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POLICE LINE DO NOT CROSS POLICE LINE DO NOT CROSS



Booze cruise: Cops visit Hammond bars

Published by NwiTimes.com on March 8, 2010

HAMMOND, IN | State excise police and officers from Hammond's gang unit went bar hopping here Sunday morning and found violations that closed one establishment and cost four others hundreds of dollars in fines and lost business.

"They ain't serving no more, let's go home," one female patron said to another as they walked past a gauntlet of uniformed officers who were checking identification of the more than 50 guests of La Rosa's, 6817 Indianapolis Blvd., in the city's Woodmar section.

Hammond Police Chief Brian Miller and several officers surrounded a man identified as LaRosa's owner. Miller said the owner previously had agreed to tone down the music, install ID card scanners and metal wands to search for weapons and close the bar earlier after a spate of complaints. "Where are all the changes you promised?" Miller asked.

Miller warned that LaRosa's and several other taps may be closed as public nuisances as was McTavern's Lounge and Deli, 7443 Indianapolis Blvd., last month.

The Lake County Alcoholic Beverage Board denied renewal of its liquor license following public protests over gang violence and two homicides on and around McTaverns' property in the past two years.

During the police reconnaissance early Sunday, Miller said bars in Hammond that refuse to comply with the law will face strict enforcement. "There is a huge correlation between alcohol and violent crimes," he said.





He said his department and the excise police, who enforce state alcohol regulations, were intent on stopping repeated acts of violence in and outside bars frequented by street gangs, as well as complaints about early morning noise, gunshots, fights and garbage strewn around neighborhoods.

Miller said he expects more liquored-fueled trouble as alcohol sales increase. "We have about 100 establishments in a city that should only have 50," he said.

Excise police reported their arrests outside Gary taverns increased substantially last year.

About 20 members of the Hammond Police Department's gang unit and excise officers started their compliance review about midnight Sunday at Jen's Apartment, formerly known as the Diamond Tap, at 1701 Indianapolis Blvd.

Miller said police were called to a gang fight outside the bar recently, and city and excise police raided it May 5 for nude dancing promoted over the Internet as a Cinco de Porno event.

Some 15 customers nonchalantly continued talking among themselves Sunday over loud rock music while officers carded them and searched the bar's liquor stock. Officers carted away 10 boxes of beer and a half-empty bottle of Wild Turkey bourbon, which apparently were in violation of the state's retail-to-retail ban on bars buying liquor outside of approved wholesalers.

Officers next rolled up on the Robertsdale Inn, formerly the Old Paradise Lounge, in the Five Points area, near Horseshoe Casino. Officers chased and searched a man who ran inside when he saw the blue-and-red lights of the squad cars. "Hands out of your pockets, Lets see your hands," officers shouted.

Inside the small bar, patrons looked uneasy as the disc jockey stopped the music. Many left after being carded. A man standing outside glowering at officers said he was an owner and complained, "I ain't mad, but why give the bar bad publicity?"

The police caravan moved to Milski's Pub., 4503 Hohman Ave., where excise police ordered it closed when they found the barkeeper's state license had expired and the establishment had let people drink and leave without paying.

Some 40 patrons thronged the Copper Penny, 7015 Kennedy Ave. where tables were crowded with empty bottles. Patrons watched the officers work through the establishment with bemusement, shouting to the DJ to start the music back up.

Less festive was a young woman police escorted outside and questioned. She was arrested for being a minor in a tavern and was being investigated on suspicion of possessing prescription drugs without a prescription.

Inside, excise officers found about \$700 worth of untaxed liquor purchased in Illinois. The crowd cheered loudly when officers left.

"I wasn't feeling the love in there," Miller said. Nevertheless, he concluded, "I thought our compliance run was very successful."



Toddler shot in drive-by shooting

Published by Post-Trib.com on April 1, 2010

GARY, IN | A 17-month-old baby shot in Glen Park late Wednesday is recovering at a Chicago hospital, police said. Kimora Lashay Unique Jones, who lives in the 5000 block of Massachusetts Street, fell victim to a drive-by shooting in the 3900 block of Madison Street, Cpl. Gabrielle King said.

