

FRIDAY

March 22, 2013

8 a.m. Noon 6 p.m.

21 35 40

Partly sunny and cold.
Cloudy and cold tonight.
DETAILS, PAGE C10



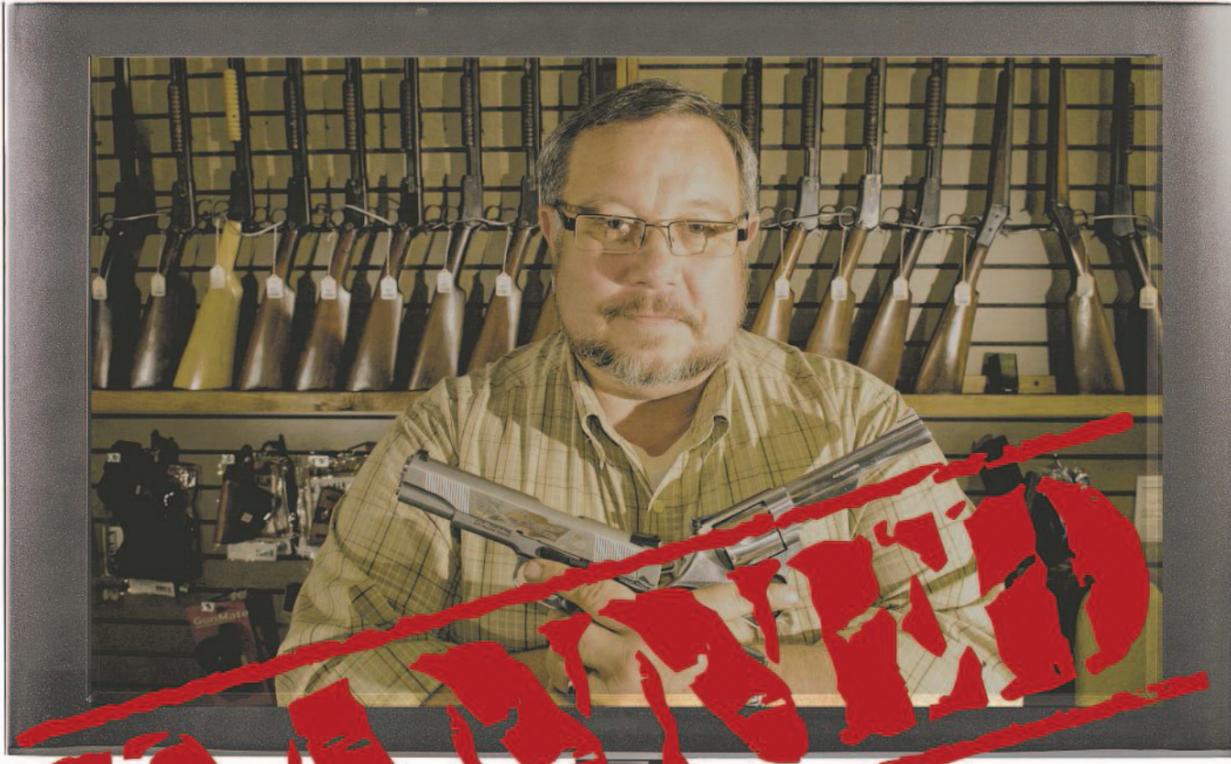
JOURNAL & COURIER

LAFAYETTE—WEST LAFAYETTE, INDIANA

JCONLINE.COM

A GANNETT COMPANY

COMCAST CHANGES ITS ADVERTISING POLICY, LEAVING GUN STORES OUT IN THE COLD



Comcast's new policy affects Diamond V Outdoor Sports owner Paul Vondrasek. FILE PHOTO

By Jessica Contrera
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Local gun stores are in search of new advertising methods following an announcement from cable provider Comcast that the company has banned firearm and ammunition commercials.

The decision was made after Comcast finalized its purchase of media company NBC Universal earlier this year.

"Consistent with long-standing NBC policies, Comcast Spotlight has decided it will not accept new advertising for firearms or weapons moving forward," said

Chris Ellis, a spokesman for Comcast's advertising sales division, Comcast Spotlight.

Greater Lafayette gun sellers, such as Rick Oliver, co-owner of Haley's Lodge, were told their TV ads would no longer be accepted.

