

# ADE DAILY NEWS CLIPS

April 27, 2013

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## **Police: LR Teacher Helped Benton Man Shoot Himself (KARK, Channel 4)**

BENTON, AR - Detectives with the Benton Police Department arrested a Little Rock teacher accused of helping a man shoot himself, according to investigators.

The shooting took place in the early hours of Friday on Millbrook Cove. Officers discovered Timothy Gauldin, 29, (left) suffering from a gunshot wound. He was airlifted to a hospital where he was listed in serious condition.

Police say Jason Gaunt, 35, (right) provided Gauldin with a gun and helped Gauldin shoot himself. Authorities didn't elaborate on the nature of the "help" Gaunt provided. He was arrested late Friday evening.

When police executed a search warrant at Gaunt's home, they report discovering the firearm involved in the incident as well as a marijuana home grow operation.

Benton Police say Gaunt is a teacher with the Little Rock School District.

Gaunt was arrested for Furnishing a Firearm to a Convicted Felon, Possession of Marijuana, and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia. Gauldin hasn't been formally charged yet due to the serious nature of his injuries.

Benton police say Gauldin is an active parolee out of the Arkansas Department of Community Corrections.

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## **Kimbrell visits CHS (Log Cabin Democrat, Conway)**

Tyree Sanders' hand shot up when Arkansas Education Commissioner Tom Kimbrell asked whether students in the Conway High School class had any questions.

What does the commissioner earn in salary? Sanders wanted to know. What is his day like? What does Kimbrell do every day?

On Friday morning, Sanders, a junior, was among the first students to get a chance to hear Kimbrell talk about the educational system, what the education department does and what opportunities students have in accounting, teaching and administration. Kimbrell oversees a budget of \$2.7 million. His position has the power to close down schools that are operating in debt. Kimbrell can dismiss school boards and the superintendent.

By 11 a.m. Friday, Kimbrell talked to about 150 students, some of whom he hoped would enter the teaching profession.

“Teaching is a demanding profession, but it’s rewarding,” he told students.

Kimbrell has always been passionate about education, he said. He started his career in public education 29 years ago. Kimbrell has been a superintendent, director of fiscal services, assistant principal, teacher and coach, according to a profile a teacher passed out. He was appointed to commissioner by Gov. Mike Beebe in 2009.

Kimbrell has taken lead to implement the new common learning standards, a next generation assessment system, a new teacher evaluation system and a new accountability system to determine how well schools and districts are doing. He said he wants students to have the opportunity to get the best education because they will be competing for jobs with everybody in the world.

Students needed understand how important the state educational system is, Kimbrell said.

“Our public education has created the great democratic system we have today,” he said.

Teachers Alyce Hardee and Tina Lampe, who brought students interested education, said they thought students could take what they learn from Kimbrell and become better citizens. They hope to create lifelong learners. They want their students to understand the educational system.

Hardee said she hoped students seeing Kimbrell — someone she called a “guru” — would increase interest in education.

It did for at least one student. Sanders was interested, he said.

Kimbrell makes about \$225,000. He works 60 to 80 hours a week. He gets up and to work by 6:30 a.m.

When the school bell rang for the end of class, Sanders walked up to shake Kimbrell’s hand. He wants to job shadow him.

“It might be my job in the future,” Sanders said.

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## **Clinton daughter fires up students (Arkansas Democrat-Gazette)**

In many ways, especially regarding technology, today’s young people should lead their parents and grandparents, Chelsea Clinton told a group of 11th- and 12th-graders gathered Friday for Global Youth Service Day.

The daughter of former President Bill Clinton and former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton moderated a lunch-time panel on health at the Clinton Presidential Center, questioning four students about how their generation’s choices are perceived by people younger and older than themselves.

“My dad joined Twitter 36 hours ago, so I’ve been thinking about this a lot lately,” said Clinton, who is a member of the Clinton Foundation board.

The first time she showed Bill Clinton how YouTube works, he said, “Wow! You can watch all this stuff!” she told the students.

