

6 teenage girls face charges after bogus threat

BY JILL HOCKMAN
STAFF WRITER
jhockman@theobserver.com

Police are seeking criminal charges against six teenage girls accused of being responsible for calling in a bogus bomb threat to Walled Lake Central High School on Tuesday.

The girls, who range in age from 15 to 17, could be charged with false reporting of a bombing, according to chief deputy prosecutor John O'Brien of the Oakland County Prosecutor's Office. Only one girl made the call, but police believe all were involved in planning the hoax. The 17-year-old is considered an adult by the court system, and could face up to four years in prison if convicted of the crime, O'Brien said.

The younger girls - still juveniles in the eyes of the court - would face juvenile probation until their 19th or 21st birthdays, O'Brien said.

Meanwhile, security will be tight at Walled Lake Western High School today and Monday following an unrelated incident in which a police radio code for homicide and the date "May 10" were found scrawled on a bathroom wall.

Parents pitch in

On Monday, members of Western High School's Parent-Teacher Organization will act as extra security guards.

P.T.S.A. president Mary Ellen Troit said she was hoping for 25 to 30 parent volunteers to help police and school administrators keep the school safe. "We want

to make it as normal a day as possible," she said.

On Friday, she still wasn't sure whether two of her children would attend classes at the school on Monday. "We are discussing it as a family," she said. "We're talking about the pros and cons, and the whole reason this situation has even arisen. We're very sad about it."

School security was stepped-up after the graffiti was found last week. Police presence at the school was increased, and all but one outside door remained locked during classes, school officials said.

School officials contained a "wax" in celebration of Mother's Day and chose the following winners: Grand Prize Winner

WALLED LAKE SCHOOLS

coats to class. The added security measures will be in effect indefinitely, school officials said.

Parent Marvin Hall felt confident his daughter and her Western classmates would be safe.

"I believe the Walled Lake School District is an exceptional school district, and I do have faith in them," he said. "If it can be safe, yes, it will be safe."

Police send message

Oakland County Sheriff Michael Bouchard said he is using the case of the Central students as an example of the department's zero-tolerance policy on threats of violence. In the wake of the recent school shooting in Littleton, Colo., police

throughout Oakland County are investigating numerous copycat pranks, he said.

Along with the incidents at the two Walled Lake high schools and at Seaholm High in Birmingham, Groves High School and Brother Rice also found threats written on school walls last week.

"For whatever reason, they're multiplying, not diminishing," Bouchard said during a Thursday afternoon press conference at the sheriff's department. All suspects will be prosecuted, he said.

"We want to send a message to anybody that's thinking about real violence or a false threat," he said. "We will pursue this and

any related cases vigorously."

Cases against the girls were presented Friday to the Oakland County Prosecutor's Office for review, according to John O'Brien, chief deputy prosecutor. The prosecutor's office will determine whether to file charges.

The girls were skipping school when one of them allegedly called in the threat, school officials said. The girls are suspended from school, and will be recommended for expulsion to the board of education.

Bouchard would not say how the girls were caught because he didn't want to tip off other pranksters to his department's investigative procedures.

Bouchard said the girls gave various reasons for the hoax - ranging from wanting school to be canceled to finding out whether school officials would take the threat seriously.

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Community Women chose the winners

The Farmington Area Community Women sponsored a "Draw a Picture of Mom Out" in celebration of Mother's Day and chose the following winners:

Heather Robak - Age 5
1st Prize Winner
Holt Anderson - Age 6

2nd Prize Winner
Marybeth Heathcote - Age 4
3rd Prize Winner
Meghan Carleton - Age 5

FARMINGTON NOTABLES

Woman of Achievement
Farmington Hills resident Verne Davis Anthony, senior vice president of Community Health

at St. John Health System was honored at the Anti-Discrimination League Women of Achievement Awards in April. The awards

honor Michigan women who exemplify the philosophy of the ADL through their efforts to promote and inspire greater understanding among the diverse communities of metropolitan Detroit.

President's Award
Leonard Kaplan of Farmington Hills, a professor in the Col-

lege of Education at Wayne State University, received a 1999 President's Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Resident joins Henry Ford

Farmington Hills resident Santhosh Madhavan, M.D., has joined the division of psychiatry within the Department of Neurology as a senior staff physician at Henry Ford Medical Center-Pierston Clinic in Grosse Pointe Farms.

Dr. Madhavan received his undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan and his medical degree from the Wayne State University School of Medicine. Psychiatrists are physicians that specialize in physical medicine and rehabilitation.

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