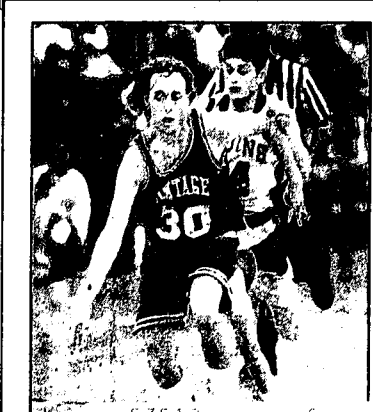




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the Napa Valley Register

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CRIME PREVENTION GOES TO SCHOOL

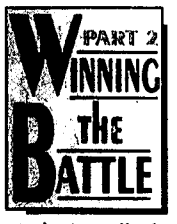
Policy zeroes in on crime prevention

By PAT STANLEY
Register Staff Writer

NAPA — When freshmen students at Napa High School's orientation last fall were told there was a zero-tolerance policy for violence, the students rose to their feet in a standing ovation.

They were tired of fights and gang activity that emerged three years ago, said Jon Salinger, now principal at Temescal High School and formerly dean of students at Napa.

"They're concerned for their safety," he said. "The students really don't want (trouble)."



Student violence jolted the community in 1993 when gunfire erupted in a Silverado Middle School classroom. One student was seriously wounded. Another was sentenced to the California Youth Authority.

Today, middle and high school administrators patrol the campuses with two-way radios strapped to their belts. Police officers are assigned full-time on-campus duty.

"It's for the students' safety and the staff," commented Vintage High School Dean of Students Michael Pearson.

He said the police presence has gained wide acceptance.

"We don't tolerate gang behavior, attire or affiliation on campus," Pearson added.

The zero-tolerance policy for all rule-breakers activity was underscored as he spoke — a police officer was in the next room interviewing two students caught with a small quantity of marijuana. Their parents waited outside.

COPS ON CAMPUS

This is the first year police officers have been assigned full-time duty at Vintage and Napa high schools.

"I told them to be part of the school staff," said Police Chief Dan Monez. "They are on campus, attend teacher meetings, work with counselors. It's full time."

He said other street cops were at first leery of the program, which takes two officers off the streets, but now realize their school assignments result in less trouble on the streets.

"It's preventive," the chief said.

Officer George Ulitin has a desk outside the dean's office at Vintage. Terry Gonsalves is assigned to Napa High School.

"They're a presence, not a force," commented Napa Dean of Students Jeff Anderson. "The kids see Terry and they know they are safe."

Anderson, in his first year in Napa, said the police presence has "demystified" cops for many students.

The two officers teach 21 separate topics, ranging from how to avoid domestic violence to date rape and the Constitutional rights of juveniles.

Ulitin said the rapport established between kids and cops paid off earlier this month, when police were tipped off that two guns had been carried onto one of the campuses. Both were recovered — one tossed in front of a day care center, loaded with one round in the chamber.

"I credit the school resource officer program for getting those guns," Ulitin said. "It averted a

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JERRY MENNINGA/REGISTER

Marria Casula, left, and Rosa Gaxiola, both 14 and from Silverado Middle School, look to make a selection of music at the Teen After Hour drop-in held bimonthly at Las Flores Community Center for teens age 12 through 17.

Community finds 'something to do'

By PAT STANLEY
Register Staff Writer

NAPA — The age-old teenager complaint, "there's nothing to do," is becoming a weak excuse in Napa.

Many programs have recently been created to steer young people away from trouble.

FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE

Recreation Superintendent Gene Piscia believes one reason Napa's Friday Night Live program is successful is that teenagers are involved in its planning and organization.

Chapters have been set up at both Napa and Vintage high school campuses. He said drug- and alcohol-free life-styles are promoted.

Patterned after a program launched in Sacramento in 1984, Friday Night Live started locally in September 1994. One of its first activities was a successful all-night New Year's Eve Party.

The program now includes an after-hours teen drop-in at a local fitness center, leadership training workshops, and employment training. A teen comedy night is one of the most popular elements.

Piscia has been developing teen programs the past six years.

"They give (teens) good self-esteem, a safe haven to come to, and caring people to be in touch with," he said. "Some may not

"We needed an activity the kids wanted to come to ... that got them in the door."

Leon Garcia

have had that."

Piscia said the programs offered by Napa's Community Resources Department were at one time varied and disjointed. "We're beginning to tie these programs together," he said. "They are no longer isolated."

Involving the teens is considered critical.

In 1994, 122 teens participated. Last year the number swelled to 673.

For more information, phone 257-9532.

OUTREACH TO LATINOS

A major effort was launched last year to reach the Spanish-speaking community. Information was made available through the school's Migrant Education program. Latino parents were invited to informational sessions at Shearer School and at Napa City Hall.