"Frankly, I'm a little confused," Oliver said. "I've been running TV ads for 30 years. But if they don't want my money, I'll take it elsewhere."

The problem for Oliver is that there's not many other places to take his money in Greater Lafayette. Comcast is the only

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LPD: Voice mail threat shocked other cops

By Sophia Voravong
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Officer Charles A. Williams Jr. of the Lafayette Police Department told an internal affairs investigator that he was trying to be funny when he called and threatened to kill a man who now is suing the patrolman and his agency for negligence and emotional distress.

"It was just a bunch of drunk guys talking (expletive)," Williams, a five-year veteran, is quoted as telling the investigator.

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No bullying ties to teen's suicide? Mom is skeptical

By Mikel Livingston
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The Tippecanoe County Sheriff's Office has closed its investigation into the suicide of a middle school student.

Angel Green, 14, died by suicide March 5 after what her mother, Danielle Green, described as bullying at the hands of a group of classmates from Battle Ground Middle School.

Sgt. Doug Caldwell, the lead investigator in the death, and Lt. Jason Huber met Wednesday with Green. The two informed her that there was

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A ferry takes people and horses across the river to West Lafayette after the flood of 1913 left the Main Street Bridge sagging and too dangerous to use. PHOTO COURTESY OF TIPPECANOE COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Calm before storm brings little rest

After winds raked Lafayette and other areas of the Midwest on Good Friday 100 years ago, the following day brought calmer weather but little rest for residents hard hit by storms.

Many awoke to find property damaged or littered with shingles, roof sheathing, tree limbs and other debris. And Saturday before Easter was traditionally a busy time.

"Parasols for your Easter costume" touted an advertisement in the Lafayette Morning

Journal. More so than today, Easter 100 years ago was a time for fashion, feasting and churchgoing.

The news that morning was sobering. "One hundred dead in storm that sweeps nation," the Lafayette Morning Journal blared in large type. Most of the casualties were in the South, but Indiana suffered, too.

Henry Walters of Lafayette was struck and killed by a falling sign early Friday, and Hom-

er Vice of Frankfort was killed by a falling roof, the Associated Press reported.

By that Saturday, many Hoosiers probably thought the worst was over. But trouble was brewing in the upper atmosphere. The next day would bring another warmup, another tornado outbreak, and the beginnings of the greatest flood in Ohio Valley history.

— Staff report

THE GREAT FLOOD OF 1913

COMING TOMORROW
The storm returns.
Prelude to a flood.

COMING SUNDAY
A full report on the flood of 1913, including timeline, a

graphic showing the flood's boundaries, and information about exhibits you can visit.

ONLINE
» Photo gallery and video at www.jconline.com.

LOOK BACK
» Read Lafayette newspaper pages from March 21, 1913, through March 28, 1913 at <http://www.jconline.com/section/greatflood>.

SPRING AT HOME

From cleaning to planting seeds, it's the perfect time to focus on your home and garden. **Inside.**

Correction

Purdue University statistics professor Ellen Gundlach's name was misspelled Thursday in a story on Page A8.

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COMICS C8,9
LOTTERIES A2

OBITUARIES C2,3
OPINIONS A9
TELEVISION C7

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BULLY

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insufficient evidence to determine that bullying was a factor.

In a voice mail, Caldwell confirmed that the investigation was closed and that it had determined there was no criminal action related to Angel Green's death. A call to Caldwell for follow-up questions was not returned Thursday.

When the investigation was closed, the materials taken from Angel Green's bedroom were returned to her mother.

"I got a file folder with my daughter's letters, and each letter she wrote was that she was being bullied and examples of what they've done to her," Green said.

"We're just having a hard time thinking bullying wasn't a part of this."

Superintendent Scott Hanback said Thursday that he was unaware the sheriff's investigation had been closed. He declined to comment further, instead referring to the comment he made earlier this week on the situation.

On Monday, Hanback said TSC was conducting its own investigation.

"We will be interested in blending the information from the sheriff's department investigation with our internal review to see if anything can be brought to light about what schools, families or communities can do in the future to prevent tragic events like this from happening again," Hanback said at the time.

Green said the bullying intensified after the 2012 arrest of Angel's father, Phillip Green.

