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Inside This Issue

Headline News	Page 1
Local News	Page 2
Regional News	Page 4
National News	Page 8
Special Feature	Page 9



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POLICE LINE DO NOT CROSS POLICE LINE DO NOT CROSS

Man Gets 7 Years for Role in Cocaine Hijacking

Article published by the Fort Wayne Journal Gazette on June 3, 2008

Fort Wayne, IN | A 21-year-old Gary man will spend just more than seven years in federal prison for his role in the 2006 planned hijacking of a drug shipment. Theodis Armstead was sentenced to five years in prison for armed drug trafficking and two years, three months for conspiracy to distribute cocaine. He will spend an additional five years on supervised release after prison. During his sentencing hearing Monday in U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Indiana, Judge Theresa Springmann told Armstead he did the right thing for himself and his family by cooperating in the investigation. "You have a whole lifetime ahead of you," she said.

Armstead is one of six men accused of plotting to hijack what they believed was a shipment of cocaine en route from Texas to Fort Wayne in the spring of 2006. The group, which came to town in 2005, was headed by Marlyn Barnes, 23, of Gary – a known member of the Vice Lords gang. Others included Melvin Taylor, 25, of Gary; Vernell Brown, 25, of Illinois; Herbert Hightower, 24, of Gary; and Michael D. Alexander, 29, of Fort Wayne.

In recent months, all were convicted or pleaded guilty to charges in connection with the case. Armstead, Brown, Hightower and Alexander pleaded guilty to conspiracy to distribute cocaine. Armstead also pleaded guilty to armed drug trafficking. Barnes was convicted of conspiracy to distribute cocaine and armed drug trafficking.

Agents with the ATF and Fort Wayne police officers were investigating Vice Lords' activities in Fort Wayne, such as dealing narcotics and committing violent crimes while armed, according to the ATF. The investigation became more intense when Barnes learned of the possible delivery of the drugs and brought others from Gary to help plan and participate in the hijacking of the drugs, according to the ATF. An undercover agent with the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives met with Barnes, and eventually the other men, to arrange the theft of the drugs, which did not exist. As the plan to hijack the shipment unfolded, the ATF agent slipped away and police arrested the men, seizing weapons, including an AK-47 with a 75-round drum magazine, a .40-caliber pistol and more than 80 rounds of ammunition, as well as bullet-resistant vests.

Rural School District Addresses Growing Gang Concerns

Article published by WSBT.com

06/18/2008 Akron, IN | Small rural communities say they're just beginning to see signs of gang activity. The Tippecanoe Valley School District is addressing the issue at a meeting Tuesday night. It's a problem you would expect in large cities; not Akron, where an old sign welcomes you in, and farms aren't far away from anywhere you stand. Debbie Clark worked as an EMT in Akron for 11 years. As for gang problems there, she remarked,



“Other than accidents and things like that, you never have to worry about anything like that.” Becky Clark exclaimed, “It's a little surprising since this is a small town.”

But administrators with the Tippecanoe Valley School District say they are concerned about gang activity. With a student population of about 2,200, they say they're now seeing signs. “It's the kind of thing you can be looking right at and not really know what it represents,” explained Assistant Superintendent Brett Boggs.

He says they've found them on MySpace websites, in the artwork hung in lockers, and with what some students are wearing. Recently, gang-type graffiti popped up in the local park. “As far as whether or not they're a gang member, that's probably disputable,” said Boggs. “I think they're probably a lot of wannabes more than kids that actually are [members]. But our concern there is that it's not too far away.” That is why Boggs says they're addressing the issue now. “We really feel the important thing is for us to get out ahead of this. We don't want to get into a position where we have to react to it — where some serious things have happened and we've got a mess to clean up,” said Boggs.

Mike Cox advised the audience that gangs are constantly recruiting. Cox told the story of a 13-year-old boy who recruits members for the the Surenos 13 gang. “When he's in school, he's recruiting,” said Cox. “When he's out of school, he's recruiting.” Cox told the audience that despite its rural location, members of Surenos 13 have attended TVHS. After members of the task force spoke, Cox presented a power point talking about how gangs organize and what to look for. There was a table of gang paraphernalia for audience members to browse.

