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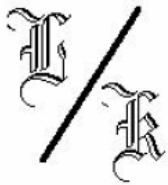
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INDIANA STATE

East Chicago Man Charged with Two Murders

02/09/2006 Hammond, IN | Sealed indictments were opened Wednesday with the arrest of an East Chicago man charged in a three-year-old Hessville double homicide. Jesse R. Ramirez, 26, of 5031 Reading Ave., is in Lake County Jail without bond. He was charged with two counts of murder in the shooting deaths of Jose "Joey" Escobedo Jr., 28, and Quinton Griffith, 20, outside the former Brothers Two tavern early Sept. 6, 2002.



Charges were filed Jan. 11, but the affidavits were sealed to avoid alerting Ramirez, who has lived in several parts of the country since the shootings of the Hammond men near the corner of Kennedy Avenue and 165th Street in Hammond. "It was a real regional effort," said Detective Sgt. Wendy Jo Gardner. "The suspect has family in several states and Mexico." Police in Louisiana -- where Ramirez was recently working -- and Texas, Tennessee, Chicago and the U.S. Border Patrol were all looking for him, said Sgt. A. Llanes, Gardner's partner. With Capt. Michael Solan, the pair has worked on the case since February 2004. Witnesses told police Ramirez, a Gangster Disciple gang member, carried a handgun the night of the shootings and said the gun was for any rival Latin King members he encountered. After visiting two taverns in East Chicago, Ramirez and several others ended up at

Brothers Two at 2:30 a.m., just as last call was announced. In the tavern's parking lot, Ramirez accused Griffith, assistant manager at a nearby McDonald's restaurant, of Latin Kings membership.

Source: The Times

Full Story: http://www.thetimesonline.com/articles/2006/02/09/news/lake_county/039995576ebd047486257110001684d9.txt

Elkhart County Looks for Solutions to End Gang Violence

02/24/06 Goshen, IN | On the heels of tragic incident last weekend, Goshen Police, Elkhart County and Elkhart Police are banded together in a fight against gangs. Last Sunday morning, 14-year-old Rojelio Reyes was fatally shot near the intersection of US 33 and Greene Road in Goshen. A second teen, 18-year-old Saul Rodriguez was also shot, and remains hospitalized. Six teens are currently in police custody, in connection with the shooting. The shooting has made many in Elkhart County aware of a problem. Although the incident happened far from the Goshen teen nightclub, La Bamba, it's forcing the owner to make several changes. Goshen, Chief of Police Gary Penland stated, "For them, I guess it's all about respect, from their peers. But one thing I know, they're not showing respect for anyone in their community."



A photo from the web of a squad car parked while police are looking for evidence related to the death of a 14 year old.

Source: *WNDU Channel 16*

Full Story: http://www.wndu.com/news/022006/news_48207.php

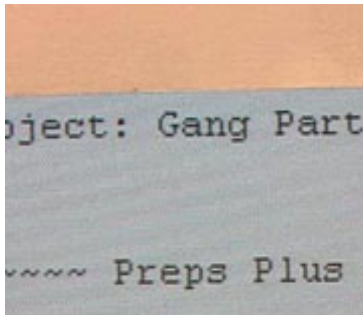
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http://wndu.com/news/022006/news_48091.php

<http://www.etruth.com/News/Content.aspx?ID=367509&page=>

School Concerned About Possible Gang Violence at Parties



02/03/06 Indianapolis, IN | There's alarming news for parents Friday: Police are concerned about large multi-school parties that may be crashed by gangs this weekend. Students from Cathedral and possibly other schools have recently been beaten up at big parties. "The students who were there were attacked physically," said David Worland, Cathedral High School principal. Principal Worland says suspected gang members recently beat up two of his students. While one of the students was not hurt badly, "the other was injured enough to be sent to the hospital for a while."