The Journal & Courier covered Green's arrest in a five-paragraph brief on Feb. 29, 2012, that reported Phillip L. Green was arrested and booked into Tippecanoe County Jail and formally charged with child molesting, sexual misconduct and three other unnamed sex offenses.

The arrest intensified the bullying of her daughter, Danielle Green said.

The arrest came to the attention of the alleged bullies when Angel Green told a

J&C HOSTING BULLYING DISCUSSION ONLINE

At noon today there will be an online discussion about bullying hosted at www.jconline.com, featuring national anti-bullying speaker and Lafayette native Travis "Mr. Mojo" Brown as moderator.

Brown is visiting Lafayette as part of his No Bullying Tour. He will speak at 4:30 p.m. today at the Lafayette Family YMCA, 1950 S. 18th St.

friend details of the arrest that had not been reported in local media.

"My daughter had confided to a friend and told her what happened," Green said. "That friend ended up telling other people, and it just kind of started from there."

In the wake of her daughter's death, Green said she's been buoyed by the support of community members.

She's been contacted by several anti-bullying advocates, including Angie Stagge, an Indiana mother whose daughter twice attempted suicide. Stagge is at the forefront of anti-bullying legislation working its way through the General Assembly.

House Bill 1423 would require schools to have in place detailed bullying response procedures and require schools to report the number of bullying incidents in the district's annual performance report. It also would modify Indiana's legal definition of "bullying" and require additional support for bullying victims.

"It's not legislation so the schools can say we want to throw you in jail," Stagge said. "It's 'we want to get you counseling.'"

When it comes to suicide, Stagge said, "there's a deeper problem than just bullying each other."

Green's next steps, she said aren't yet clear, but she plans to continue speaking out against bullying in some capacity.

"I'm trying to explore a lot of options at this point," Green said. "I plan on setting up campaigns and bike rallies in order to bring awareness and take this as high as I can get."

Protesters persist after years of war

By Wilson Ring

Associated Press

MONTPELIER, Vt. — The protesters gather at noon every Friday in front of the Montpelier post office, sharing signs made up years ago to tell their little part of the world why they oppose the latest war involving the United States.

There might be as few as two people in the midwinter cold, or as many as 20 at the height of summer. But a decade after the

invasion of Iraq, protesters there and at similar demonstrations coast to coast still show up, determined to remind people that the U.S. is at war.

"I believe there are many, many people who know in their conscience that we are at war, that we aren't really in any danger of being invaded by the terrorists," said David Connor, 76, of East Montpelier, a Vietnam-era objector who's been a Montpelier protest regular for years. While the war in Iraq is over

for the United States, the war in Afghanistan continues, largely off the public radar as it fades from front pages.

"These little vigils around the country do have that impact of reminding people that this is still going on," said Scilla Wahrhaftig of the American Friends Service Committee in Pittsburgh.

Many of the protesters are veterans of 1960s civil rights and anti-Vietnam marches who never lost their activism.



"Frankly, I'm a little confused," said Rick Oliver, co-owner of Haley's Lodge, shown here. "I've been running TV ads for 30 years. But if they don't want my money, I'll take it elsewhere." JOHN TERHUNE/JOURNAL & COURIER

GUN ADS

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local cable provider.

Oliver said he plans on re-allocating his television advertising budget to radio and print. On principle, Oliver said, he also stopped running TV ads for his second business, Haley's Lock, Safe & Keys.

Paul Vondrasek, owner of gun and ammunition store Diamond V Outdoor Sports, said he hasn't had much luck with radio advertising in Lafayette.

"I don't really know how successful it was," Vondrasek said.

Comcast declined to comment on the financial losses it might suffer because of the change in policy.

Gun control advocates are applauding the cable company's decision and hoping other influential media businesses will follow suit. Time Warner Cable and Cox Communications already have restrictions on certain types of weapons ads.

Alcohol and buffets

"This is a really brave move for Comcast, and I give them a standing ovation," said Julia Chester, Midwest regional coordinator for Moms Demand Ac-

tion for Gun Sense. "Advertising has such a huge impact on public opinion, and we're really at a tipping point in the gun violence conversation."

But Greg Hasek, manager at Four Guns in Lafayette, counters that the ban on gun advertisement is singling out one industry. He points to widespread advertisements for alcohol, which can lead to drunken driving deaths.