The meeting Tuesday night is intended to make the community aware of what's going on and what they can do to help. The school district also has plans to bring in a gang task force next school year to work with teachers and staff.

Source: WSBT.com



New Details Emerge in Goshen Club Raid

Article Published by WSBT.com

06/30/2008 Goshen, IN | Police raided the 7 Segundos club on Third and Jefferson streets in downtown Goshen late Saturday night. They arrested or cited more than 200 people, most of them underage. One of the people inside was just 6 years old. In the last ten months since the bar opened, Goshen police say they've been called there nearly 50 times, and not just for noise complaints. “Different types of stuff — drug activity, a lot of fights,” explained Goshen Police Deputy Chief Mike McCloughen.



And underage drinking, too. So this weekend, they decided to do more. Just before midnight Saturday, 80 police officers walked inside. They found about 400 people, and arrested or cited nearly half of them — 200 people were detained or ticketed. Most were underage, and 80 weren't even 18. “We had an 8-year-old and a 12-year-old that were in there, and also a 6-year-old, that we did not arrest,” McCloughen said. They were with their parents. Inside, officers also found cocaine, and evidence of gang activity. “There is a mixture of activity going on there that is potentially very, very volatile and dangerous,” said Elkhart County Investigator Bill Wargo.

“With as many problems as we've had down there in 10 months it was important that we step forward and did what we needed to do,” McCloughen said.

6 Months for Former LaPorte Football Star

Article published by the News Dispatch

06/28/2008 LaPorte, IN | A former LaPorte High School football player lost a scholarship for gunfire related to gang activity. His defense attorney argued that was punishment enough, but a judge thought some time behind bars was deserved. Anthony Crittendon, 19, was sentenced Friday to six months in the LaPorte County Jail on a Class D felony criminal recklessness conviction.

In April 2007, authorities said Crittendon drove to Ben Rees Park to defend a friend going there to fight suspected gang members. Numerous rounds were fired by Crittendon from a moving van. He then got out and fired additional shots, authorities said. Some of the bullets hit a nearby residence, including one that struck a kitchen cabinet.

In asking for probation, defense attorney Steve Snyder said the former offensive lineman lost a football scholarship over the incident and has had previous trouble with gang members. Since the conviction will be reduced to a misdemeanor if he successfully completes probation, Judge Tom Alevizos felt some jail time was necessary. "If he's going to get that, he's going to jail for six months," Alevizos said.

Source: The News-Dispatch



Police Allege Gang; not so, Bosnians Say

Article published by the Fort Wayne News Sentinel

07/02/2008 Fort Wayne, IN | "You can't categorize us." Haris Latic was mad. The image of a Bosnian man holding an AK-47 for an April 22 News-Sentinel story about police allegations of a gun-running gang of Bosnian refugees was blurred, but Latic recognized it. It was Adis Latic, his brother.

Adis Latic said the AK-47 was a friend's and the picture was from a day of recreational target practice at a Huntington gun range. The Latics say they're law-abiding U.S. citizens, not gang-bangers. "In every race there are bad kids and good kids, but you can't categorize us as a community," Adis Latic said. The Latics acknowledge they can't vouch for every Bosnian refugee brought to Fort Wayne by Catholic Charities, 669 officially. The now-defunct Balkan Stylz group, which police labeled a gang, was a club for Bosnians who liked to drive muscle cars, said Adis Latic, 23. "If we knew that these kids were creating gangs, first of all their fathers would probably get together and put a major (butt) whupping on them," Adis Latic said. "The police force wouldn't even have to come into play."



Fort Wayne Police tell a different story. At a May 22 conference on gangs, Officer John Chambers displayed some of the same images published in The News-Sentinel and said the young men were part of a "Bosnian Mafia" selling guns to the PAC, a black street gang. Chambers told the audience the Bosnians drive in groups of two or three cars with one car carrying weapons. He described the Bosnians as "ruthless."