Source: *Wish TV Channel 8*

Full Story: <http://www.wishtv.com/Global/story.asp?S=4454030&nav=0Ra7>

Central American Gangs Operating in Indiana

02/24/06 Terre Haute, IN | El Salvador-based gangs are increasing their interests to become a U.S.-based clique, and their criminal and organizational skills are improving, Carlos Ponce, director of the Center for Criminology and Police Sciences of the National Civil Police of El Salvador, said Wednesday at the Central American Gangs Conference at ISU. The conference, sponsored by department of criminology, was from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in Dede II and provided police officers, public agencies, professors and students with a chance to share information of Central American gangs, now operating in Indiana. Ponce, an El Salvador native and ISU graduate with a master's in criminology, presented his research about two main Latino gangs operating in Indiana: Mara Salvatrucha, (MS-13) and 18th Street gangs. He also discussed the brief history and policing information of El Salvador. "Most gang members are illegal immigrants and commit crimes," Ponce said. "Someone says 'just send them back to home'. They go back to Central America, commit crimes, and then come back to the U.S." with other gang members. Salvadorian gangs have a domestic and transnational network, Ponce said, so we need to look at a large criminal network to justify our public life.



Photo from Indiana Statesman's Photo editor Sam Allen
Carlos E. Ponce, director of the Center for Criminology and Police Sciences of the National Civil Police of El Salvador, said El Salvador-based gangs are moving into the United States and Indiana.

Source: Indiana Statesman

Full Story: http://www.indianastatesman.com/vnews/display.v/ART/2006/02/24/43fe7c6eef8a1?in_archive=1

Regional

Gang Fight Puts Local School On Lockdown: Fist Fight, No Weapons Used

02/03/06 CHICAGO, IL | Police arrested 19 people at the scene of a large fight that disrupted class at after rival gang members clashed at a Southeast Side school Friday afternoon. The fight was between two groups of students and broke out on the second floor of the Chicago Vocational Career Academy at 87th and Merrill. It was a fist fight. No weapons were used. Several students apparently suffered minor injuries. Larry Langford with the Chicago Fire Department said there was only one hospital transport, an employee at the school who was sprayed in the face with a chemical and taken to a nearby hospital. He did not know what kind of employee the person was, who sprayed him or her or which hospital the employee was taken to. He added that the injuries were not life threatening. CPS spokesman Malone Edwards says a fight broke out off school grounds Thursday between seniors and sophomores. That same fight broke out again today between the same group of students on the second floor of the school. "It started yesterday.



A photo provided on the website of CBS

It was right at the school. They brought it back today” said student Jazmin King. "When the fire drill rung, that’s when everybody came out here and started fighting."

Source: CBS 2 Chicago

Full Story: http://cbs2chicago.com/seenon/local_story_034134804.html

Cops Target Schools with Gang Trouble

02/06/06 Chicago, IL | Chicago Police plan to show a higher profile at schools experiencing increased gang activity as part of a new safety program to be unveiled today.

The initiative will be presented at Schurz High School, which had three students wounded last week in a shooting that took place at a nearby convenience store just before classes began.

Source: Chicago Sun-Times

Full Story: <http://www.suntimes.com/output/news/cst-nws-gangs06.html>

Ceasefire Sought Gang War Escalates

02/22/06 Maywood, IL | A four-day spree of violence in Maywood ended with seven people being shot - one fatally. Although no motives have been determined and no one is in custody in connection with the four shootings, they are all believed to be gang-related. "I believe that it's a gang war taking place," said Pirsia Allen, Maywood police spokesman. Allen said Cook County Sheriff's deputies have been asked to assist Maywood police in doing "street suppression." "We're going to get them from hanging out on the corner and checking individuals in groups of people or in vehicles," he said. "Any suspicious activity we're going to be investigating in an attempt to make some arrests in the shootings that have been taking place." CeaseFire, a nonprofit, anti-violence organization, has been reacting to the recent violence, said member Janice Mitchell-Bolling. The group has volunteers called "violence interrupters" who directly interact with gang members on the street. "We're just trying to get people to stop shooting and get some truces," Mitchell-Bolling said. "There are some things going on, but we're not really at a point to talk about it because we're trying to get some things confirmed."

Source: Maywood Herald

Full Story: <http://archives.pioneerlocal.com/cgi-bin/ppo-story/archives/localnews/2006/ma/02-22-06-839096.html>

30 Battle with Clubs in Southwest Side Gang Fight

02/25/06 CHICAGO, IL | A gang-related street fight between 30 men on the Southwest Side Friday afternoon resulted in the arrests of four men, charged with reckless conduct.

Police were notified at about 3:15 p.m. of the disturbance in the 4000 block of W. 55th Street and

tried to subdue the men -- described as Black and Hispanic -- who were armed with bats and clubs, said Police News Affairs Officer David Banks.

