



Nassau County Sheriff's Office

Tommy Seagraves, Sheriff

Press Release

On November 29, 2009 at approximately 5:27 pm, the Nassau County Sheriff Office received a complaint that an individual had been shot while Target Practicing at their residence.

The Sheriff's Office responded to 241938 County Road 121 located in the Boulogne Area of Nassau County, Florida. Responding deputies located 60 year old, William Lee Barnhart in the back yard of his residence where Nassau County Fire/Rescue personnel were performing life saving procedures on Mr. Barnhart. Shortly thereafter Mr. Barnhart was pronounced deceased.

Investigation revealed that Mr. Barnhart was target practicing with Mr. Mark D. Lambert and a juvenile female Foreign Exchange Student Mr. Lambert's family is hosting from Israel. It was during the target shooting that an ammunition round had jammed in a 9mm Glock that the juvenile was shooting. Mr. Barnhart took the gun and removed the round, reinserted the magazine and cocked it. He then handed the juvenile the gun, butt first, with the gun barrel pointing at him. Upon the juvenile gripping the butt of the gun, the gun discharged with the 9mm round striking Mr. Barnhart in the right upper arm area ultimately penetrating into his chest.

Videos retrieved at the scene revealed that over the course of the day the juvenile shot various types of guns under the supervision of Mr. Barnhart and her Foreign Exchange Host Parent. The videos also showed that as the day progressed a false sense of security had surfaced, removing major safety gun handling issues which was a leading factor in Mr. Barnhart's death.

The investigation is still pending the results of the medical examiners office. At this point all factors of the investigation indicate this to be an accidental shooting.

Any questions concerning this press release should be directed to Sheriff Seagraves at 904-548-4069, as the Public Information Officer, Angela Spears is out of the office in a training seminar.

T.L. "Tommy" Seagraves Jr.

Sheriff, Nassau County

11/30/09