"They're basically saying, 'If you want war, we'll give you war. We've seen war,'" Chambers said. "They know violence and they're not afraid of violence. They have no respect, of course, for law enforcement."

Federal Gang Legislation on Hold in U.S. House

Article published by the Times

06/16/2008 Indiana | More than eight months ago, the U.S. Senate approved legislation that would enhance penalties and provide federal money to local law enforcement agencies and prosecutors in their efforts to investigate gang crime. However, companion bills in the House appear to have stalled in a subcommittee as legislators work through how to best make an impact in the fight against gangs.

In an e-mail statement, U.S. Rep. Pete Visclosky said within the House and its Democratic caucus there are different points of view on how legislation can best deal with gang violence. "Some members propose an enforcement approach to suppress gang activity, while others propose a community approach to prevent youths from joining gangs," the Indiana Democrat said.

The Gang Abatement and Prevention Act was introduced in the House in March 2007 by California Democrat Adam Schiff, and promptly was pushed to the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security. The bill is competing with two other, similarly titled bills that also have languished in committee. The Youth Promise Act -- sponsored by Virginia Democrat Robert Scott -- deals largely with prevention efforts.

The bill is competing with two other, similarly titled bills that also have languished in committee. The Youth Promise Act -- sponsored by Virginia Democrat Robert Scott -- deals largely with prevention efforts. "Gang crime is a serious problem in Northwest Indiana," said Visclosky, who is not a member of the House Judiciary Committee. "I am dedicated to providing law enforcement officers with the resources they need to get gangs off our streets, out of our neighborhoods and out of existence."

Passed by consent Sept. 21, the Senate's Gang Abatement and Prevention Act would make some crimes -- such as drug trafficking and street gang recruitment -- eligible for federal penalties. The bill, sponsored by U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., also would pump more than \$800 million into enforcement, prevention and intervention efforts through grants and the expansion of existing federal programs.

Among the enforcement efforts would be about \$50 million over five years to expand the FBI's Safe Streets program. In Northwest Indiana, the program takes the form of the Gang Response Investigative Team, which pools local, county, state and federal agents in the fight against drug and gang-related crime.

Indianapolis FBI Special Agent Wendy Osborne said more money could enhance intelligence capabilities and how databases of criminal information and intelligence are collected and shared. But the biggest benefit might be more officers on the streets, she said. "It would lead to the availability of more law enforcement officers dedicated to the task force," Osborne said. "A big chunk of what is spent is on overtime. The agents and officers assigned to the task force are working day and night and trying to address and apprehend violent criminals."



1 Killed, 3 Wounded in South Side Drive-By

Article published by the Chicago Tribune

Regional 

05/30/2008 Chicago, IL | A 17-year-old who was wounded in a drive-by shooting Monday night has died, the medical examiner's office said Tuesday. Three others were wounded in the shooting outside the teen's house on the South Side, police said.

Jason Edwards was fatally shot around 7:20 p.m. in the 6800 block of South Indiana Avenue in the Park Manor neighborhood, police said. The victims were on the street when four men drove up in a van and one of the occupants opened fire. "Basically all we know at this point is the four victims were shot in a drive-by and it appears to be gang-related," Officer David Banks said. The other three victims, ages 25, 27 and 31, were taken to Northwestern Memorial, Stroger and Provident Hospitals. Edwards was pronounced dead at Advocate Christ Medical Center in Oak Lawn.

Fistfight Turns into Fatal Stabbing in Back of the Yards

Article published by the Chicago Tribune

06/08/2008 Chicago, IL | A South Side man trying to cool gang tensions by paying his respects to the father of a recent murder victim was himself stabbed to death Saturday night when a rival gang member saw him on the wrong side of Marshfield Avenue and started a fight, a police source said. Police were searching for a man identified by witnesses who left his wallet in the street at the scene of the killing, the source said.

