fe59100794cb8625721f00122765.txt

Youth Hurt in Gang-Related Shooting in Elkhart County

Article published by the South Bend Tribune

11/07/2006 Goshen, IN | Sixteen-year-old Paul Garcia had only been in Goshen about two weeks before being shot in the back during an apparent gang shooting early Sunday morning. Garcia was shot about 2 a.m. Sunday at 203 W. Oakridge Ave., allegedly by a gang called the Cyclones -- an offshoot of the Surenos 13, said Goshen Police Administration Officer Joe Brown.



Saul Rodriguez

Authorities have arrested two teens in connection with the shooting. Saul Rodriguez, 19, was arrested on suspicion of assisting a criminal. He is being held at Elkhart County Jail with a \$15,000 bond. A 16-year-old juvenile was also arrested for suspicion of possessing a firearm in connection with the shooting. He's being held at Elkhart County Jail with a \$1,500 bond. Police are unsure who actually fired the shots or whether more charges will be filed, Brown said.

Eight to 10 people associated with the Vatos Locos gang were involved in a verbal confrontation with about five Cyclone members outside of the Oakridge Avenue residence sometime before the shooting, Brown said. Garcia was shot when members of the Cyclones returned to the residence and began shooting into a group of people standing outside.

Sunday's shooting is the second gang-related shooting in Goshen this year and the third since April 2005. José Martinez, a 16-year-old Goshen High School freshman, was killed April 9, 2005. Fourteen-year-old Rogelio Reyes, a Goshen Middle School eighth-grader, died Feb. 19.

Some suspects involved in Sunday's shooting are allegedly connected to the area's previous shootings. Rodriguez, who was injured in the February shooting that killed Rogelio, is a twin brother to David Rodriguez, who was given an 11-year sentence in February for Martinez's death.

Full Story: <http://www.southbendtribune.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20061107/News01/611070357/-1/NEWS01>



17 Charged in Crackdown on Gang

Article published by Chicago Tribune

11/02/2006 Chicago, IL | In what the [FBI](#) and [Chicago](#) police call a focused strike against the Satan Disciples street gang, authorities have filed [drug](#) and conspiracy charges against 17 members and associates of the gang. One of those charged is de facto head of the gang in Chicago, according to the FBI, and court documents named another as a local chief.

The operation was aimed at disrupting the sale of powder and crack cocaine on the Southwest Side, officials said. 'These are some of the worst offenders and biggest targets in the area,' said Mitchell Marrone, an assistant special agent in charge of the FBI in Chicago and the leader of the bureau's anti-gang efforts. 'They're dealing in quantities of drugs and also in violence.'

Eleven of those charged were arrested Wednesday morning without incident, authorities said. Four others already were in custody on unrelated charges, and two remained at large. The group is expected to make a first appearance at the Dirksen U.S. Courthouse on Thursday.

The case came together after intelligence from beat officers was developed by the Chicago FBI's Joint Task Force on Gangs, FBI officials said.

The Satan Disciples gang was founded in the city in the early 1960s, according to the FBI. The gang has more than 40 sections around Chicago and as far away as Florida, Texas and Oklahoma.

Full Story: <http://www.topix.net/content/trb/2481570137303967615716518617423562748547>

Cops Detail Shootout with Gang 'Hit Men'

Article published by the Chicago Tribune

11/02/2006 Chicago, IL | As Chicago police tailed a carload of gang 'hit men' in the Humboldt Park neighborhood Monday afternoon, authorities said they knew they were running out of time to stop the vehicle before the driver reached their intended target, a rival gang member living in the area.

Police on Thursday gave their first detailed account of the circumstances that they say led to a shootout that left two men dead and a third critically wounded. A police officer lost a finger in the gunfire. They said the confrontation prevented a hit ordered by leaders of the New Breeds gang in an escalating war authorities blame for 19 slayings so far this year.

Members of the gang had been under surveillance for months, authorities said, and wiretaps on the three men's cell phones revealed the location of the intended target. Police say they pulled over the car about 3:45 p.m. Monday before it reached the targeted gang member and a shootout ensued.