Helen Hathaway of Mount Saint Mary Academy noted that her dad, while reading a newspaper that morning, told her about University of Arkansas forward Hunter Mickelson transferring to Kansas.

She already knew that, Hathaway said, because it was “all over Twitter yesterday.”

“The generation ahead of us sees technology as being geared toward younger kids - it’s our plaything, it’s our toy - but I think it’s a matter of realizing how useful it can be,” Hathaway said.

Young people still have to prove themselves, said Nicholas Barnes, a senior at Parkview High School.

“I think we are working against the older generation to defeat their kind of stereotype that we are all about ourselves and in doing that, we are working to show we are doing stuff for our community,” Barnes said.

Having performed 1,400 hours of community service already, Barnes felt right at home when the group of teens traveled to Arkansas Rice Depot in Little Rock later Friday to help package food and supplies for 950 public schools and food pantries across the state.

But Friday marked the first time that Taylor Collins, a junior at Hall High School, had taken part in an event to help others.

“I learned how rewarding it is going to be [to continue volunteering.] It fills your heart with warmth,” she said. And the fact that Chelsea Clinton tagged along to help, “kind of made you look at her more like a normal person. I could tell she’s really into the service stuff she does.”

Clinton joined in boxing rice packages to be sent to food banks. Nearby, other teens put together backpacks of food, snacks and school supplies to be distributed to children at public schools in Arkansas.

The help was appreciated by Rice Depot’s president and chief executive officer, Laura Rhea, who referred to the organization’s motto: “One Arkansan can make a difference in the fight against hunger. Imagine what three million of us can do.”

“The neat thing is over 400,000 individuals are going to receive food from this organization,” Rhea said. “We are amazed at [the students’] energy generated here today and we know the next generation of Arkansans will be fed because these kids will continue to help - that’s the beauty of a day like this.”

For the past three years, Little Rock, the William J. Clinton Foundation and City Year have partnered to sponsor Global Youth Service Day in Little Rock. Knowing that the meaning behind the day’s events

wasn't going unnoticed by the students was a reward in itself for City Year's vice president and executive director, Sarah Roberson.

The day's focus on health extended to promoting it and continuing healthful lifestyles through communication, she said.

"We hope they take the knowledge they gained today, the idea of community and the idea of spirit and partnership and take that back to their schools," Roberson said.

If Barnes has anything to say about it, he and other students will do just that.

"We are the future, so it is up to us to carry on the legacy," he said between filling boxes with snacks. "I hope everyone stays strong with the mission and keeps focused."

While the students did focus on the goal of the day, they didn't let Clinton get away without asking her if she intended to enter into politics like her parents.

Repeating a statement she's given to media before when asked the same question, Clinton, who lives in New York City, said she didn't intend to and that she was grateful to live in a city, state and country where she likes her representatives, but if she ever thought she could make a difference she would have to reconsider.

One student questioned her about the life of a president's daughter.

"I get that question a lot," she said. "I don't know what it is not like to be the president's daughter, and you all laugh, but I mean that sincerely. I'm incredibly grateful to my parents for the opportunities their choices have given me ... It was a great privilege to live history in many ways."

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## **Teen Girl Arrested After Using Razor Blade on Students at School (KNWA, Fort Smith)**

FAYETTEVILLE, AR-- A 14-year-old girl is in custody after police say she cut several classmates at Holt Middle School with a razor blade.

Police say they were called to the school on Ruppel Rd. just before noon Friday for a battery report.

According to Sgt. Craig Stout with the Fayetteville Police Department, the girl had a razor blade with her and cut six other students.

Stout says three of the students actually requested the cuts and the other three didn't.

He says the cuts were superficial, mostly to the hands and did not require serious medical attention.

The 14-year-old girl is being held at the Washington County Juvenile Detention Center on a misdemeanor charge of 3rd degree battery.