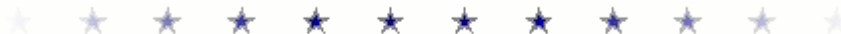
The 4900 block of South Marshfield is a divided street, with ties to the Gangster Disciples on one side while the Latin Souls control the other side, the source said. Daniel Santoyo, 31, who had grown up on the block but no longer lived there, crossed the street at about 6:20 p.m. to offer his condolences to the father of a young man who was shot and killed May 3 in front of his home on the block, the source said. The early May murder victim, Jason Gill, had ties to the Gangster Disciples, while Santoyo was affiliated with the Latin Souls, the source said.

Despite rivalries, violence between the two gangs has been rare, the source said. As Santoyo talked to Gill's father, two men were walking north on the sidewalk and one flashed Gangster Disciples signs and challenged Santoyo to leave the street, the source said.

Santoyo, who had been at a South Side beach with his family all day, argued with the man and a fight started, witnesses told police. The suspect threw the first punch, but Santoyo, who the source said was a very large man, appeared to be winning the fistfight, witnesses told the police. The suspect then pulled a knife and started stabbing Santoyo, according to the Chicago Police News Affairs office. Santoyo was stabbed five or six times in the back and chest, the source said.

After a skirmish with one of Santoyo's friends, who was wielding a pipe, the suspect and his companion fled west on 50th Street, the source said. Santoyo's friend told police he went to the dying man's side, and his friend asked him to tell his children he loved them. Santoyo was taken to Stroger Hospital where he died later in the evening. One of the stabs pierced the an aorta, the source said.

Detectives found witnesses who know the suspect, by his street name, as a gang member with ties to the neighborhood, the source said. A witness recovered a wallet in the street, which belonged to the suspect, the source said. Police are searching for the man, who may live in Gary, the source said.



Man Slain in Gang-Related Shooting on South Side

Article published by the Daily Herald

06/23/2008 Waukegan, IL | Officials said a dispute between rival gangs led to a Friday night shooting in Waukegan that left one teen dead and a second wounded. A third teen, Jerry L. Lee, 19, is accused of being the triggerman and was ordered held on \$3.5 million bond after a court appearance Monday.

Lake County Assistant State's Attorney Robert Money said Adon Rubio, 17, of Waukegan was the driver of a car carrying four of his fellow gang members around 10:30 p.m. Friday.

While near the intersection of Belvidere Road and Victory Street, Money said, the group spotted Lee riding a bicycle. Recognizing him as a member of a rival gang, Rubio and the others in the car began flashing gang signs at Lee and Lee responded in kind. Lee then took a .38 caliber Smith and Wesson revolver from his waistband and fired four to six shots at the car, Money said.

Rubio was struck once in the head, and one of the back seat passengers, Humberto Canchola, 17, of Waukegan suffered a pass-through wound to his right leg. Others in the car called police, then drove to Vista Medical Center East in Waukegan where Rubio was pronounced dead. Canchola is still being treated for his wounds at the hospital, Money said.

Lee was taken into custody as he attempted to walk away from the scene, Money said, and people inside the car identified him as the shooter. Lee gave Waukegan police a videotaped statement admitting his involvement in the shooting, Money said, and led police to where he had hidden the weapon.

Associate Judge Daniel Shanes told Lee he is charged with murder and attempted murder in the case and scheduled a preliminary hearing for July 18. Money said Lee is on court supervision for a misdemeanor possession of marijuana charge and was charged with the same crime again on May 30.

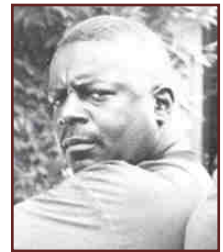
Source: The Daily Herald



Detroit Gang Founder Gets 30 Years in Ex-Death Penalty Case

Article published by WNDU

05/30/2008 Detroit, MI | The co-founder of the Detroit drug gang Young Boys Inc. who once faced the death penalty in a federal murder case has received a 30-year sentence under a plea deal. Milton Jones pleaded guilty two years ago to drug charges and agreed to aid prosecutors in exchange to the dropping of murder charges.