"There are so many things that can harm people if they let it," Hasek said. "Buffets are so unhealthy they can lead to death by obesity complications. Are we going to stop advertising buffets?"

OFFICER

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That's according to a written report that Lafayette city attorney Ed Chosnek provided the Journal & Courier in response to a public records request for a copy of Williams' final disciplinary action — and the factual basis behind it — for threatening the man, Timothy Vander Plaats of Lafayette.

LPD launched the internal investigation on or after Jan. 22, 2012, when Vander Plaats filed a complaint alleging that Williams and two other officers repeatedly harassed him via phone for hugging an officer's fiancée.

The investigation found that Williams violated three department rules and regulations: conduct unbecoming an officer, for "(harassing) a citizen of this community whom you do not know in any way and who has done nothing to you; conformance of laws, specifically for possibly violating Indiana's statute for harassment; and use of alcohol while off-duty, which requires sworn officers to refrain consuming alcohol to the point of impairment, intoxication or obnoxious or offensive behavior.

"By your own admission you were so intoxicated during this event that you do not remember much of what happened," Deputy Chief Dave Payne wrote in the final disciplinary action. "Your fellow officers present during this incident 'could not



ONLINE

Watch the surveillance footage in question and listen to Timothy Vander Plaats' 911 call at jconline.com.

believe' that you threatened to kill this individual."

Payne suspended Williams for five, 12-hour workdays without pay. That included working in any off-duty capacity.

"Your behavior is an embarrassment and reflects poorly on the department," Payne wrote. "You are sworn to uphold the law, you are obligated to solve problems and de-escalate anger, not join in immaturity, drunkenness and retaliation.

"The standards and the reputation of this department are high, and you have failed to meet those standards."

Vander Plaats' attorney, Scott Barnhart with Indianapolis-based Keffer Gilley Barnhart, sent a notice of tort claim to city officials in July 2012, which is required before filing suit against a government agency. A formal civil lawsuit was filed this past January in Tippecanoe Superior Court 1.

The allegations in Vander Plaats' lawsuit stem from an encounter he had with another officer's fiancée on Jan. 22, 2012, at Buffalo Wild Wings in Lafayette. Vander Plaats and the woman attended high school

"The standards and the reputation of this department are high, and you have failed to meet those standards."

LPD DEPUTY CHIEF DAVE PAYNE, writing in Charles Williams' final disciplinary action

and a local leadership class together, the lawsuit states.

The internal affairs report includes additional details not mentioned in the lawsuit, namely that Vander Plaats was accused of "stalking" the woman.

Barnhart did not immediately reply to a message, left at his office Thursday afternoon, seeking comment on that claim.

Williams, who described himself as "very intoxicated" while at Buffalo Wild Wings, told internal affairs that he noticed the officer arguing with someone on the phone — Vander Plaats — and asked what was wrong. When the officer told Williams about the alleged stalking, Williams asked for the man's phone number.

Williams' personal cellphone showed that he called Vander Plaats four times, but he claimed to not remember what he said. Even after being played the voice mail, Williams said he did not believe it was him — that is, until others told him they heard Williams use the threatening words.

Tort Claim Act.

Vander Plaats' lawsuit further alleges that someone physically assaulted him about one week after the Buffalo Wild Wings incident, on Jan. 31, 2012, leaving him unconscious and with \$10,000 in medical bills, his attorney previously told the Journal & Courier.

No money or belongings were taken.

Chosnek, the city attorney, provided surveillance video from an east-facing camera at Ninth and Main streets on the date and time Vander Plaats reported being assaulted. It shows a man walking down the sidewalk, then talking to and gesturing toward someone or something off-camera, in a parking lot or alley.

The same man is seen leaving the parking lot or alley 24 minutes later. He appears to be stumbling and, at one point, bends over as though to compose himself.

No assault was recorded.

That evening, a neighbor of Vander Plaats called 911 and reported seeing a man lying in the parking lot and that the man shouted at her. But a Lafayette police officer dispatched to the scene found no one lying in the lot, according to dispatch records also provided in the public records request.

Dispatch records also show someone calling 911 from a telephone number that belongs to Vander Plaats' girlfriend, but the call ended before any information was relayed. A dispatcher called back, but someone apparently hung up.