Her baby sitter, Tekilah Black, 20, of the 7400 block of Hendricks Street in Merrillville, was also injured in the shooting, according to reports. King said Kimora's mother dropped the girl off at Black's home about 3:15 p.m. Several hours later, Black decided to take Kimora with her to her grandmother's home in the 3900 block of Madison.

As Black was backing into her grandmother's driveway, King said, a white car driving southbound passed by. A passenger used a silver handgun to fire six shots toward Black's car, King said. The toddler was hit once in the abdomen, according to reports. Black might have been grazed by a bullet, as she reported having cuts and scrapes on her right arm.

When Black realized the baby had been hit, King said, she started driving toward the hospital and called police. King said officers intercepted Black's car, escorting it to the Methodist Hospitals Northlake and calling for an ambulance. That ambulance caught up with Black and the officers at 11th Avenue and Harrison Street, King said, and it carried the child the rest of the way to the hospital.

Kimora was taken to University of Chicago Medical Center, and King said the baby is recovering from surgery. A woman who answered the phone in her hospital room declined to comment. James Black, Tekilah Black's grandfather, said his granddaughter "pops in every now and then" to visit. He said Tekilah Black is "OK," but he wasn't sure what prompted the shooting.

Guilty plea before murder trial begins

Published by News-Sentinel.com on March 2, 2010

FORT WAYNE, IN | In a surprising turn of events, Mack E. Porter pleaded guilty to murder Monday, one day before his trial was set to begin in Allen Superior Court.

Porter, 22, formerly of the 1000 block of Milton Street, entered his plea at an unscheduled court appearance Monday morning before Judge John Surbeck. According to the deal, Porter will serve no more than 45 years in prison for the March 31, 2008, fatal shooting of Randall D. Paris.

Additional charges of felonious carrying a handgun without a license and criminal recklessness will be dismissed as part of the bargain, which contains a key clause that will force Porter to testify against his accused accomplice in an impending trial.

Porter, a known member of the D-Boys street gang, Porter and Fort Wayne resident Kevin R. Franklin, of the 2900 block of Schele Avenue, are accused of ambushing Paris, 17, as he walked by the intersection of Lillie Street and McKinnie Avenue.

Fort Wayne Police said Paris' brother was a member of PAC, a rival gang of the D-Boys, and the killing was in retaliation for the killing of D-Boy Contrell L. Brown on March 24, 2008.

Franklin's case is still pending in Allen Superior Court. In that case, Porter must provide prosecutors with any



information he has. Should he rescind, the deal will be pulled. Porter was arrested March 25 in Milwaukee. He will be sentenced April 12.

Regional 

Chicago police seize \$17.5 million worth of cocaine, largest find this year

Published by Wqad.com on March 24, 2010

CHICAGO, IL | Chicago police say they have seized cocaine with a street value of \$17.5 million — the largest find by the department so far this year.

Police narcotics officers on Wednesday displayed 42 packages of cocaine weighing 1 kilogram apiece, \$12,000 in cash and seven guns.

They say they arrested a member of one of the city's most notorious street gangs, the Latin Kings, on charges of possession of cocaine with intent to distribute. Police say the cocaine, guns and money were found in the trunk of the man's vehicle.



Authorities say the cocaine was stuffed in boxes of soap that were perhaps put there to prevent police dogs from sniffing it out.

Police: Gang shooting wounds 4 on South Side

Published by ChicagoBreakingNews.com on March 19, 2010

CHICAGO, IL | Four people were shot and wounded Thursday night in an apparent intra-gang conflict in the city's Auburn Gresham community on the South Side, Chicago police said. The shooting occurred at about 7:30 p.m. near West 77th Street and South Loomis Boulevard.



The shooting was an apparent flare-up between warring factions of the Gangster Disciples street gang, one whose territory is west of Ashland Avenue, the other whose turf lies to the east, Chicago police said.