Source: CBS 2 Chicago

Full Story: http://cbs2chicago.com/topstories/local_story_056081818.html

National

FBI Calls for Teamwork as Thugs Seek Foothold

02/17/06 New Orleans | The winds of Hurricane Katrina might have blown New Orleans' violent yet unsophisticated street gangs out of town. But the FBI warns that it's only a matter of time before more brutal and better-organized criminal groups, some from outside the state and some from outside of the country, try to fill the void. The FBI invited more than 200 officers from local, state and national law enforcement agencies to a seminar Thursday in Metairie to discuss the threat, and in his introduction to the packed house, Jim Bernazzani, special agent in charge of the New Orleans field office, identified some of the potential criminal carpetbaggers as Russian organized crime, the Latin Kings and MS-13, an ultra-violent Latin American gang already menacing 23 states with drug and firearms trafficking. MS-13, or Mara Salvatrucha, has dubiously earned its own federal task force. "There are going to be a lot of players in town," Bernazzani said. "We're going to have a full plate, no question about it." Last week, the St. Bernard Parish Sheriff's Office booked a former MS-13 member with marijuana possession, said Maj. John Doran, head of the Special Criminal Investigations Division. "The stories this guy was telling," Doran said. "Bad stuff contract killings. We're not used to anything like that around here." And in Kenner, gang graffiti is popping up on some buildings, including "MS-13" painted on a store on Williams Boulevard. Capt. James Gallagher, a Police Department spokesman, said there's been no indication that the tagging is connected to actual gang activity. Bernazzani agreed there's no information that multinational gangs are here in any organized fashion. Most likely, individual members are here to make a quick buck in the reconstruction boom, sprinkled among the more than 50,000 Latin American workers in town to help after the storm, he said.



Source: The Times-Picayenne

Full Story: <http://www.nola.com/news/t-p/metro/index.ssf?/base/news-13/11401606985020.xml>

L.A.'s Latest Export: Gangs

02/10/06 Los Angeles, CA | Los Angeles has long fed the global popular culture with TV and films, but now the city is in the spotlight for a new, more lethal export: Hispanic street-gang violence. Gangs certainly aren't new. But as the National Geographic Channel's upcoming (Played 02/12/06, Encore 03/26/06) documentary "Explorer: World's Most Dangerous Gang" illustrates, the allure of all things from the Golden State is giving this familiar story a particularly sinister new spin. "There's an unintended



phenomenon in the gang culture," says Al Valdez, a supervisor in the Orange County District Attorney's Gang Unit. "If you're [a gang member] from Los Angeles or Southern California and you end up in another part of the country or another part of the world, you're considered a big fish in a little pond because you're from L.A."

http://blogs.nationalgeographic.com/channel/blog/2006/01/explorer_gangs.html

Source: The Christian Science Monitor

Full Story: <http://search.csmonitor.com/2006/0210/p15s01-altv.html>

Claim: 2 Coasts, 1 Gang: Two Witnesses at Murder Trial Testify Long Island Bloods are Directly Connected to Group in Los Angeles

02/11/06 Long Island, NY | From the witness stand of a federal murder trial in Central Islip this week, the sophistication of the Bloods gang on Long Island has been unveiled in the baritone testimony of two gang leaders. Prosecution witnesses Gregory Key and Damien Russell have not only told jurors that defendant and fellow Blood Laval Farmer is responsible for the 2001 killing of 14-year-old Jose White in Roosevelt. They are the first Bloods leaders to say Long Island sets, or chapters, have direct ties to Bloods in Los Angeles. "You just can't come from nowhere and make your own Bloods set," said Russell, in a deep voice that sometimes caused the courtroom's audio speakers to distort. "It has to be sanctioned from higher up." But even as Key, of the Little Brick Gangsta Lanes Bloods in Glen Cove, and Russell, of the Velt Gangsta Lanes Bloods in Roosevelt, outlined strong connections with California sets of the gang, some experts said the men were exaggerating.

Source: Newsday

Full Story: <http://www.newsday.com/news/local/longisland/ny-limurd114622586feb11,0,7187172.story> (Article no longer free.)