Tristan Scaggs, 19, of the 1200 block of South Homan Avenue, the only person in the car to survive, was charged Thursday with numerous crimes, including two counts of murder for the deaths of Marcus Thomas, 21, and William Tyler, 23. Police and prosecutors said all three were members of the New Breeds gang and had orders from gang leaders to kill a member of the Traveling Vice Lords.

The alleged gang leaders Melvin Martin, 30, of the 3000 block of South Lincoln Avenue, Riverside; and Lamel Burns, 29, of the 1300 block of South Troy Street, Chicago; have been charged with murder, attempted murder and conspiracy to commit murder, prosecutors said.

Police said they tailed the Pontiac from Tyler's back yard in West Garfield Park, where the gang members had hidden it for several days. Investigators believe the gang was stealing cars and keeping them until they were ready to use them in shootings, police said. 'When they moved the car, we realized things were shifting into a different mode,' Roti said. The car headed north, speeding through stop signs, probably 'to see if they had a tail,' he said.

Police were using a wiretap to listen in on three of the gang members' cell phones, and they knew where the car was headed, Roti said. In previous shootings attributed to the group, they had chosen to strike just as school was letting out in the afternoon in order to maximize chaos on the street to help them get away, he said.

Full Story: <http://www.topix.net/content/trb/0404204669173819001002182653591223977584>



Police Nab Cunning Gang Leader

Article published by the Political Gateway

11/03/2006 Chicago, IL | Chicago police have arrested a man they believe is a key player in a 10-month drug war between two rival street gangs that has resulted in at least 19 deaths.

Melvin "Ben Ben" Martin is accused of planning a hit foiled by police that ended in the shooting deaths of two men and the injury of a third at a Humboldt Park intersection, The Chicago Sun-Times reported Friday.

Police say Martin, a high-ranking member of the New Breed gang, was extremely clever in planning and executing hits against rival members of the Traveling Vice Lords. Martin would go on the state corrections department Web site to locate mug shots of intended targets and print them out so his shooters would know who they were looking for.

Police say Martin planned shootings during busy times of the day so his gunmen could blend into crowds. He would have them wear latex gloves, police say, so gunshot residue wouldn't show up on their hands.

Full Story: <http://politicalgateway.com/news/read/45566>

Reputed Gang Members Arrested in Mortgage Fraud Probe

Article published by the WLS ABC News 7

11/14/2006 Chicago, IL | Chicago and suburban police conduct a series of raids and arrested two people Tuesday, including a reputed street gang member. Police say it is in connection with a mortgage fraud investigation. Authorities say the suspects sold homes in poor neighborhoods at inflated prices. Prosecutors say many homes were lost to foreclosure. Investigators say there could be dozens of victims.

Police say this is an example of how street gangs are getting more sophisticated. Instead of selling drugs, some of them are getting involved in mortgage and real estate fraud. The charges filed Tuesday could be just the beginning. Expensive luxury vehicles, including a Bentley, a BMW and Maybach, a commercial van, all part of the profits of the alleged illegal plot. The cars sit in the police headquarters lot while two suspects sit in jail.



Police say Terry Faulkner is a member of well known Chicago street gang, who would recruit customers to invest in bogus real estate deals, and Rodrigo Navascues would allegedly provide phony mortgage documents. The police say the result was hundreds of thousands of dollars, if not millions in profits and laundered money.

"The buyer is left with dilapidated property, double the purchase price, and unable to make the mortgage payments with no ability to sell the property. The mortgage company loses hundreds of thousands of dollars, the buyer's credit is destroyed, and the schemers all profit from the transaction," said Supt. Phil Cline, Chicago Police.

Police raided Faulkner's home in Tinley Park early Tuesday morning, seizing property and taking him into custody. They also arrested Navascues at his Near North Side address in Chicago.

Most of the victims, according to police, were low-income residents of Englewood and nearby neighborhoods. Police say they are looking at five possible victims so far, but there could be dozens more.