Police and fire officials said a 34-year-old man shot in the chest was in critical condition at Stroger Hospital this morning. A 24-year-old man shot in the shoulder was in good condition at Loyola University Hospital in Maywood.

Also, a 19 year-old man shot in the abdomen was at Stroger Hospital in stable condition, and an 18-year-old who showed up at a nearby police station with a leg wound was treated and released from Advocate Christ Medical Center in Oak Lawn.

Only the four were wounded, despite early reports of more victims, police said. Police said they still had few details because the shooting victims were uncooperative.

Father of 3-week-old charged with her murder

Published by wbbm780.com on March 22, 2010

MAYWOOD, IL | A gang member with a history of violence was denied bond Monday morning after being charged with the murder of his 3-week-old daughter, who died of blunt force trauma Saturday in their west suburban home.

Jorge Galvez, 19, was ordered held without bond Monday morning after being charged with two counts of first-

degree murder in the death of his 3-week-old daughter Liliana Galvez, Cook County State's Attorney's office spokeswoman Tandra Simonton.

A Sunday autopsy revealed Liliana died from blunt head trauma caused by child abuse and her death was ruled a homicide, the Cook County Medical Examiner's office said.

Emergency officials were called to the home on the 1600 block of S. 50th Ct. in Cicero at 2:19 p.m. Saturday and treated the baby, who was eventually pronounced dead at the scene, Cicero town spokesman Ray Hanania said. She was initially found unresponsive by her parents.



Galvez and his partner, Sabrina Banda, 19, were taken in for questioning, leading to the eventual charges against Galvez, according to a release from Cicero police.

Galvez and Banda initially told police they usually slept late and were accustomed to the baby waking them. On Saturday, the baby did not do so, Hanania said. The mother lived at the home with the infant, but it wasn't immediately clear how other family members who lived there were related, Hanania said.

An Illinois Dept. of Children and Family Services spokesperson was not available for comment Monday morning. Cicero Police Supt. Lori Lelis on Monday said Galvez was in a street gang and had a violent background, according to the release.

Stuck in mud, man chased by cops arrested

Published by ChicagoBreakingNews.com on March 11, 2010

PALATINE, IL | Three alleged gang members were arrested early this morning in Palatine after a manhunt that ended when a police dog tracked down one man and police found an accomplice mired in a marsh, a Cook County sheriff's spokesman said.

"There was some concern that he wasn't moving," said the spokesman, Steve Patterson, until police realized "he wasn't moving because he was stuck." Police had earlier arrested the third man and seized a shotgun from him,

Patterson said. Sheriff's officers were doing surveillance at the Country Glen Apartments in Arlington Heights Wednesday night because they suspected a gang fight was going to break out. At about 11 p.m. the three men were seen in a car in the area. One of them "displayed a weapon" and the officers gave chase, Patterson said.

Palatine police also joined the pursuit. The men led officers about a mile west of the apartments to the intersection of Lake-Cook and Hicks Roads, where they got out of the car and ran.

The man with the shotgun was arrested right away, Patterson said. The others fled into the woods nearby. A search ensued, and one man was found when a police dog -- a bloodhound named Melanie -- tracked his scent from the car directly to where he was.

The sheriff's helicopter spotted the other man lying in a marsh; he was soon arrested. Police had the men in custody by about 1 a.m. Check back for additional details.

Homes of current, former street gang members shot up in Joliet

Published by SunTimes.com on March 1, 2010

JOLIET, IL | The Joliet homes of current and former members of the Vice Lords street gang were riddled with bullets overnight Saturday. Gunmen first struck at a house on Herkimer Street near its north dead end shortly before 11:30 p.m.



Officers responding to the shooting found "multiple" bullet holes in the house, according to a police report, and located spent rounds in the alley behind the residence.

A neighbor told police she saw a light-colored Buick Rendezvous in the alley before the bullets started flying. After four or five shots rang out, the Rendezvous took off, the neighbor said.

A 19-year-old resident of the targeted house reportedly told police he is a member of the Vice Lords and has been having trouble recently with the Latin Kings and Two Sixers.

