



## Local news

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# Gun on bus: Mom's ex charged

THE ENQUIRER

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**COLERAIN TWP.** - An 8-year-old Duvall Elementary School student who brandished a handgun on a Mount Healthy school bus this morning will not be charged, but police have arrested the former boyfriend of the boy's mother for leaving the gun where the child could get it.

The Hamilton County sheriff's department said that about 8:41 a.m., sheriff's deputies were dispatched to the **9700 block of Sacramento Avenue, Colerain Township** because a school bus driver said a student had a handgun on the bus traveling through the area.

The third-grade student had been picked up at his residence off Hamilton Avenue in Springfield Township, school officials said.

**ADVERTISEMENT** The sheriff's office said that the student pulled a fully loaded .380 caliber Beretta from his backpack and pointed the handgun, which was still in a holster, at the other 12 students on the bus. The female bus driver immediately notified authorities and the student was arrested.

Later in the day, Michael Wilson, 26, of Greenhills, was arrested and charged with child endangering for leaving the gun in the mother's home. The Hamilton County Sheriff's Office and Colerain Township police identified him as the mother's ex-boyfriend.

"The student did not make any particular or direct threats to any of the other students but did point the handgun (in a holster) at them," the sheriff's office said in a statement. No one was injured during the incident.



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The sheriff's office initially said that charges would be filed against the student, but later said that after speaking with the prosecutor's office, the matter was referred to the Hamilton County Job & Family Services. The student will not be criminally charged.

Gene Blalock, principal at Duvall Elementary, said the student opened his backpack to show the handgun to other students. The other children told the bus driver – a substitute – who alerted Mount Healthy transportation officials. They in turn called police. The driver stopped the bus to wait for police.

The students on the bus were calm, said Blalock, perhaps because they apparently thought the gun was not real. He said he was proud of them.

"It's a good thing the kids knew what to do," said Blalock. "They told the bus driver immediately. We really praise the kids on the bus. They did exactly what they needed to do."

People who saw the bus stop unexpectedly in their neighborhood said several police cars – two of them unmarked -- converged on the bus.

School officials said about half of the students on the bus went home with their parents. Counselors were available to speak with students. Communications about the incident were being sent to parents.

David Horine, Mount Healthy superintendent, said the last gun incident was seven years ago when a middle school student fired a weapon into a school ceiling.

"It's pretty ridiculous that an 8-year-old has access to a gun," he said. "It floors me."

Horine said the school district will evaluate discipline against the student.

*Staff writers Jennifer Baker, Denise Amos and Ben Fischer contributed.*

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