U.S. Attorney Stephen Murphy says Ann Arbor U.S. District Judge John Corbett O'Meara sentenced the 53-year-old Monday. Defense lawyer Richard Sindel says Wednesday it was disappointing O'Meara didn't hand down a shorter sentence because of Jones' age and his rehabilitation efforts. Prosecutors charged Jones and 13 others with selling heroin, cocaine and marijuana during the 1990s. Authorities say Jones ordered the killing of two drug rivals.

Source: WNDU



Henderson Police Looking at “Wanna-be” Gangs

Article published by WFIE

06/11/2008 Henderson, KY | Henderson police are dealing with what they call "wanna-be gangs," and they say it involves at least 50 middle schoolers. Detective Shane Onstott with the Henderson police said the vandalism is from wanna-be gang members from competing schools.



He said the members from South Middle School call themselves the Bloods, and those from North call themselves the Crips. "They're going around and trying to show there is a gang in the neighborhood and that they belong in that area and have to mark their territory," Onstott said. The gang signs are even on MySpace pages.

Last year police arrested four students in South Middle School after they beat another student in the bathroom as part of a gang initiation. Onstott is afraid the violence may get even worse, especially if guns get involved. "They're going to have to make a split decision of whether to use them. When they have they've taken somebody's life," said

Onstott. Police say they are increasing patrols in the area to combat this problem.

Source: WFIE

This Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention report provides guidance for communities that are considering how best to address a youth gang problem that already exists or threatens to become a reality. The Report also describes the research that produced the Model, notes essential findings from evaluations of several programs demonstrating the Model in a variety of environments, and outlines "best practices" obtained from practitioners with years of experience in planning, implementing, and overseeing variations of the Model in their communities. [www.ncjrs.gov]



New Albany Housing Authority List Bans Criminals from Properties

Article published by the News and Tribune

06/12/2008 New Albany, IN | It used to be every day that Clark Jeffries, head of security at the New Albany Housing Association, would be bombarded when he walked into the office with calls from residents complaining of overnight shootings, people sleeping in the streets and more. “People just couldn’t go out their doors,” Jeffries said.

That was seven years ago. Now, he and the housing association executive director Bob Lane say things are much different at the association’s 1,083 residences, thanks in part to a strict set of rules, which includes a “ban list.” “The housing authority realized it needed to do something to keep drug dealers and gang bangers off their property,” said Jeffries, who is a former police officer of 27 years.

The Authority decided to list those people and ban them from the property. That way, if they are found on site, they can be charged with criminal trespassing. Residents allowing banned people on the property can be evicted. However, officials knew they had to do it right. So, they contacted a number of attorneys — even defense ones — to make sure the list was not only legal, but would hold up in court.

In the end, they came up with the following reasons to ban people from the properties: If they had committed a felony on the property; trespassed; were a gang member; have an extensive criminal history; or committed sexual misconduct, assault or abuse. There also is a category for “other.”

Those committing minor offenses, such as arguing, are banned for 180 days. Second offenses, or first major offenses, carry a 365-day ban. Permanent bans are issued for drug activities and sex offenders, or for those committing their third offense.

The ban list started more than six years ago. The latest list includes 153 names. Clark said all but about five are permanently banned. He said the list has made a change residents can notice. “This has been about a six-year process to get it to where it is now, so that people can walk to the grocery store at 9 o’clock at night holding their kids’ hands and not be scared,” Clark said.



A 20-year-old mother of two toddlers said the list is doing just that. The now two-year resident says she feels safer at her apartment than she did when she first moved in. “There’s still a lot of stuff that goes on, but I don’t think you’re ever going to stop it all,” she said.