About three hours later and two and a half miles away, a couple sleeping in a Mississippi Avenue house woke to their home getting shot up. A picture window valued at \$1,500 was pierced by four bullets, police said, and the rounds continued into the house to fly through interior walls.

Another four bullets went into the master bedroom of the house on Mississippi near First Avenue. The couple sleeping in this bedroom emerged from the attack unharmed. The 24-year-old male half of this couple reportedly told police that he is a former Vice Lord, but that he does not have any known enemies.

National ★

Falls gunfire tied to gangs

Published by BuffaloNews.com on March 12, 2010

Nearly 50 shootings this year blamed on factions fighting for control

NIAGARA FALLS, NY | Is this an international tourist destination or the Wild West? That's what some are starting to wonder after nearly 50 shooting incidents since the start of the year, including a homicide Thursday.

City police trace much of the recent gun violence, although not the killing, to growing gang activity, particularly in the South End and parts of the center city. At least eight gangs or gang factions are fighting for control, said Narcotics Division Lt. Kelly Rizzo.

"Their first concern is money," Rizzo said. "Some of them want to get it by selling drugs, and some want to steal what drug dealers have. And while people will tell you who is breaking into cars in the neighborhood, because they don't feel scared, with people shooting guns in the middle of the day, it's harder to get people to say who is doing it."

Police are taking action in two big ways. They have conducted more than a dozen raids during the last several weeks in efforts to shut down drug houses and confiscate illegal weapons. They also look to change the way special street patrols do their jobs by altering shifts and the neighborhoods they target.



Niagara Falls Police Officers Rick Fleck, left, and Troy Earp talk with a man on the street near the police substation

Rizzo and Narcotics Detective John Galie said that when they went on road patrol 15 years ago they would turn up only a few guns a year. "Now every search warrant you go to, nearly 90 percent, there's guns," Galie said. "I don't think they are hunters."

Not all of the recent warrants issued for raids were gang-related, Rizzo said, but those that were tied to gangs involved "very violent homes." In a March 3 raid in the 500 block of Sixth Street, police found a residence "prepared for war," Galie said. Loaded guns were behind the couch, and police discovered targets that had been used by someone firing handguns.

Among the shooting incidents:

- Six shots were fired into a house with gang connections Feb. 26 in the 1300 block of Ashland Avenue, sending women and children running for cover. No one was hurt, but bullets went through windows and were found in a wall and a bannister.
- Four teens, ages 16 to 18, were charged as adults with criminal possession of a weapon for allegedly firing from the window of an apartment at 9 p. m. March 4 in the 500 block of 19th Street. At least one of two long guns found in the apartment had been stolen, Juvenile Detective Capt. Nicholas Paonessa said.
- At 3 p. m. Tuesday, people in a car exchanged gunfire with someone on the sidewalk. A house at 16th and Niagara streets and a rental car were hit, though none of the shooters appears to have been hurt, said Capt. William M. Thomson, chief of detectives.

Police Superintendent John C. Chella said a few people have been hurt during the shooting incidents but "nothing critical . . . a couple of days in the hospital." "It's very serious," Thomson said. "Sooner or later, an innocent victim is going to get caught up in this nonsense."

Rizzo said drug dealers have been renting apartments in substandard houses, where rent is cheap. "They put in enough furniture to sit there and play a video game, but they don't live there," he said. "They don't want the problem of us smashing in their mother's door."

The recent troubles can be traced, in part, to a job well done. Last March, hundreds of federal agents and police officers from across Western New York poured into the city for a major takedown of the Bloods, a gang linked to a spike in crack cocaine sales, shootings and home invasions in the city. More than two dozen members were arrested.

"Now some of the quieter members who couldn't go up against those members or those who were left behind have little factions that are each trying to take control," Rizzo said. "So now instead of a larger one we have eight smaller ones vying for control."

Many of those involved are young men under age 24, and some are juveniles. "Juveniles are emotional, and they don't think ahead, and sometimes that is what makes them more dangerous," said Paonessa, the juvenile detective captain. "If they feel like shooting, they are going to take a shot. To them, if they get in trouble, it makes them more impressive in their little gang world."