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## **Centeron Eyeing Plans for Bentonville's Second High School (KNWA, Fort Smith)**

*Video available at [http://nwahomepage.com/fulltext?nxd\\_id=424782](http://nwahomepage.com/fulltext?nxd_id=424782)*

"Over the past 10 years we've actually grown 433 percent," says Centeron Mayor Bill Edwards.

It's one of the many reasons why Edwards believes Bentonville's second high school, if it decides to build one, should be built in Centeron.

"Over the past week, I've had lunch with Mr. Poore and expressed our willingness to work with Bentonville schools," Edwards says.

"I've also talked to five of the seven board members."

He's on the phone, in the car, constantly in talks with school officials.

"I feel very good. I'm very pumped up. This city, with the road improvements, I think we've made a very serious commitment to the school district. I feel it's in a great location," Edwards says.

The location he's referring to is this area of land, which the Bentonville school district already owns -- 90 acres on Gamble Road.

"We've approved \$1.4 million out of our reserve for road improvements up at that area to alleviate traffic," Edwards adds.

A decision as to if a second high school even happens isn't for a while, but Edwards is planning ahead.

And he's encouraging citizens to do the same.

"This has been non-stop. I've been around the clock, you know, and I enjoy it. I have fun getting out and talking to the board members, hearing their concerns and their input."

Bentonville has scheduled public forums over the next few weeks for those who would like to give opinions on a second high school. Each one will have a board member, as well as a school administrator present.

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## **School Bus Driver Resigns After Child Porn Charges (KNWA, Fort Smith)**

A Springdale bus driver has resigned, following charges of child pornography.

65-year-old George O'Dea was arrested in February, after a search warrant turned up more than 500 images of child porn on his home computer.

Once the school district learned of the investigation, O'Dea was put on administrative leave.

Just two days after Benton County deputies cuffed O'Dea at his Rogers home, he posted a \$50,000 bond.

He pleaded not guilty on to the charges in court.

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## **Area school districts receive news on project funding (Pine Bluff Commercial)**

The Watson Chapel School District learned this week that two of three construction projects written into its facilities master plan were approved for funding by the Arkansas Division of Public School Academic Facilities and Transportation at a Wednesday meeting in Little Rock.

The meeting was held to determine the fates of proposed facilities upgrades in public school districts throughout the state for the 2013-2015 period.

The state uses a sliding scale to determine how much of a project it will pay for versus how much the individual school district will be required to contribute.

Watson Chapel superintendent Danny Hazelwood said that the district is pleased with getting the green light for renovations of the heating and cooling system at Coleman Elementary School with state funding of \$2,239,249; and the expansion of the Watson Chapel High School technology center with state funding of \$369,499.

A project to construct a combination physical education/multipurpose building on the campus of Watson Chapel High School was approved for the two-year period but the state funding of \$1,472,622 was not granted.

"We're excited about being eligible for the two projects," Hazelwood said. "We're going to need to evaluate the timeline. Getting the air conditioners at Coleman upgraded is a must do. The expansion at the high school is not as high a priority but the main thing is that we got them approved. We were actually surprised that they approved the media center expansion given that there is talk that the facilities money is running out."

Hazelwood said the Academic Facilities Partnership Program was set up several years ago when the state enjoyed a significant budget surplus.

"We're still in the shock stage of being funded but next we're going to have to go find our share of the funding," Hazelwood said. "None of this has any bearing on our millage campaign for the new K-1 building at Edgewood Elementary. The millage is a big deal. People don't like new taxes but this is something that is absolutely needed."

Pine Bluff

The Pine Bluff School District had both of its two requested projects approved for funding.

Southeast Middle School was approved for \$847,548 in funding for the replacement of its heating and cooling system; and Oak Park Elementary School was approved for \$529,717 in funding for the replacement of its heating and cooling system.

Pine Bluff superintendent Linda Watson was happy to see the state approval.

“We are very happy about it,” Watson said. “Any assistance we can get from the state on facilities upgrades is welcome. Both projects are planned for the summer of 2014. Our facilities director Seth Wynn will spend the next year getting bids from contractors and lining everything out.”