Full Story: <http://abclocal.go.com/wls/story?section=local&id=4761608>



20 Alleged Gang Members Arrested in Drug Trafficking Sting

Article published by the Northwest Indiana Times

11/14/2006 Chicago, IL | Twenty alleged street gang members have been arrested on charges of running a sophisticated drug trafficking operation in the culmination of what officials said was a three-year undercover investigation, authorities announced Tuesday.

Since the investigation began, 38 alleged members of the Latin Kings street gang have been charged and at least 20 individuals -- including several men believed to be top leaders -- are in custody on drug and weapons charges, U.S. Attorney Patrick Fitzgerald said during a news conference.

The charges are included in 13 separate federal complaints filed or unsealed Tuesday.

"We pretty much decapitated the Latin Kings on the South Side," said Andrew Traver, a special agent with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, the main agency involved in the investigation.

Among Tuesday's arrests were 36-year-old Fernando "Ace" King of Chicago, who authorities allege is a gang leader. He is charged with attempted drug possession with the intent to distribute.

"If you take out the main person, you also send a message to gang leaders that the position comes with a price," Fitzgerald said.

Full Story:

http://www.thetimesonline.com/articles/2006/12/06/updates/region_and_state/2982a9238634e2608625723c005599a3.txt

Regional

Gangs Recruiting Younger Kids

Article published by ABC 24 Eyewitness News

11/15/2006 Memphis, TN | Eyewitness News uncovers kids not even old enough to cross the street alone being recruited by Memphis gangs. Gang investigators say it's not uncommon to see 10, 11, and 12 year-olds caught up in gang life.

Eyewitness News found one mother who says her 8-year-old son was asked to join a gang by his classmates. A few months ago, Verateya Jones's 8-year-old son Jaylin was asked to join a gang by two of his classmates. Jones told us, "Two little boys approached him on the playground about joining their gang, and Jaylin said no. He told his friend 'let's go play somewhere else before they get us in trouble'. These two little boys came to the back where he was playing and they hit him in the face several times."

Second-graders are recruiting for a gang, and they're already retaliating with violence. Jones said, "I was very shocked, my first time ever hearing about a second-grader in a gang."

Shelby County gang investigator Anthony Buckner said he's watched it happen in just the past few years. "The age is dropping," he said. "The youngest you would hear about is maybe 14, 15, but now it's getting down to the younger ages, 11, 12 and 13 years old, kids are joining gangs."



Buckner said, "When I talk to some of the older gang members that have been in it for awhile. They're telling me that the reason why they seek these young kids is because it's easy to convince them to do things that an older person wouldn't do. They have no sense of reasoning. They can do anything that an adult can do or an older teenager. Anything. Burglaries, car thefts, robberies, whatever."

Full Story: http://www.myeeyewitnessnews.com/news/local/story.aspx?content_id=f4ffb01c-b6f1-43a0-8ee6-c5cd8be04115

National

Juvenile Crime on Rise Again

Article published by the Tri-Valley Harold

11/16/2006 Washington, DC | For the last 10 years, juvenile crime in the United States has steadily decreased. The last time crime committed by those 18 and under began to climb was in the late 1980s. That spike turned into what researchers at a Chicago think tank said was a crime wave that peaked in 1994 before crime rates began to drop. All of which is cause for concern, according to a new report released today by the Chapin Hall Center for Children at the University of Chicago, because for the first time in a decade, juvenile crime rose in 2005.

We had 10 years of good news, said Jeffrey Butts, a co-author of the report. The period of decline is over. That is concerning. The report, which was compiled with FBI statistics, includes law enforcement jurisdictions that cover 73 percent of the U.S. population. It compared changes in juvenile crime rates from 2004 to 2005.

Most types of juvenile crime decreased — rape arrests were down 11 percent nationally, while larceny, vehicle theft and DUI arrests decreased by 9 percent.

But two types of crime — robbery and murder — were primarily responsible for the spike, according to the report. Juvenile robbery arrests increased 11 percent after a 44 percent decline over the last decade. And murder arrests jumped 20 percent after a 63 percent decline in the last 10 years.

Crime statisticians will have to wait at least a year before they know if the 2005 crime spike is a fluke or a real danger. There's a lot of talk across the country about rising youth violence, Butts said. The answer is that its too soon to tell if a crime wave is inevitable.