City police say they will continue to be relentless in their methods. East Side Block Club President Patricia Frederick said residents have noticed that with the 19th Street police substation opening last November and the Roving Anti-Crime Unit, nobody in city neighborhoods knows when police will show up.

Rizzo said the roving unit is a four-officer street patrol that focuses on high-crime areas. The unit has tried changing its hours so that its movements are a little more unexpected. Rizzo said the officers offer rewards for leads that get a gun off the street. They also have an anonymous tip line at 286-4591.

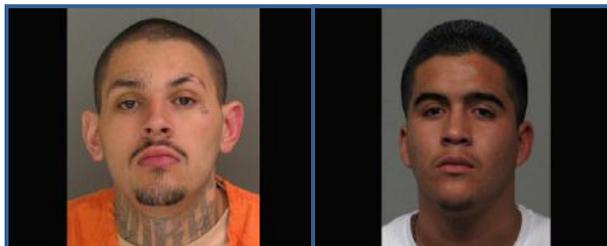
Man Stabbed, Child Shot In Gang-Related Fight

Published by ksbw.com on March 6, 2010

WATSONVILLE, CA | Two men have been arrested in connection to an incident at an area bowling alley that left one person stabbed and a child shot, Watsonville police said.

The incident happened at about 9:20 p.m. Friday at the Cabrillo Lanes Bowling Alley on Auto Center Drive.

Authorities said a 19-year-old man was stabbed in the neck during a confrontation at the bowling alley and that during the fracas someone pulled out a gun and fired, hitting a 7-year-old who was bowling with his family.



Jordan James Macias

Abraham Santoyo

The two victims may be related, though Solani said it appeared the intended target was the 20-year-old.

Solano said the 7-year-old that was shot was caught up in the crossfire.

"He was there with family and friends, as were other people. The victim who was stabbed actually was there taking part in recreational activities when the two suspects came in," Solano said.

The child was hit in the abdomen and flown to a Bay area hospital, police said. Both victims are listed in stable condition at Bay Area hospitals after surgery and are expected to make a full recovery. Police were searching door to door in the area Friday looking for two men who were seen running from the scene.

Two Watsonville residents, 20-year-old Jordan James Macias and 18-year-old Abraham Santoyo, were taken into custody Saturday afternoon. Police said Macias is on parole and Santoyo was found with a gun similar in caliber to the weapon used on the child. Both are being held on attempted murder charges.

Midtown gang beatdown ends with innocent 15-year old boy knifed in the face and needing 100 stitches

Published by NyDailyNews.com on March 11, 2010

NEW YORK, NY | The face of a young bystander was severely slashed when a gangbanger broke free from a midtown beatdown and knifed the first person he saw, cops said Wednesday.



Leo Perez, 15, of Brooklyn, needed more than 100 stitches to close a gaping wound that stretched from the bridge of his nose to his neck. Leo's mom, Guierma Ramirez, 54, said she was stunned when she first saw his butchered face.

"I felt powerless at that moment," Ramirez said last night at her East New York home. The tearful boy's left cheek was swollen and his face heavily bandaged. He could barely speak and was eating through a straw.

The street violence happened about 3 p.m. Tuesday at Eighth Ave. and 49th St., just steps from the Hilton Garden Inn Times Square hotel. Cops said Isaiah Taitt, 17, of Brooklyn, a member of the Latin Kings gang, was confronted by three toughs from the

rival Crips.

"They motion for Taitt to take your hands out of your pockets. He takes his hands out. He has a knife. They jump him," a police source said. A surveillance video camera captured Taitt being pummeled and kicked repeatedly by the trio of Crips as pedestrians stood by in jaw-dropping disbelief, cops said.

"Everybody was screaming and crying," said Will Callahan, 13, who was just getting out of class at nearby Professional Performing Arts School when the bloodshed occurred. Taitt broke free and mistook Leo for one of his attackers, slicing the teen's face.

"He looked like something out of 'Saw IV,'" a police source said. Leo, a student at Graphics High School in midtown, was taken to Bellevue Hospital, where doctors stitched his face together.