Some others who were interviewed said they did not like the ban, since some of their friends and acquaintances are on the list. They also said it separates families when one of the parents is banned from the property. Lane agreed that sometimes families fall in the middle. He used the example of a woman with multiple children, who had one child under 18 end up on the ban list for drug activity. Lane said he told the woman her options, which was to not allow her child at her home or to move away. She went with the first one and had her child live with a relative.

Lane said some people have moved because they believe the rules are too strict. He said he is OK with not everyone liking the rules, adding that the goal is just to make the area a safer place for those who don’t have a choice to live elsewhere. “A lot of our folks, they have jobs and they are working, but they aren’t making enough money for private housing, especially with gas at \$4 a gallon,” Lane said. “We’re offering people a decent place to live until they can get on their feet.”

Sgt. Todd Bailey, with the New Albany Police Department, said he thinks the ban has decreased crime in the area. He added there are less police runs to authority properties than there used to be. “We were able to eliminate people who were causing trouble on a regular basis,” Bailey said. “I think it’s a step in the right direction.”

Source: The News and Tribune

Mortgage Fraud Crackdown Begins

Article published by the Chicago Tribune

06/19/2008 Chicago, IN | Federal charges related to mortgage fraud and identity theft will be announced early this afternoon against dozens of Chicago-area defendants as part of a nationwide initiative against fraudulent home-lending schemes, the U.S. attorney's office said.



The operation comes amid an unfolding mortgage crisis nationwide that has led federal authorities to make mortgage fraud a new priority.

As mortgage fraud has boomed, it has become more sophisticated, authorities have said, and investigators have begun targeting prolific crews, some with links to street gangs. Those arrested this week in the latest case include brokers and appraisers, sources said.

The investigation is the first major case of its kind in Chicago since federal authorities brought charges in February in a mortgage fraud scheme that grew out of a probe of the Black Disciples and Black P Stone gangs, authorities said.

In that case, drug money was being laundered through the purchase and renovation of real estate, authorities said. Investigators with the FBI and U.S. Postal Inspection Service eventually found some 100 properties tied up in the scheme, officials said.

See the full story: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/chi-mortgage-fraud-charges-web-jun20,0,2878184.story>



National 

Specialized NYPD Unit Tracks Graffiti Writers

Article published by the Associated Press

06/07/2008 New York City, NY | Graffiti artists come to New York City from all over the world to make their mark on subway cars, buildings and billboards. They spend hours surveying and then spray-painting hard-to-reach spaces with remarkable precision. The finished product may be impressive, but it's also illegal — and constantly being monitored by a specialized Police Department graffiti unit. The unit is sophisticated in its own right, keeping a database of offenders and holding weekly meetings to pore over graffiti crime stats.



The Citywide Vandals Task Force arrested nearly 3,800 people last year, up from 2,962 in 2006. They have made several high-profile arrests this year, including one Tuesday when a teen was accused of defacing a mural dedicated to Sept. 11 victims. The unit's 60 officers track and record aliases used in graffiti that are known as "tags." A searchable database has more than 8,000 entries, allowing the task force to track active writers and cross-reference their tags.

Most of the officers can decipher tags that, to the uninitiated, seem like scribbles. "It's like another language; you just have to take the time to learn it," said Elwood Selover, commanding officer of the task force.

Graffiti have their own subculture. Generally, work is done by two groups: "bombers" and "writers." Bombers quickly paint simple messages, usually an alias, while writers take more time to make more elaborate, colorful work. Writers choose a tag and rarely change it, even if they are arrested and end up in the NYPD database. They may spend hours leaving their mark in the most visible of locations, with subway cars being the ultimate prize.

"For the serious graffiti artists, who want to get out there and make their mark, the holy grail is still the subway train," said Lt. Michael Schaeffer. "That's kind of where it all started."

Most suspects arrested for graffiti in the city are teenage boys, and they come from all economic and ethnic backgrounds. "It's a mixed bag, honestly," Schaeffer said. "You have kids from good homes and good families doing this stuff, and their parents are beside themselves."

