

Daily Chronicle



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NIU Police comments draw criticism

Law enforcement officials dispute account of response to shootings

By Benji Feldheim
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Local law enforcement officials dispute comments made earlier this week by a Northern Illinois University Police lieutenant regarding the Feb. 14 shootings on the DeKalb campus. While speaking at a national conference, NIU Police Lt. Todd Henert said that

some responding officers from non-campus agencies did not follow directions given by the university police at the scene of the shootings.

DeKalb Police Chief Bill Feithen, DeKalb County Chief Deputy Kevin Hickey, Rockford-based FBI Supervisory Senior Resident Agent G.B. Jones, DeKalb County Sheriff Roger Scott and Sycamore Police Chief Don Thomas said

Tuesday that their respective departments and officers responded swiftly and appropriately for an active-shooter incident.

Multiple agencies responded to the Feb. 14 shooting, which took place shortly after 3 p.m. when former NIU student Steven Kazmierczak walked into a classroom in Cole Hall and opened fire, killing five students and injuring 16 other

people before turning the gun on himself.

Henert made the comments Monday while speaking at a conference on campus safety at the University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond. Henert said that some officers from other agencies did not properly wait for assignments or go to reporting points established by the NIU Police.

One group of officers, for instance, went into classrooms and "started going room to room, pushing students out into the open," Henert said during his speech, which the Daily Chronicle heard Tuesday through an online recording.

"Instead of checking in with our department, officers started decid-

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Volunteer Connection



KATE WEBER | kweber@daily-chronicle.com

Volunteer Fred Dewitt, 9, vacuums a guest room Thursday at the Pay-It-Forward House on Somonauk Street in Sycamore. Lisa Dewitt, Fred's mother, who is a regular volunteer at the hospitality house, said it is important to enable children to help in the town where they live. United Way is set to unveil a new feature on its Web site May 1, connecting local organizations in need of help with those in the community who want to volunteer. "With how good kids are with computers these days, the new Web site could help kids easily hop on and find a spot to help out," Dewitt said.

Kish United Way plans new Web site

By Benji Feldheim
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Lois Self can always use a hand. As a volunteer coordinator at the Pay-It-Forward House in Sycamore, Self makes sure people can help with tasks at the nonprofit hospitality house, which serves family members and friends of patients at nearby Kindred Hospital. Volunteers are asked to help with office tasks, make repairs on the house or do yardwork, Self said.

"We appreciate all the help we can get," Self said.

The DeKalb-based Kishwaukee United Way is working on a Web site that will help connect prospective volunteers with organizations like the Pay-It-Forward House.

The new Web site will use an existing database of information about local nonprofit agencies as well as extend an invitation to other groups in town in need of volunteers, such as religious institutions. The hope is that the new Web site will provide a more direct way for people to find organizations seeking volunteers, Kishwaukee United Way Executive Director Dawn Littlefield said Thursday.

"We've got good information on our Web site now, but we wanted it to be more user-friendly," Littlefield said. "The way it is now, though, you have to have a good idea what you're looking for."

The new site is scheduled to go live May 1, although information is still being

compiled to post online, Littlefield said.

Called Volunteer Solutions, the Web application the local agency is using is administered by the national United Way and gives users the option to browse by interests, rather than by agency. A person

can look for volunteer opportunities under categories such as children or the elderly, or by tasks such as helping people with reading, said Ellie Armour, graphic designer at the

DeKalb-based Morningstar Media Group. "You can search by abused children, or children of parents going through a divorce," Armour said. "Or you can go broader if you're looking to help students or homeless people."

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Two plead guilty in beating

• Charges came after fight that led to Noriega's death

By Benji Feldheim
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Two Lockport men pleaded guilty Thursday to charges that stemmed from a fight that led to the death of 25-year-old Luis Noriega about a year ago.

Christopher Tadder and Fred Jakob, both 23, pleaded guilty to one count of aggravated battery each. Tadder was immediately sentenced to 88 days in jail with no possibility of fewer days for good behavior, First Assistant State's Attorney Joe Cullen said Thursday afternoon.

Tadder was also sentenced to 30 months of probation, 100 hours of community service and \$500 in fines and court fees, and is required to undergo psychiatric evaluation and anger management counseling, Cullen said.

Under his plea agreement, Tadder also submitted a statement to the court implicating Nathan Schrank, 22, of Lockport and Emily Hobbs, 22, of Plainfield, who also are charged in Noriega's death, Cullen said.

Schrank has been charged with two counts of first-degree murder, four counts of aggravated battery and one count of involuntary manslaughter. Hobbs was charged with one count of aggravated battery.

Noriega was at Reilly's Bar and Eatery in DeKalb on April 14, 2007, with two friends and his girlfriend, according to witness and DeKalb Police reports. While leaving at about 2:10 a.m., Noriega reportedly was confronted by Schrank, Hobbs, Tadder and Jakob outside the bar. Hobbs had argued with Noriega earlier in the evening, according to witnesses.

A fight ensued, during which Schrank blindsided Noriega with a punch that caused him to fall and hit his head, according to witnesses and DeKalb Police. Noriega died from head injuries at about 4 p.m. the next day.

Jakob pleaded guilty but did not enter a plea agreement and will be sentenced June 16, Cullen said.

Hobbs' next court date will be May 5. Schrank will next be in court Friday.



Tadder



Jakob

Investment firms pull back on their borrowing from the Fed

• Fed auctions nearly \$25B in securities

By Jeannine Aversa
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Big Wall Street investment companies are reducing their

borrowing from the Federal Reserve's emergency lending program, a sign that credit problems may be easing.

A Federal Reserve report Thursday said those firms averaged \$24.8 billion in daily borrowing over the past week. That compares

with \$32.6 billion in the previous week. It marked the second straight week where investment firms borrowed less from the central bank.

The program, which began March 17, is one of several extraordinary actions the Fed has taken recently to

limit damage from a trio of crises: housing, credit and financial.

After the sudden crash of Bear Stearns, the nation's fifth-largest investment bank, fears grew that others might be in jeopardy, given major stresses in credit and

financial markets.

Scrambling to avert a market meltdown, Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke and his colleagues — in the broadest use of the central bank's lending authority since the 1930s — agreed last month to temporarily let

investment firms obtain emergency financing from the Fed, a privilege previously granted only to commercial banks.

The program, similar to the one the Fed has long had for commercial banks, will

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"It has become impossible to determine who the enemy is in Iraq, and therefore it is impossible to define victory."

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Weather

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