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INDIANA STATE

Police Face The Next Wave of Gun Violence

04/30/2006 South Bend, IN | Within a 15-hour span last weekend, a would-be robber fatally shot South Bend police Cpl. Scott Severns; an apparent gang member fired a gun at another outside University Park Mall; and someone sprayed a northwest side apartment with bullets while the occupant slept. Saturday morning a 16-year-old girl was shot to death.



Coincidence? Or are young people in Michiana finding it easier to acquire guns? Neither is likely true, local experts say.

Joseph S. Van Bokkelen, U.S. Attorney for Indiana's Northern District, said he thinks illegally obtaining guns in the area actually has become harder in recent years, thanks to Project Disarm, a joint federal/local police task force that launched two years ago this month to tackle gun-related crimes.

Source: South Bend Tribune

Full Story:

<http://southbendtribune.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060430/News01/604300399/-1/NEWS/CAT=News01>

Portage Cop Tackles Guns, Gangs at School

05/02/06 Portage, IN | A piece of notebook paper found at Willowcreek Middle School has Cpl. Troy Williams concerned.

The Portage Townships Schools resource officer said doodles on the paper found recently represent the Gangster Disciples street gang and a symbol for marijuana.



So beginning today, Williams will visit eighth-grade students around the district, three groups at a time, to educate them about the presence of gangs and drugs within the Portage youth community.

He also is putting together an anti-gang pamphlet he plans to distribute to parents of incoming Portage High School students. The brochure would include tips for parents on warning signs, what to do if their child is involved with gangs -- and reasons why young people join them.

Source: The Times

Full Story:

http://www.thetimesonline.com/articles/2006/05/02/news/porter_county/fa2a9b44b0a6496b86257162000f43e.txt

Crown Point Updates School Handbook

04/25/06 Crown Point, IN | The Crown Point High School board tweaked the student handbook for the 2006-07 school year at the high school and elementary level.



Most of the changes were minor, but some addressed issues of gang colors and drugs. For example, a section on the dress code at the high will be in bold and governs student conduct with regard to bullying, weapons, gangs and drugs. It says clothing shall be free of inflammatory, suggestive, racial or other inappropriate writing, advertisement or artwork.

School Board member Scott Angel questioned how that policy would be enforced. Crown Point High School Principal Ryan Pitcock said, "Every school in the country will tell you it's tough ... worst case scenario, we'll call the parents and ask them to bring in different clothes."

Source: The Times

Full Story:

http://www.thetimesonline.com/articles/2006/04/25/news/lake_county/f6bcb32c511c66b98625715b00174be0.txt

Regional

Gang Link Suspected in Death of Student

05/07/06 Minneapolis, MN | A Harvard College student home on vacation was fatally shot in the chest in Minneapolis this week while spray-painting graffiti on someone's house in a crime police said could be gang-related.



Clarence Duane Meat, 24, an economics major who was expected to graduate next year, was shot as he and a friend spray-painted figures and letters on a home in a south Minneapolis neighborhood on Wednesday, Ronald Reier, a Minneapolis police spokesman, said yesterday. A 17-year-old male allegedly burst out of the home and fired numerous gunshots, hitting Meat in the chest, Reier said.

Meat was taken to the Hennepin Medical County Center by his friend at 10:15 a.m., Reier said. He was pronounced dead shortly after, he said.

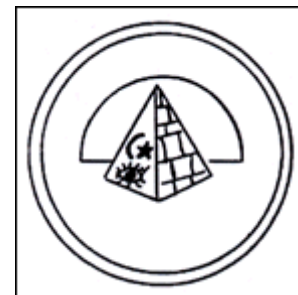
Source: Boston Globe

Full Story:

http://www.boston.com/news/local/articles/2006/05/07/gang_link_suspected_in_death_of_studen_t/

Murder Suspect Ordered Held Without Bail in Woman's Slaying

04/21/06 Chicago, IL | A woman chatting with her identical twin on the South Side was killed last weekend when gang members opened fire on a rival faction, Cook County prosecutors said.



On Thursday, a Cook County judge ordered one of the alleged shooters, Jesse Woods, 20, held without bail. Woods, an alleged member of the Black P Stone street gang, is charged with first-degree murder in the April 15 death of Carmella Murphy, 26.

Source: Chicago Sun-Times

Full Story: <http://www.suntimes.com/output/news/cst-nws-twin21.html>

National

U.S. Attorney General Touts Radio Ad Targeted at Members of Gangs

05/03/06 Denver, CO | U.S. Attorney General Alberto Gonzales unveiled a new radio ad Tuesday aimed at reminding gang members that their families will suffer if they go to prison.



"Some sounds of gang violence don't start until the day you're sentenced," a male voice intones against the background sound of someone sobbing. The ad then mentions heartbroken families, brothers growing up alone, sisters afraid - that reference backed by the sound of breaking glass - and mothers hoping their children will be safe and counting the days until their release from prison.

"Your family starts serving the true hard time with you," the voice says. "Gun crimes hit home."

Gonzales said that radio ad and another, which he did not play, were made in cooperation with the Ad Council.