6 Arrests Tied to E. African Gang: Group had been Active in UW Area, Authorities Say

02/14/06 Seattle, WA | The arrest of key members has dealt a blow to a gang of African immigrants who allegedly terrorized University of Washington students and others in the University District. At a news conference Monday, officials with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the FBI, the U.S. Attorney's Office and Seattle police announced the arrests of six men with connections to the East African Posse. "We think we've made a significant impact," said Kelvin Crenshaw, special agent in charge of the ATF's Seattle field division. The gang has been active in the Seattle region for years, police said. Its members, they said, include naturalized citizens from Somalia, Ethiopia and Eritrea. In recent months, gang members and their associates have been linked to drug dealing, shootings and other violent crimes in the neighborhoods around the UW. The slaying of Demas Tesfay, 21, in the U District in May also is considered gang-related, police said. The fatal shooting remains unsolved.

Source: Seattle Post-Intelligencer

Full Story: http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/local/259429_gangarrests14.html

Employment can Lead Gang Members to a Better Place

02/16/06 Mendocino County, CA | Jobs, not jails was the rallying cry behind Jesuit priest Father Gregory Boyle and 500 mothers from gang-filled project housing in Los Angeles when they went looking for a solution to the violence in their community. Twenty years later, Homeboy Industries, the program Boyle founded, has given jobs to more than 500 former gang members. "If you give them a job, it gives them a reason to get up in the morning and not engage in this activity," Boyle said. "It's the job that leads them to a better place."

Boyle spoke with community and business leaders Wednesday about how job programs can be used to quell gang violence. Jobs provide community and a sense of purpose in people who have been marginalized by society, he said. Abandoning and criminalizing youth is the worst thing to do in this situation, Boyle said. Demonizing young people who engage in gang activities to focus on preventing similar activity in those 14 years old and younger will never work because those who have been written off will have greater influence, he said.

Source: Ukiah Daily Journal

Full Story: <http://www.ukiahdailyjournal.com/Stories/0,1413,91~3089~3240527,00.html>

International

Gangs are Lacing Cannabis with P in a Bid to Hook Youngsters on the Class A drug

(In New Zealand "P" is an name used for methamphetamine)

03/01/06 Auckland, New Zealand |Auckland police inspector Jim Wilson says it's a way of introducing people to the "hardcore drug scene". "People need to realise the whole drug scene is controlled by organised criminals, ie gang members. "They are unscrupulous and are happy to supply young people with drugs." Cannabis is a class C drug unless processed as hash or hash oil. It then becomes class B. Mr Wilson says people might not realise the danger involved in buying what is seen as a softer drug. "They are dealing with gang members and organised criminals ultimately. Those people are involved in all sorts of serious crime across the board. "Those gang members will take retribution if drug deals go bad." Mr Wilson says P is a big problem but cannabis abuse is still rife. Police have made more than 70 arrests in a blitz on dealers in the western part of the Auckland district. The area includes Balmoral, Blockhouse Bay, Hillsborough and Mt Roskill. "Police have identified the top 10 tinny houses in the area and executed search warrants. "As a result, people have been charged with offences including cannabis cultivation, possession and dealing." Drug and alcohol treatment centre Odyssey House chief executive Chris Kalin says she hasn't heard of cannabis being laced with P. But she says it's a big concern. "It exposes the drug to a wider audience and that's a concern." Mr Wilson says anyone who knows of drug dealers in their community should contact the police. "If they don't want to tolerate it in the community then phone the police to stamp it out."



Source: Stuff.co.nz

Related Story: <http://www.newstalkzb.co.nz/newsdetail1.asp?storyID=90714>



Fighting Gangs with Reality TV

02/23/06 MEXICO CITY | As reality shows go, Guatemala's "Desafio 10" would seem destined to be a flop: 10 strangers live in a house for two weeks where they study basic accounting, marketing and customer service. Cameras roll, the young men become friends, some go into business together. Pretty boring stuff until you realize the 10 participants are former members of some of the most infamous gangs in the Americas -- Mara Salvatrucha, 18th Street, White Fence and North Hollywood. These are the guys that "everybody wants dead or in jail," said Harold Sibaja, the show's creator.



Source: Washington Post

Full Story: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/02/23/AR2006022301252.html>

Website of Interest



While the Internet can be a safe and convenient place to do business, scammers are out there in "cyber world" targeting unsuspecting consumers. The Looks Too Good To Be True.com website was built to educate you, the consumer, and help prevent you from becoming a victim of an Internet fraud scheme.

The website was developed and is maintained by a joint federal law enforcement and industry task force. Funding for the site has been provided by the United States Postal Inspection Service and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Key partners include the National White Collar Crime Center, Monster.com, Target and members of the Merchants Risk Council.

EDITOR'S NOTE

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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