Cops recovered a knife at the scene and nabbed Taitt moments after the stabbing. Taitt, a student at La Salle Academy in the East Village, confessed to being a member of the Kings. Cops also rounded up the three Crips members who jumped Taitt. Their names were being withheld pending charges. "I let God be his lawyer," said Taitt's mother.

Killing called part of teen's gang initiation

Published by BaltimoreSun.com on March 12, 2010

BALTIMORE, MD | City police have arrested a 16-year-old boy in what court documents describe as a gang-initiation killing in Northwest Baltimore. Desmond Sims has been charged as an adult with first-degree murder in the Dec. 29 killing of 19-year-old Jeffery Ward Jr. Sims is the youngest person charged with murder this year in the city.

Police said they located a witness to the shooting who identified Sims, also known as "Dazy," as the shooter. According to police, the investigation revealed that Sims repeatedly shot Ward with a .45-caliber handgun, in a gang-initiation slaying.

Police spokesman Anthony Guglielmi said detectives believe Sims was being initiated into a set of the Bloods gang. Sims' mother, Patricia Rhodes, said her son was being "railroaded," saying he had never been involved with violence and to her knowledge was not in a gang.

She acknowledged, however, that she was concerned about his behavior after he dropped out of school last year and was caught with drugs. Rhodes said she had not run into such problems with her other four children and was struggling to get Sims on the right track.

"People need to realize, these gang influences, if that's actually what happened, could happen to anybody's child," Rhodes said. "It's just devastating."

The killing comes as prosecutors from across the state are in Annapolis arguing for tougher anti-gang laws. Last week, legislators heard from prosecutors and police who said they want to define who is a gang member and broaden the number of crimes that can trigger longer prison sentences.

Rhodes said she has spoken with her son from Central Booking and that he continues to deny any involvement in the killing. She thinks he will be cleared, and that this experience might benefit him in the long run.

"I told him, 'Maybe this will be the thing that will turn you around and let you know that you need to go back to school and get on the right track,' " she said.

Ward was found about 9:15 p.m., lying on his stomach and suffering from gunshot wounds to the head. He was

taken to Sinai Hospital, where he was later pronounced dead. Police recovered seven .45-caliber shell casings, among other items, at the scene. His mother said family members grew worried when Ward did not come home that night, and they checked local hospitals to see if he had been admitted.

Anti-gang police squad is target of booby traps

Published by Journalgazette.net on March 21, 2010

HEMET, CA | Police officers in this retirement town in rural Riverside County have been on edge in recent weeks. Someone is trying to kill them.



First, a natural gas pipe was shoved through a hole drilled into the roof of the gang enforcement unit's headquarters. The building filled with flammable vapor, but an officer smelled the danger before anyone was hurt. "It would have taken out half a city block," Capt. Tony Marghis said.

Then, a ballistic contraption was attached to a sliding security fence around the building. An officer opening the black steel gate triggered the mechanism, which sent a bullet within eight inches of his face.

In another attempted booby trap attack, some kind of explosive device was attached to a police officer's unmarked car while he went into a convenience store.

"There's a person or people out there, a bunch of idiots, trying to do damage to us," Hemet Police Chief Richard Dana said. "We can't expect our luck to hold up, we need help."

Since New Year's Eve, there have been several other booby trap attempts to kill officers, Dana said. "The only reason they haven't killed an officer yet is because we've been observant enough to see devices planted around the station and in cars and different places," he said.

In the latest threat, someone called 911 about 5:45 p.m. Friday saying a police car would be blown up in the area in the next 24 to 48 hours, Dana said.

Gang enforcement officers appear to be the target of the assassination attempts, though Dana noted the devices were indiscriminate by nature and could have killed any law enforcement officer.

The booby traps have shaken a close-knit police department already demoralized by steep budget cuts that last year saw its officer numbers slashed by a quarter to 68. Officers are checking under cars for bombs and scouting for other potential hazards.