Dollarway

The Dollarway School District was granted approval of \$615,654 in state funding for renovations of the Dollarway High School gymnasium.

District superintendent Frank Anthony said that he had not yet had time to look into what the approval would mean for the district.

White Hall

The White Hall School District had no project requests to review.

Approved project guidelines

Under the Partnership Program a Project Agreement must be executed by the school district and the state within 60 days of the approval and funding; and all projects must be under construction, as evidenced by a signed construction contract, within 18 months from the project approval and funding. The projects must be completed within four years of project approval and funding.

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## **Power restored throughout Poinsett, Craighead Co.(KAIT, Channel 8, Jonesboro)**

BAY, AR (KAIT) - A power outage in parts of Craighead and Poinsett County has been restored.

Bay School District closed at 11 a.m. because of the outage. Over 8,600 customers from Entergy Arkansas Inc. and Craighead Electric Cooperative Corporation were affected

Entergy Arkansas Inc. states on their outage map the power went out in Bay at 8:47 a.m. The power in Lake City went out starting at about the same time.

According to Entergy:

Arkansas Electric Co-op transmission feed to the Entergy substation in Lunsford is down, causing the power outage in Bay and Lake City area. It has effected several substations including the Entergy substation that powers the Bay and Lake City areas. Arkansas Electric Co-op is working to restore the feed as soon as possible.

Power is estimated to be restored anywhere from 1 p.m. or longer, according to Entergy's outage map.

Craighead Electric states areas affected were Farville, Lake City, Monette, Caraway, Harrisburg and Trumann. All power is restored, but if there are still outages call 1-888-771-7772.

The outage was due to an interruption in the transmission feed to five of the cooperative's substations.

Craighead Electric customers have also experienced outages.

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## **Texarkana School District to Update School Bus Surveillance Cameras (KARK, Channel 4)**

TEXARKANA, AR -- In an effort to improve child safety on buses, Texarkana Arkansas School Administrators are updating their video surveillance system.

More than 30 school buses are each equipped with four video cameras, but because they're outdated, the board voted to buy 14 additional systems.

School officials say it's necessary so they can know what's going on at all times.

"Just gives us the added eyes and ears that are helpful in trying to resolve problems," says Frank Coleman with Texarkana School District.

Only half of the buses will be equipped with the new technology, and the rest will be installed at a later time.

The total cost of the project is almost \$67,000.

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## **Being 'Green'(Log Cabin Democrat, Conway)**

Greenbrier Junior High School students have been learning to recycle, save water, save electricity and be "greener" this school year, said student council teacher Rebekah Bilderback.

"I think that kids need to know about environmental issues," Bilderback said. "This is one way for them to be able to look at their school, look at their community and to be able to make a change. They are the ones who were problem solvers."

On Thursday afternoon, the U.S. Green Building Council-Arkansas Chapter awarded the Greenbrier district a Gold Award for grades six through 12 because of the students' work this year. The school also

got \$500 for students' effort. The school among nine winning schools in the 2012-2013 Arkansas Green Schools Challenge.

The chapter is meant to educate professionals and the public about sustainable design and building practices and promotes policies for sustainable communities, according to the news release. The challenge is a joint initiative of the state USGBC and the state educational administrators association.

Greenbrier had to use a mentor to help with their project, gather a group of students to take the lead, submit the results and create a short video to win, according to a news release.

More than 60 schools and more than 10,000 students participated in the challenge.

In Greenbrier, students put up signs to tell other students to turn off the water while brushing their teeth after lunch or while washing hands. The school got three rain barrels that hold 50 gallons each and began saving water to water flower beds.

About 12 students went around making signs and figuring out what project they wanted to do. About 30 students were involved in recycling. The students collected paper and plastic and cans, Bilderback said. The project took coordination, organization, teamwork and hard work, she said.

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### **UAPB Literacy Institute to host Literacy Symposium (Pine Bluff Commercial)**

The University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff School of Education Literacy Institute will host a Literacy Symposium from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, May 3, at the Arkansas River Education Service Cooperative, 912 W. Sixth Ave. in Pine Bluff.

