



# Release of Public Information

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Teen Arrested After Threatening to Kill Students and High School Principal**

The Federal Bureau of Investigation received a tip of a threat to kill students and a high school principal. A person reported that on Saturday October 25, 2008, they were chatting with screen name/IM – “bowser369” in a Yahoo firearm enthusiast chat room known as “The Gun Cabinet”. According to the person “bowser369” wanted information on weapons and indicated he wanted to kill students and a school principal. The FBI investigation revealed that “bowser369” is registered to Tallahassee, Florida resident Jacob Pearson (17yoa). Some of the chat content included:

Pearson: “how did eric and dylan get their guns”

Pearson: “i wanna make history at my old high school if you know what i mean”

Pearson: “I don’t want anyone to get in my way of me making history..”

: “okay, so what do you need?”

Pearson: “weapons”

: “what kind?”

Pearson: “ones that shoot”

: “do you really think you can get away with it nobody else has..”

Pearson: “i’ll kill then die fighting”

Pearson: “will I go to jail”, “im not doing anything else with my life”, “im failing in school”

Pearson: “lost my fiancé”, “lost all of my belongings”, “lost a lot more than that”

Pearson: “im shy”, “and awkward to be around”, “picked on constantly”

: “why take it out on your old high school?”

Pearson: “im jealous of people and their happiness”

Pearson: “I f\*\*\*\*\* hate them”

Pearson: “i wanna do in a lot of happy kids and do in the principal”

Pearson: “he kicked me out of his school”

Pearson: “because of something that happened outside of school”

Pearson: “ the ass”

: “you really should think about this before you do some s\*\*\* that you’ll regret when you’re sitting in prison for the rest of your life..”

After this, Pearson did not respond.

The FBI contacted the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Leon County Sheriff’s Office and the Tallahassee Police Department about these threats. The investigation by the LCSO, FDLE and the Tallahassee Police Department revealed on July 14, 2007, TPD responded to Lucy Street in reference to Jacob Pearson assaulting his mother with a knife. Pearson was arrested for this offense and later placed on DJJ Probation. Pearson was also subsequently expelled from Leon High School. After his arrest writings were located in Pearson’s bedroom which included satanic/occult, homicidal fantasies and suicidal thoughts. The homicidal fantasies included idolization of the Columbine shooters and other similar incidents. The TPD offense report also documented that Pearson asked a friend if he knew how to obtain an Uzi brand submachine gun.

In November of 2007 Pearson was with family in Tennessee for the Thanksgiving Holiday when he became enraged during a family dispute. During this incident he bit his sister, broke his brother's hand, and threw a chair through a hotel window. Pearson began speaking incoherently, advised that he worshiped Satan, wanted to kill people, wanted to kill babies, wanted to kill Rocky Hanna (Principal of Leon High School), proclaimed that he will "do a Columbine", and he requested that the police kill him. Pearson was placed into psychiatric care in Tennessee.

The School Resource Deputy Unit was notified of the incident in Tennessee by the Tallahassee Police Department and informed Leon County Schools and Principal Hannah. A friend of Pearson also stated that Pearson had previously expressed a dislike for Mr. Hannah due to his expulsion from Leon High School. At that time DJJ filed a request for a Violation Of Probation Pick Up Order, which was signed by Judge Ferris and Pearson was subsequently arrested after returning from Tennessee.

As a result of this investigation, Pearson's statements in "The Gun Cabinet" were discovered and warrants were obtained by the Leon County Sheriff's Office Violent Crimes Unit for felony Threatening to Throw, Project, Place, or Discharge any Destructive Device and felony Attempting to Obtain a Firearm by a Juvenile Delinquent. Pearson has been arrested and booked into the Leon County Juvenile Assessment Center. Leon County Schools Safety and Security Office has been advised of Pearson's arrest, as he is a current student at SAIL High School.

Sheriff Larry Campbell said "this arrest is the direct result of the successful coordinated investigative efforts of federal, state and local law enforcement. Pearson posed an immediate danger to the community and this cooperative investigation has prevented a potential tragedy."



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