Full Story: http://www.insidebayarea.com/trivalleyherald/localnews/ci_4669079



Raw, Violent Gang Films Lure Voyeurs – and Feds

Article published by the Fort Wayne Journal Gazette

11/13/2006 Los Angeles, CA | The camera lists and bobs in the dizzy, dancing camera style of MTV reality television before zooming in on a posse in purple, clustered in a corner of an infamously violent housing project.

The footage is from a documentary called “Concrete Hell,” which aims – like a wave of other straight-to-DVD gang documentaries – to grant viewers intimate access to the gritty and violent underworld of America’s street gangs.

“We’re gangsters here,” Redmann, a bushy-haired member of the Grape Street set of the Crips street gang, tells viewers. “We live, die and eat this.”

The message will be heard by a select audience: Those who watch the growing genre of underground “hood films,” filmmakers and sellers say, are typically fellow gangbangers, wannabes and those seeking a voyeuristic peek into a dangerous subculture while safely sunken into a ratty college dorm or rec-room couch.

You won’t find “Concrete Hell” or other gang documentaries at the local Blockbuster. The \$20 films are only for sale in swap meets, mom and pop record stores and Web sites such as Streetgangs.com and Gangstadvd.com.

Shot and edited using cheap equipment and pressed onto DVDs at home, “hood films” are the visual manifestation of gangsta rap: raw and sometimes violent snapshots of America’s gang-plagued ghettos shot by those boasting a closeness to the life, or in some cases by gang members themselves. And like the hip-hop genre that made mainstream stars of Ice Cube and Dr. Dre in the 1980s, the documentaries have drawn criticism from those who say the films glorify a criminal lifestyle.



Full Story: <http://www.fortwayne.com/mld/journalgazette/living/16000346.htm>



MySpace: A Place for Gangs

Article published by the Victorville Daily Press

11/05/2006 Oceanside, CA | Myspace. com calls itself “a place for friends.” But it’s also a place for gangs, and now, a place for detectives trying to tackle those gangs.

Officials from several San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department stations are perusing the Web site that claims to have over 106 million users, with a reported 230,000 people joining each day. There are various motivations for using MySpace, but at the Victorville station, detectives and members of the Gang Unit use it to track and identify gang members.

"I've been working with it for the last six months or so, in order to identify gang members," said Detective Jeremy Martinez, who heads up the Gang Unit. "I started searching because I learned the Below Under Ground gang had a Web page on there that claimed 37 members in 'Victimville.' "

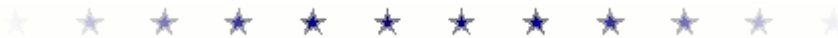
Martinez has submitted materials obtained via the Web site to the District Attorney's office as evidence for the prosecution of a gang enhancement for members of BUG currently awaiting trial on a Victorville case from 2005. Among the items submitted were two notebooks full of printouts from Myspace.com.



"There are pictures of them holding guns and throwing signs. It helps me prove the gang allegations in these cases. I could literally spend weeks going through all of their pages. I just don't have the time," Martinez said.

He explained that he started using the Web site after hearing of the successes agencies all over the country have had with Myspace.com. The site allows users to create groups and members can join that group, which is the page that Martinez first found. From that page, he was able to look at the individual profiles of 37 suspected gang members.

Full Story: <http://www.vvdailypress.com/news-story/20061105/myspace-a-place-for-gangs>



More Immigrants Seeking Asylum Cite Gang Violence

Article published by the Washington Post

11/15/2006 Washington, DC | Increasing numbers of Salvadorans, Hondurans and Guatemalans are entering the United States illegally and applying for asylum on the grounds that their lives are imperiled by gang violence in their home countries, according to immigration lawyers and advocacy groups.

Although the number granted asylum barely surpassed 700 last year, asylum applications by people from those three countries have almost doubled, which lawyers attribute primarily to fear of gang violence.



The lawyers hope to persuade judges to more readily grant asylum to those who have risked reprisal by resisting extortion demands by gangs, testifying against gang members, renouncing their own membership in gangs or trying to avoid being forced to join gangs.