Dana said officers have seen gang members carrying out countersurveillance, studying police behavior. In the attack with a ballistic contraption, the officer avoided being shot in the head because the wheels on the gate were wonky so he had to angle his body to open it. "He had to push it to the right, the bullet went by to the left," Dana said.

Investigators are still trying to determine why officers are being targeted. A prevalent theory is that members of an outlaw motorcycle gang, the Vagos, were angered when members of Hemet's anti-gang task force monitored them at a funeral in a church opposite the task force's former headquarters.



A memorial service was held Dec. 29 in the Hemet Christian Assembly church and upward of 100 members of the gang attended, said Riverside County sheriff's Capt. Walter Meyer, who oversees the regional gang taskforce. Officers monitored the memorial but did not attend the service.

Law enforcement officials from around the state Thursday appealed for the public's help in solving the case. Several state, local and national agencies have banded together to put forward a \$200,000 reward. "It is incredible and I think unprecedented that police officers in the line of duty could be subjected to these kind of terrorist attempts on their lives," Attorney General Jerry Brown said

For Video Coverage of this story visit:

<http://www.cnn.com/video/#/video/us/2010/03/31/rowlands.police.attacked2.cnn>

Neighbors fearful as gang feud takes root

Published by Elpasotimes.com on March 24, 2010

EL PASO, TX | A street gang feud that has escalated into a shooting, an attempted arson and a rash of graffiti is spreading fear in a Northeast neighborhood.

Police, residents and a gang expert say the problems are due to a rivalry between Los Midnight Locos, which has been in the Northeast for decades, and members of the Lopez Maravilla gang, which originated in East Los Angeles but has been in El Paso since the 1970s.

The animosity is as clear as the X'ed out graffiti spray-painted on wall after rock wall on Tropicana Avenue across the street from Collins Elementary School. Neighbors, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, fear retaliation from gang members who menacingly strut down streets in a normally quiet middle-class area.

"They would also walk around with baseball bats and they would stand at the corner under the light post -- just stand there and stare down cars," a resident said. "Everybody wants to stay inside. Everybody is all cautious."

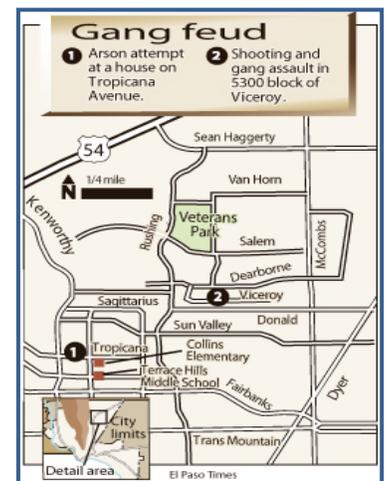
The rivalry is also carried out in boastful Web pages and a local video on YouTube.com by the Lopez Maravilla gang. In response, a video posted this week, apparently by fed-up residents, warns gang members that they are being watched.

Recently, things heated when a Molotov cocktail was part of an unsolved attempted arson at the home of an alleged gang member, Fernie Gonzalez, in the 4800 block of Tropicana. Firefighters said there was no major damage.

Then on March 14, a brawl erupted about 6:20 a.m. when gang members attacked two men and three women at a home in the 5300 block of Viceroy, according to complaint affidavits filed by a gang investigator and obtained by the El Paso Times.

Police said the attack was by the Lopez Maravilla against Los Midnight Locos. It is unclear whether all involved were gang members.

According to the documents, Erika Cochran, 17, allegedly drove the attackers to the home. They used a baseball bat, a tire iron and jumper cables, and Gonzalez, 18, allegedly fired a handgun toward two people and the home. Gonzalez was trying to reload when Ernesto Sanchez stopped him.



Then another attacker hit Sanchez with a baseball bat. Cochran allegedly used a tire iron to bash the windows of a woman's car. Before the assault was over, Gonzalez allegedly shot Rudy Villanueva, who received a bullet graze to the head. Police stopped the alleged attackers' car a block away.

Gonzalez and Coch have been arrested and charged with criminal attempted murder, two counts of engaging in organized criminal activity, aggravated assault and two counts deadly conduct. More arrests are possible.

