

Administrators want expert dogs to sniff around school

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said, and if one catches a whiff of drugs, alcohol or a weapon it won't start barking or scratching. It will simply sit down next to the person or area where it smells the contraband.

"That's your indication that there's something in the car or on the person," he said.

The next step, Swager said, would be to search the locker, car or student for illegal items. As principal, he said, he is allowed by law to check any property on school grounds, but if something was detected in a car, he would probably call a police officer to do the search.

Swager said he can perform strip searches if necessary, but he probably wouldn't go beyond checking pockets, purses and book bags.

"Any principal in their right mind wouldn't do it," he said.

The severity of the punishment would depend on the type of weapon

or amount of drugs found, Swager said. In serious cases, the student could be arrested and charged with a crime.

He said students who are found to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol will receive a 30-day suspension, which can be reduced to 10 days if the student seeks counseling or enters a recovery program. He noted that the student isn't required to finish the program.

If the same student comes to school on drugs again, though, Swager said, he or she will be suspended for 30 days, and anyone caught a third time will be expelled. Expulsion doesn't mean a student is kicked out for good, he added, as state law limits the number of days a student can be kept out of school.

Swager said that doesn't bother him, because his goal is to find help for students with drug problems, not banish them from the classroom.

"We want to get them and their parents some help," he said. "There's not a lot of resources here to help kids with

drugs."

The goal of bringing in the dogs, he said, is to stop kids from messing with drugs or weapons in the first place, or at least discourage them from bringing it to school.

"Even if we don't find anything," Swager said, "it sends a message to students that we will search them and we will be able to find things."

Dick Liess, assistant principal, said he and Swager saw a presentation by Interquest during a Kansas Association of Secondary School Principals meeting and agreed it was a good idea. Swager said patrol dogs from the Kansas Highway Patrol have searched the school, but administrators have never hired a company to do surprise searches.

Liess said the dogs can find much more than drugs or alcohol. They've been trained to detect firearms, gunpowder and other contraband.

"They are really amazing," he said, adding that the Quinter district recommended using the dogs.

Interquest will come in three to four times a year, Liess said, with the school paying about \$350 per visit. Swager said the school will use money from a federal program designed to help schools keep students off drugs.

Swager said he would be naive to believe that some students aren't using drugs, and a few have actually been caught under the influence in school.

He said he, Liess and Carrie Peter, the school nurse, have been trained by the highway patrol to give students a simple test that shows whether they are on drugs.

One student has been caught so far this year, Swager said, and a handful last year.

"Every student has sought help," he said.

The first time Interquest comes to the school, Swager said, it will hold an assembly to explain to students how the random searches will work.

He said he hopes the program will make students feel safer.

"If we can accomplish keeping it away from school," Swager said, "we can give kids a safe place to be, and that's the goal of every school."

U.S. captures al-Qaida chief

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. counterterrorism authorities have newly captured chief of al-Qaida's Persian Gulf operations, Abd al-Rahim al-Nashiri, will shed light on terror plots still in the works as President Bush praised the arrest: "We're making progress in the war against terrorists, that we are going to hunt them down one at a time. ... America and Russia and people who love freedom are one person safer as a result of finding this guy."

Al-Nashiri, a Saudi, was captured earlier this month in an undisclosed foreign country and is now in U.S. custody, U.S. officials said Thursday, speaking on condition of anonymity. A close associate of Osama bin Laden, al-Nashiri is a suspected mastermind of the USS Cole bombing in October 2000. After his capture, he was held briefly in Afghanistan before being flown to an undisclosed location, sources said.

Officials declined to comment on the circumstances or location of his capture. He had last been reported in Yemen.

At the same time, the FBI on Thursday warned that terrorists might try to attack shipping, possibly using scuba divers to put explosives on vessels. The warning, contained in the FBI's weekly bulletin to state and local law enforcement officers nationwide, was not based on any information about specific targets, a federal law enforcement official said.

Al-Nashiri is probably the highest-ranking lieutenant of bin Laden seized since the March capture of Abu Zubaydah, al-Qaida's chief coordinator of terrorist cells worldwide. However, the capture of al-Nashiri did little to quell fears of a resurgent al-Qaida that is plotting new terrorist attacks.

Since last week, U.S. officials had said a senior al-Qaida leader had been caught, but they had declined to identify him. On Sunday, Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge said the prisoner was providing information to his interrogators.

The questioning of other senior figures, such as Abu Zubaydah and Omar al-Farouq, bin Laden's Southeast Asia operations chief, have provided a wealth of information — often of unknown reliability — of planned terrorist operations. Their statements have led to several public alerts in the past year.

In the Cole attack, U.S. officials have said al-Nashiri gave telephone orders to the bombers from the United Arab Emirates and may have provided money to the plotters. He went to Afghanistan after the bombing, which killed 17 sailors.

Born in Mecca, Saudi Arabia, al-Nashiri is believed to be in his mid-30s, officials said.