The theme of the symposium is "Literacy: The Key to Success."

The guest speaker will be state Sen. Stephanie Flowers. The symposium is open to school administrators, teachers, child care educators, adult education educators, undergraduate/graduate students, university faculty, parents and community leaders.

Registration begins at 8 a.m., and the symposium will begin at 8:30 a.m. The registration form must be completed no later than May 1, by e-mail, fax, or mail to 1200 N. University - Mail slot 4927, Pine Bluff, AR 71601.

Participants attending the Literacy Symposium can receive professional development hours. Conference cost is free and lunch will be provided. Register now to be counted and be guaranteed a seat.

## **Parent Believes Dover High School Ignored Serious Injuries to Son (KARK, Channel 4)**

*Video available at [http://arkansasmatters.com/fulltext?nxd\\_id=657492](http://arkansasmatters.com/fulltext?nxd_id=657492)*

DOVER, AR -- "This is new and consistent with trauma yesterday," she read from the medical forms.

Jenni Lou Scroggins explains her son's diagnosis.

"Austin's injuries were extensive," she said.

Scroggins said she received a call from Dover High School's principal telling her that 15-year-old Austin had been in a fight but didn't need medical attention.

"She told us he had a black eye, was checked out by the school nurse and was fine," Scroggins said.

Austin's injuries, seen in these photos, seemed serious to Scroggins.

"There was blood in his eyeball," she said. "He had a huge knot on his temple and bruising around his neck. He didn't complain, but he couldn't keep his dinner down."

That's when they took him to the Emergency Room at St. Mary's Hospital in Russellville. The doctors confirmed he had a concussion. An optometrist the next day reported retinal tearing and detachment. On Friday, a specialist reported the damage could be permanent.

"I feel let down. I feel like my son didn't matter enough to seek medical attention," Scroggins said.

Austin reportedly received these injuries from a fellow student. He and a fellow student had been tossing carrots, playfully, at one another. That's when Austin, and other students, tells us a sophomore came up and told Austin to "grow up".

Austin said he responded by tossing a carrot at the sophomore.

"He grabbed me by the throat, pushed me out of my chair," Austin said. "All I remember is him hitting me twice. "

Other Dover High School students tell us Austin never fought back and was even knocked unconscious. According to those students, the boy continued punching Austin.

Still, Austin was the one suspended from school for 10 days for "provoking" the sophomore, according to his parents.

"When my husband picked him up from school and saw his face, he asked the principal if our son deserved this. She told him that Austin did provoke it."

According to other students, the sophomore who did the beating has been at school all week, sentenced to in-school-suspension (ISS).

"The child continued to punch Austin," she said. "My child was limp. He continued pummeling him. Where were the teachers? Why couldn't someone have stopped him from hitting my son seven times in the face?"

"My son is in trouble for what he did. Austin shouldn't have thrown the carrot at him, and he's in trouble at home for that," Scroggins said. "But to punch him in the face for it, repeatedly, it doesn't make sense."

We tried to get the school's side of the story from both the principal and the superintendent. Neither one of them, we were told, were available. We left messages and sent emails. Neither of them have gotten back to us.

A look at the school's policy on prohibited conduct shows that assault or threatening assault isn't allowed and is punishable by suspension from school. There's no mention of punishment for those who might provoke an assault.

"My child feels let down. He doesn't want to return to school," Scroggins said.

According to Scroggins, this is the result of an escalated process at Dover schools. Austin was first enrolled in March of 2012. By April 2012, his parents were having to complain about severe teasing, name-calling, and bullying.

"A board member actually told me Austin needed tougher skin," Scroggins said. "He told me boys will be boys. But why is that the explanation when my son is being harassed, but when he tosses a carrot in horseplay it's no longer something to shrug off?"

Scroggins isn't sure Austin will be heading back to Dover High, she points to the pictures of his injuries as an explanation of why.

Dover Police confirm they are investigating the reported assault and plan to turn over the case to juvenile intake officers when it is completed.