Police Lt. Miguel Zamora, of the Northeast Regional Command, said families with ties to the Lopez Maravilla moved to the Northeast after being displaced by the floods that struck El Paso in 2006. "The gang is not native to the Northeast and as its numbers grew, so did the rivalry," he said

Zamora said police are trying to prevent more trouble by increasing patrols, paying extra attention and encouraging residents to report problems. As for gang members standing on corners with baseball bats, police said it is not illegal.

Gang-intervention counselor Rob Gallardo said the gangs are fighting for territory, for recruits and over personal disputes. "The personal beefs get very serious and sometimes turn deadly," he said in an e-mail.

Meanwhile, residents near Tropicana and Kellogg streets are stuck in the middle, frustrated and fearful. Gang members "jumped this guy one time and that day the police didn't even show up. And it was a 911 call," one neighbor complained. "We (authorities) are worried about the violence in Juárez but we aren't worried about what is going on here."

Gang members attempt assault on Officers

Published by Whiotv.com on March 27 2010

DAYTON, OH | Two known gang members are facing charges of felonious assault of an officer, police said.

Police said officers on patrol recognized the faces of two men traveling in a Chevrolet Tahoe as members of the Dayton View Hustlers street gang and pulled them over near the intersection of Siebenthaler Road and Philadelphia Drive around 10 p.m. Friday.

During the stop, the driver of the vehicle attempted to back into the cruiser to escape and nearly struck one of the officers and fled the scene, police said. Officers said after a short pursuit reaching a top speed of about 40 mph, the two suspects abandoned the vehicle at Kathleen and Maplewood avenues. The juvenile passenger was apprehended and taken to police headquarters for questioning.

The driver, a man officers identified as Darius Watson, fled on foot. Officers managed to catch Watson a few blocks from where the vehicle was found and took him into custody with the use of a Taser and pepper spray, police said.

Watson and an officer, who suffered minor injuries to his knees during the apprehension, were taken to the hospital for treatment.

For video coverage visit: <http://www.whiotv.com/news/22972290/detail.html>

Protect yourself; read gang signs

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GREENVILLE, NC | Gang violence is all over eastern Carolina. It plagues big cities and small towns. The state's seen gang membership rise by 3,000 in just a year. There are 900 different gangs and, at least six exist in Pitt County alone.

Police say knowing they're out there isn't enough. Detectives say it's important to know exactly what defines a gang. "We go with the North Carolina General Statute, covers three or more persons involved in criminal activity with common signs or symbol," said Chris Cahoon.

Detective Chris Cahoon with the Lenoir County Sheriff's Office says he's not worried about notorious gangs like the Bloods or Cripts. He says gangs in Lenoir County are branching off and creating a new identity.

"We're seeing local level gangs with their own names and they're using the symbolisms from like the Midwest gangs and folk symbolism, their kind of taking that and making it their own," said Cahoon. Cahoon says gang signs or "tags" are easy to spot. There are more than 13,000 known gang members in North Carolina.

Their signs usually revolve around the number five or six. It can be written or in the form of a five- or six-pointed star and they don't just mark territory. These tags can also reveal gangs violent intentions. If rival gangs live near you, that could spell trouble.

Keep an eye out for symbols that are: Turned Upside Down, Crossed Out, Misspelled and Turned Backward. They often indicate disrespect among rival gangs and could be dangerous if they confront each other. Cahoon says anyone who sees these signs should get rid of them.



"When you see the tagging, you see damage to you property, go ahead and immediately report it. Get a law enforcement agency to file a report and take it upon yourself to get it cleaned up," said Cahoon.

In these cases, Graffiti is more than vandalism. Reading between the lines could be the key to protecting your neighborhood. There are eight known gangs in Lenoir County. Statistics show most members are African American or Hispanic men at least 18-years-old

Gang Global Incident Map

The website listed below displays a map that shows all gang and gun related news throughout the country.

<http://gangs.globalincidentmap.com/home.php>



From the Editors 

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