



OFFICE OF
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KITSAP COUNTY SHERIFF

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For immediate release:
KCSO news release #06-014 / 125

Friday, March 24, 2006

Central Kitsap shooting investigation reveals threat

Ref: (1) Kitsap County Sheriff's Office news release #06-012, dated March 16, 2006
(2) Kitsap County Sheriff's Office news release #06-013, dated March 23, 2006

Silverdale, Wash. – Kitsap County Sheriff's detectives, during the course of their investigation into the accidental shooting of a Central Kitsap teenager, have developed information that an alleged plan was being formulated that involved actions to take firearms to a Central Kitsap school with the intent to cause harm.

Background:

Sheriff's patrol deputies responded to a report of a gunshot injury to a 14 year-old youth, which occurred at a private residence in the Woodcrest community neighborhood, north of Silverdale, March 16. Deputies found that the victim had sustained a single gunshot injury to the abdomen. The youth was airlifted to Mary Bridge Children's Hospital, Tacoma, where he underwent surgery. The victim remains hospitalized in stable condition.

While at the scene of the shooting Sheriff's detectives recovered a 9mm semi-automatic handgun, the weapon involved in the shooting. The gun is reported to belong to the male head of household.

The subsequent investigation into this shooting resulted in the arrest, Wednesday, of the person responsible, a 14 year-old male juvenile who lived at the residence. This individual was booked into juvenile detention for assault, 3rd degree and reckless endangerment. The suspect appeared in Kitsap County Juvenile Court, yesterday, where he was charged with assault, 3rd degree and unlawful possession of a firearm.

Following his arraignment, the court released the suspect into the custody of his parents.

As part of their continuing investigation, Sheriff's detectives developed information that the arrested suspect, possibly in conjunction with other juveniles, had taken deliberate steps to follow-through with a plan to intentionally disrupt the routine of Central Kitsap Junior High School and to cause harm to students, faculty and staff.

The principal and staff of Central Kitsap Junior High School, together with the superintendent and administration of Central Kitsap School District, are fully involved in the on-going investigation.

"Regarding an allegation of this nature, my primary concern is for the personal safety of potential victims," said Sheriff Steve Boyer. "To meet this concern the Sheriff's Office will investigate extensively and determine the facts; to involve the prosecutor's office for guidance on legal issues, and to work closely with the Central Kitsap School District to reduce the amount of misinformation that may circulate."

Details of the alleged plan are not being released at this time.

Sheriff's detectives are still investigating all aspects of the shooting injury and the alleged plan, but are confident that any immediate threat has been contained.

Persons with information concerning the shooting incident, or the alleged plan to cause harm to Central Kitsap Junior High School students, faculty or staff, are asked to contact Detective Roger Howerton at (360) 337-5611.

Those wishing to remain anonymous may contact Crime Stoppers of Puget Sound at 1-800-CRIME-13.

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