Gang violence has grown to epidemic proportions in the three countries since the mid-1990s, when the United States began sending Central American-born members of the rival Los Angeles-based Mara Salvatrucha and Mara 18 gangs back to their home countries. The deportees helped fuel the rise of ferocious sister gangs in Central America, whose estimated 60,000 members are now battling each other, the police and residents in hundreds of communities.

Many of those who say they fled gangs end up in the Washington area, which has one of the nation's largest Central American immigrant populations.

Jose Hernandez, a soft-spoken 19-year-old currently living in a shelter in the District, said he left El Salvador in 2004 after a close friend was gunned down in his home town of Yayantique. Both Hernandez and his friend had been resisting entreaties to join MS-13.

A few days later, Hernandez said, several tattooed gang members grabbed him on the street, held a knife against his stomach and warned him to join "or you'll end up like your friend."

Full Story: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/11/14/AR2006111401029.html>

Two MS-13 Members Are Convicted of Racketeering

Article published by the Washington Post

11/15/2006 Washington, DC | In the first major victory for federal prosecutors in a sweeping legal assault on MS-13 in Maryland, a federal jury in Greenbelt yesterday convicted two members of the violent Latino street gang of criminal racketeering. Edgar Alberto Ayala, known as "Pony," 29, and Oscar Ramos Velasquez, 21, known as "Casper," both Salvadoran immigrants, were found guilty of conspiracy to commit murder to further the racketeering enterprise.

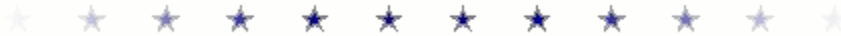
The racketeering prosecution is part of an investigative and legal offensive begun by federal authorities last year against a gang that as recently as five years ago was little known outside law enforcement circles and the neighborhoods it operates in.

Locally, law enforcement officials have attributed dozens of homicides and nonfatal assaults in recent years to MS-13 members in suburban Maryland, Northern Virginia and, to a lesser extent, the District. Nationwide, federal officials have formed an MS-13 task force, which began operating last year out of FBI headquarters.

The jury's decision, reached during five days of deliberations, means that both men are eligible for a maximum possible sentence of life in prison without parole. The defendants were among 22 in Maryland charged more than a year ago under the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act. The RICO indictment alleges that members of MS-13, a gang also known as Mara Salvatrucha, killed six people and attempted to kill four others between April 2003 and June 2005 in Prince George's and Montgomery counties.

Eight of the attacks were in Prince George's, and two were in Montgomery, in neighborhoods that hug the border between the counties. In addition, federal prosecutors presented evidence that Ayala participated in the fatal shooting of a Fairfax County teenager.

Full Story: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/11/14/AR2006111400931.html>



North Jersey Law Enforcement Warned of Gang Retaliation Threat

Article published by Newsday

11/29/2006 Newark, NJ | The Essex County Prosecutor's Office on Tuesday warned law enforcement in the region to be especially cautious after its gang unit reported hearing that street gangs might target law enforcement officers in retaliation for the police shooting of an unarmed man in Queens, N.Y., over the weekend.

The warning was sent to local police departments, as well as to other law enforcement agencies in the region, said Paul Loriguet, a spokesman for the prosecutor's office.



Gang members were reportedly upset over the killing of 23-year-old Sean Bell, who died when officers fired some 50 shots at his car during an undercover operation outside a nightclub, as well as about recently stepped-up law enforcement operations against gang activities, Loriguet said.

Officers said Bell defied orders to stop and they fired because they believed they saw a weapon in the car. Two other men with Bell were wounded. Mayor Michael Bloomberg has said he believes the number of shots fired was excessive.

Full Story: <http://www.newsday.com/news/local/wire/newjersey/ny-bc-nj--policeshooting-nj1128nov28,0,7948412.story?coll=ny-region-apnewjersey>

From the Editors



Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter.
We are always trying to improve the quality and effectiveness of our products

If you have any comments, suggestions or articles that can be used in the "G.A.I.N." Newsletter please send them to:

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