Schaeffer said the offense doesn't generally lead to more violent crime. However, the task force recently arrested two teenagers for gang-related graffiti and uncovered illegal handguns. Penalties can be increased if vandals write gang symbols, swastikas and other hate images in their graffiti.

An arrest and conviction may not deter graffiti writers, police said, because tagging after being convicted is considered a badge of honor. And vanity also can be helpful to officers — many vandals these days videotape the act, set it to pumping club music, and post it on MySpace or Facebook. "MySpace accounts do these guys in every time; it's incredible," Schaeffer said. "They just love to show it off."

See the full story: <http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5hIK3W2iQg0flgAxhYIQuZWaXI5qwD915EGT00>



Prison Gang Member Gets 22 Years for Plotting California Attacks

Article published by the Associated Press

06/23/2008 Santa Ana, CA | A man accused of plotting from prison to attack military sites, synagogues and other targets in California has been sentenced to 22 years behind bars.

Levar Haley Washington pleaded guilty last year to conspiring to levy war against the United States and using a firearm to further the conspiracy. Prosecutors said he was part of a prison gang cell of radical Muslims that planned attacks in the Los Angeles area.

Two co-defendants also pleaded guilty to the terrorism conspiracy charge and will be sentenced later this summer. A fourth man was found unfit to stand trial and is being treated in a federal psychiatric facility.



Special Feature



Meth Probe Shines Light on Biker Gang

Article published by the Times

06/29/2008 Hammond, IN | Although much of the public attention on illegal gang activity in recent years has focused on urban street gangs, a sweeping drug sting this week aims to show that a more rural menace has not gone away. The Invaders, an outlaw motorcycle gang founded in Northwest Indiana, was spotlighted Tuesday during the mass take down of several dozen people in the region in an alleged methamphetamine ring spanning several states.

One of the top figures in the 65-count federal indictment is Timothy "Beefy" Bartruff, who once was the national president of the Invaders. Bartruff, 50, of Kouts, was sentenced to 10 years in prison in the 1980s for dealing in methamphetamines -- specifically "crank," a drug that officials say was considered an alternative to the more popular illicit drugs at the time.

Assistant U.S. Attorney David Nozick said Thursday that Bartruff's associates today use what is known as the "Nazi method" of producing methamphetamines, synthesizing the drug from anhydrous ammonia, cold pills, battery acid and camping lantern fuel.

One of the homes in Kouts where the drugs were being manufactured had collectors knives hanging on the wall bearing the Invaders logo as well as a black flag emblazoned with the slogan, "Support your local Invaders," Special Agent Michael Burke said.



"Traditionally, back in the '70s and '80s, the outlaw motorcycle gangs were some of the primary traffickers of methamphetamines," said Roxann Ryan, a criminal intelligence analyst in Iowa who is affiliated with the International Outlaw Motorcycle Gang Investigators Association. "Any criminal group will continue to operate as long as they can make money."

Former Invader member Ronald Kubiak, 50, was killed June 8 in a mysterious beating outside of a Hessville bar in an unsolved homicide. He died from severe head wounds. A police source has confirmed that authorities are investigating whether Kubiak had any recent connection to the gang, although Kubiak was believed to have been out of the organization for more than a decade.

Though Bartruff is considered a central figure in the indictment, it's not clear whether he has been arrested. He has not been assigned a public defender, but he was not named as one of the people still at large in the sting. It's also not clear whether Bartruff has handed off the mantle of national Invaders president to someone else. Federal officials declined to comment.

Federal records indicate the Invaders were formed in the 1960s in Gary but over the years evolved a base of operations in Cedar Lake. They're known for wearing jackets with patches depicting a green monster riding a motorcycle. Cedar Lake Police Chief Roger Patz said Friday the town has not had any problems with the group in some time, and officials believe the members may have moved operations to rural areas to the south and east. "Cedar Lake is no longer Invaders headquarters as far as we know," Patz said. "We have had no criminal activity attributed to them in a number of years."

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 newsletters and information.

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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