Leon Garcia has been a vital link to the Hispanic community.

He said many Latino gang members, and former gang members, participate in "Midnight Basketball," a nighttime sports program begun in 1992.

Indoor soccer was started about 18 months ago, utilizing a group of Hispanic fathers. It attracted up to 30 young men nearly every Friday at the First Presbyterian Church. The church donated the hall. Homemade goal posts were installed. "That is the spirit of the community," Garcia said.

Reflecting on the early 1990s, he recalled working with Napa businessman Isaac Perez. "We helped negotiate a truce," he said of the efforts to focus youth interest away from gangs.

"We needed an activity the kids wanted to come to ... that got them in the door."

Along with the sports comes a heavy dose of reality. Youngsters must sit through presentations by police and various community leaders.

A boxing club was also formed for the teens. "But if you fight, there's no more boxing club," Garcia said. "This is neutral turf."

"It looks like we have a handle on it," Garcia said of the youth

See PROGRAMS, Page 4A

Sarajevo siege ends

Government, Croat allies
take control of roadways

ILIJAS, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) — The Bosnian government declared the siege of anguished Sarajevo over today after assuming control of this former Serb suburb and a vital stretch of adjoining road.

The declaration came on a historic anniversary: Exactly four years earlier, on Feb. 29, 1992, Bosnian Muslims and Croats began voting in a two-day referendum for independence from Serb-led Yugoslavia, the starting point of their descent into war.

After nearly four years of privation and death in Bosnia's capital, the end to the siege came without fanfare at 10:03 a.m. Avdo Hebib, the interior minister of the Muslim-led government, glanced at his watch and said: "The siege of Sarajevo is now officially over."

With a NATO-led peace force in place, the government has been poking holes in the siege for weeks, traveling in and out of Serb territory. But Serbs had retained a cordon around the city.

The transfer of power today in Ilijas, however, gave the government and its Croat allies total control of a road in and out of Sarajevo for the first time since the war began.

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Abortion foes attack Wilson court nominee

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Former Republican congressman William Dannemeyer is one of several abortion

Chin confirmation opponents set to testify at a confirmation hearing Friday for state Supreme Court nominee Ming Chin, who supports abortion rights.

Chin, a justice on the state appeals court in San Francisco, was nominated Jan. 25 by Gov. Pete Wilson to succeed the retiring Justice Armand Arabian on the high court.

At a news conference announcing the nomination, Chin responded to a reporter's question about abortion by saying, "I happen to believe it is the woman's right to choose."

Wilson also generally supports abortion rights, though he backs a never-enforced state law, now under review by the court, that would require parental consent for a minor's abortion.

Chin's confirmation hearing is scheduled Friday before the Commission on Judicial Appointments, which consists of Chief Justice Malcolm Lucas, Attorney General Dan Lungren and the state's senior presiding appellate justice, Robert Pugh of the 3rd District Court of Appeal.

Unlike such hearings, in which there are usually few opponents, 11 people have signed up to testify against Chin, most of them known to be opponents of abortion.

Dannemeyer, a former Republican congressman from Orange County between 1979 and 1992, heads an organization called Californians for America. In a letter to the commission, he said Chin "favors a pro-abortion policy" and should not be confirmed. He also criticized a 1981 state Supreme Court ruling, left intact by later courts, that struck down legislative restrictions on state funding for poor women's abortions.

That issue has not returned to the court in recent years because neither Wilson nor the

See CHIN, Page 5A

Reporter has until Monday to reveal Klaas trial leak



AP LASERPHOTO

■ Santa Clara County Superior Court Judge Thomas C. Hastings in an earlier hearing called the TV report sleazy.

SAN JOSE (AP) — A reporter and news editor station have been given until Monday to reveal an anonymous source or face jail.



That order came Wednesday from the judge in the Polly Klaas case.

At issue is a report that ran earlier this month on San Jose television station KNTV. The story quoted an anonymous source as

saying a videotaped confession by defendant Richard Allen Davis would be used as evidence.

Most pre-trial rulings on what will be admissible in the case have been sealed and a gag order forbids attorneys, law enforcement officials and witnesses from talking about evidence.

Santa Clara County Superior Court Judge Thomas Hastings had already held one hearing on the report, which he called sleazy.

Reporter Beth Willon and news director Terry McElhatton have

refused to name the source, saying they are covered by the First Amendment right to a free press and the California Shield Law that protects journalists from having to reveal sources whom they have promised confidentiality.

Their attorney, Edward Davis Jr., is filing an appeal of the judge's order.

Hastings said a defendant's right to a fair trial supersedes shield laws.

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AP LASERPHOTO

■ KNTV reporter Beth Willon was being held in contempt for violation of the Polly Klaas murder trial gag order.

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