"He has a reputation as a ruthless operator," one U.S. official said. "He is a very committed follower of Osama bin Laden."

Al-Nashiri oversaw the purchase and transport of explosives, the leasing of safe houses and the planning and financing of attacks, officials said.

He has also traveled under a number of other names, including Umar Mohammed al-Harazi and Abu Bilal al-Makki.

U.S. officials believe he was in Ghazni, Afghanistan, around the time the U.S.-led war began there in October 2001. He is thought to have moved to Pakistan when the Taliban fell, and he is believed to have gone to Yemen in recent months. Some tribesmen in Yemen, however, said he was going to Malaysia.

In addition to the Cole attack in the port of Aden, Yemen, al-Nashiri is suspected of helping direct the August 1998 bombings of U.S. embassies in Nairobi, Kenya, and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. He recruited his cousin, Azzam, to train in Afghanistan and serve as one of the suicide bombers in the attack on the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi, officials said.

In addition, he is thought to be behind the attempt to bomb another destroyer, the USS The Sullivans, nine months before the Cole attack, at Aden. That attack failed when the suicide boat, overloaded with explosives, sank.

He is also suspected of organizing a plot to bomb the U.S. 5th Fleet Headquarters in Bahrain, a plot revealed in January by another top al-Qaida operative, Ibn al-Shaykh al-Libi, who was captured by Pakistan after fleeing Afghanistan.

Principal and assistant honored by peers

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that he's appreciated the calls and cards from teachers and other people in Sherman County.

Liess worked for First National Bank for 15 years before he took the job as high school assistant principal and athletic director seven years ago. When he got the chance to return to the banking business, Liess said, he couldn't pass it up.

"It's an excellent opportunity for me," he said.

Both Swager and Liess said this is the first time they have received such an honor, and while they would appreciate it at any time, it might mean a little more now.

"It's a satisfying conclusion," Liess said.

Swager and Liess said the fact they were nominated by fellow principals makes the designation more special.

"All of your peers in the area recognize that you're doing a good job," Swager said. "They understand how tough it is at certain times."

Swager said that both he and Liess

won in the same year should send a message to people in Sherman County.

"I think it should tell the community that people have looked at Goodland and seen what we've done, the progress we've made," he said.

In the eight years he's worked here, Swager said, the district has made huge strides in technology and has helped more students graduate.

He said other districts have studied and copied Goodland's drop-out recovery program, called the STEP Lab, and tried to emulate other technological advances the high school has made.

"When I first came here we had 12 computers," Swager said, "and students were using manual and electric

typewriters."

Now every student and teacher has access to a computer, he said, and parents can check their children's progress on the Internet.

"It's unbelievable what we've accomplished," he said. "We've really been the front-runners in northwest Kansas."

Before coming to Goodland, Swager said, he was a principal in Kinsley for three years, and before that taught math in Ulysses, Junction City and Hill City. He said he taught physical education for a year in Hill City and has coached football, basketball, golf, swimming and other sports.

"I've coached about everything," he said.

Goodland librarian elected chair of network board

JoAnn Wahrman of Goodland was elected as board chair at the Kansas Library Network Board meeting Thursday, Nov. 14.

Wahrman is the school library representative and has served on the board for the past two years. The board is made up of governor-appointed members from public, special, college, private college, community college and system libraries across Kansas.

The board's mission is to promote

resource sharing among all types of libraries.

Two major projects of the board include sharing on-line databases and the state library card which allows for access to these databases.

With a library card, any Kansas resident may use these resources from any computer that has internet access. Library cards are free at public and school libraries. Databases available with the card include *Discoverer Deluxe*,

Infotrac and *First Search*. These are full text magazine resources.

Discoverer Deluxe includes access to an on-line encyclopedia and almanac.

Center seeks donations for 'love tree'

The Goodland Good Samaritan Center is seeking sponsors for decorations for the center's "love tree."

Sponsors donate money that will be used to purchase an automatic door opener for the main entrance of the center and will be recognized during a dedication ceremony at 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 9, at the center.

Sponsors can donate the money in the name of someone to be honored or remembered, and that person's name will be put on an ornament on the "love tree."

The door opener costs \$4,000 and will make it easier for residents to go in and out. Any excess gifts will be applied to staff scholarships to train employees as certified nurse aides or to train aides to be nurses.

club news

The Lincoln Larks Community and Education Club met Tuesday, Nov. 5, at the home of Colleen Duell. Members were greeted with coffee and delicious chocolate and peanut butter bar.

Arbutus Topliff had placed a display in the window for National Conference Week, the second week in October.

The northwest area fall workshop was held Thursday, Nov. 14. Members discussed program dates and reports to be turned in. A book will be placed in the library at a later date in memory of Virginia Chatfield.

The Christmas party will be Tuesday, Dec. 3. The group plans to visit Old Town and view the Christmas trees. They will then meet for lunch.



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