The attorney general delivered the keynote speech Tuesday morning at the annual national conference of Project Safe Neighborhoods, in which federal prosecutors and law enforcement officers work with their state and local counterparts to crack down on gangs and gun crimes. More than 1,300 people are attending the event through Thursday at the Colorado Convention Center.

Gonzales also ordered every U.S. attorney to convene a local "gang prevention summit" to study ways to eliminate violent criminal gangs.

"These summits will bring together law enforcement and community leaders to discuss best practices, identify gaps in services and create a prevention plan to target at-risk youth within their individual communities," Gonzales said.

He also announced that the U.S. Justice Department will release about \$30 million of grants and services to help with gang and gun crime prevention nationwide.

Source: Rocky Mountain News.com

Full Story:

http://www.rockymountainnews.com/drmn/local/article/0,1299,DRMN_15_4669082,00.html

Gangs in Md. Throw Rivals a Cyberpunch

04/14/06 Prince George’s County, MD | The threat from the Washington area gang Street Thug Criminals was very clear: "We swore we were going to get the *bleep* that did this and we are. RIP Antonio."

It was delivered the way almost everything seems to be these days: on a Web page.



The Street Thug Criminals have an Internet page, and they used it to warn a rival Langley Park gang that Antonio's death would be avenged.

Police call it "cyberbanging" -- gang members openly bragging about affiliations, skipping school, getting high and battling rival gangs.

Many postings deal with Mara Salvatrucha, or MS-13, a Latino gang that has been spreading quickly across the Washington region in recent years.

Source: The Washington Post

Full Story: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/04/13/AR2006041301911.html>

What State Laws Do to Curb Gangs

04/28/06 Tacoma, WA | Nationally, trends in anti-gang laws follow two paths. They come from Chicago and California, the nation’s gang strongholds.

In the 1990s, Chicago’s legislation targeted “purposeless loitering,” aiming at gangsters who stake out a piece of ground and hang out.

The city’s early efforts ran aground in federal courts, where judges ruled the laws violated the constitutional right to assemble.

California legislators took a different tack, using public nuisance statutes to hammer gang activity. Nuisance laws can be used to evict gangsters from homes used for criminal activity, or from public areas where gang activity causes a clear disruption.



AP/WIDE

Tacoma leaders lean toward the California model. During a January meeting of East Side residents, City Councilman Rick Talbert pointed to nuisance ordinances as a key weapon in the city's anti-gang arsenal.

In Washington, state statutes targeting gang-related activity are scarce. One criminal statute creates a penalty for gang intimidation: threatening someone who refuses to join a gang or tries to withdraw from it. Another defines drive-by shooting as a crime.

A budget-based state law provides grants for anti-gang programs in schools. Another school-centered statute allows suspension or expulsion for gang activity. Two laws in the landlord-tenant codes allow tenants to petition for eviction of suspected gangsters, and give landlords the right to evict on that basis.

Source: The News Tribune.com

Full Story: <http://www.thenewstribune.com/news/local/story/5698955p-5106151c.html>

Police Target Violent New Gang of Middle Schoolers

04/30/06 Virginia Beach, VA | Police on Thursday raided a townhome looking for a stolen bicycle and evidence detailing the workings of a new and violent gang populated by middle-school students, according to court records.



The gang is believed responsible for the daylight assault and attempted robbery of a 12-year-old boy Sunday who was confronted at knifepoint in a city park near the intersection of First Colonial Road and Virginia Beach Boulevard.

Mohamed Saddam said he was riding his bicycle home after a baseball game when a group of "Young Guns" members surrounded him. Mohamed said he managed to pedal away, but a short time later, the gang found him near his house.

He said he escaped inside but the gang still pursued, trying to shove past his mother who guarded the door.

"They came to my door, physically assaulted my mom, pushing her, shoving her, trying to get to me," he said.

A police affidavit continued: "A third suspect took the victim's bike.... The gang of juveniles then went into the street and yelled 'young guns forever' and started shouting obscenities and flashing gang signs."

Source: www.wtkr.com

Full Story: <http://www.wtkr.com/Global/story.asp?S=4831078&nav=ZolHbyvj>

Law Enforcement Discuss Gang Activity

04/28/06 Baton Rouge, LA | Members of some nationally affiliated gangs are coming to Louisiana to look for work following Hurricane Katrina, to find new members and to continue their lives of drugs and violence, officials said Thursday.

And while U.S. Attorney David Dugas said he hasn't seen signs that gangs are trying to organize, law enforcement officials are training this week in Baton Rouge and Shreveport to better prepare themselves to deal with gangs.

Dugas said Attorney General Alberto Gonzales directed the U.S. Attorney's Office to form an anti-gang initiative.

"I think it's timely that it's happening now because of Katrina," Dugas said.

With an influx of people from around the country and Latin and Central America coming to Louisiana to work after last year's hurricanes, Dugas said he and others are concerned that some of them have ties to national gangs.

Source: *The Advocate*

Full Story: <http://www.2theadvocate.com/news/police/2709046.html>

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.

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