



# BONNER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Daryl Wheeler, Sheriff • Ror Lakewold, Undersheriff

February 16, 2023

[REDACTED]

RE: Public Records Request

[REDACTED]

We are in receipt of your public records request, which states:  
*Case LW 21-025020 Sex Offense*

Please see the enclosed reports in response to your request. Please note that a portion of your request has been redacted under the authority of Idaho Code 74-124(1)(c).

Idaho Code 74-124 (1)(c) states as follows.

74-124. EXEMPTIONS FROM DISCLOSURE — CONFIDENTIALITY.

(1) Notwithstanding any statute or rule of court to the contrary, nothing in this chapter nor chapter 10, title 59, Idaho Code, shall be construed to require disclosure of investigatory records compiled for law enforcement purposes by a law enforcement agency, but such exemption from disclosure applies only to the extent that the production of such records would:

c) Constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;

Per Idaho Code §74-103, your request has been reviewed by our attorneys. Should you feel aggrieved by this decision, you may seek redress in district court within 180 days of this mailing as set forth in Idaho Code §74-115.

Sincerely,

Sally Mitchell  
Operations Manager

Updated 02/09/23

02/15/23  
14:38

Bonner County Sheriff  
Deputy Report for Incident 21-025020

1241  
Page: 1

Case Numbers:

Nature: Sex offense  
Location: L2

Address:  
Priest River, ID 83856

Offense Codes: SONS

Received By: Reinink, B                      How Received: T                      Agency: BCSO  
Responding: Reinink, B  
Responsible: Reinink, B                      Disposition: ACT 11/12/21

When Reported: 12:36:06 11/ Occurred Between: 00:00:00 10/30/21 and 12:36:06 11/

Assigned To: Reinink, B  
Status: ACT

Detail: DET  
Status Date: 11/12/21

Date Assigned: \*\*/\*\*/\*\*  
Due Date: \*\*/\*\*/\*\*

Complainant:

Last:                      First:                      Mid:  
DOB: \*\*/\*\*/\*\*              DL #:                      Address:  
Race:                      Sex:                      Phone:                      City: ,

Alert Codes:

E

OFFENSE CODES

Reported:  
Observed:

Additional Offense: SONS Sex Off, nonfrc **Statutory Rape**

Circumstances

Responding Officers:                      Unit:  
Reinink, B                                      0355

Responsible Officer: Reinink, B                      Agency: BCSO  
Received By: Reinink, B                      Last Radio Log: \*\*:\*\*\*:\*\* \*\*/\*\*/\*\*  
How Received: T Telephone                      Clearance: PEN Pending  
When Reported: 12:36:06 11/03/21                      Disposition: ACT Date: 11/12/21  
Judicial Status:                      Occurred between: 00:00:00 10/30/21  
Misc Entry:                                      and: 12:36:06 11/05/21

Modus Operandi:                      Description:                      Method:

Involvements

Date                      Type                      Description                      Relationship

02/15/23  
14:38

Bonner County Sheriff  
Deputy Report for Incident 21-025020

1241  
Page: 2

Narrative

A sex offense reportedly took place on \_\_\_\_\_ in Priest River.

---

On 11-03-21, PRSRO Davis reported to me, Detective Barry D Reinink II, rumors of a sex offense taking place this past weekend on 10-30-21. On 11-04-21, a school counselor reported to me that a student had disclosed to her on 11-02-21, that he had a PRHS teacher show up to a party at his house drunk and that she had sex with a 15 yoa student.

According to the counselor, on 11-02-21 the principal of the school conducted his own investigation, interviewing suspect and victim and other witnesses, with everyone denying everything.

The counselor further told me that after the principal conducted his own investigation, the same student came back into her office and told the counselor everyone had gotten their stories straight and not to worry about it.

Since the initial report, additional reliable witnesses have come forward and disclosed they saw the teacher at the party, contrary to what the parents that held the party reported.

INVESTIGATION IS ON GOING

BR#355

Report By: Detective Barry D Reinink II Fri Nov 05 13:02:01 PDT 2021

Approved By: 0355

Copies To: file

\_\_\_\_\_  
Responsible LEO

\_\_\_\_\_  
Approved by

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

02/15/23  
14:38

Bonner County Sheriff  
Deputy Report for Incident 21-025020

1241  
Page: 3

Supplement

Interview of victim by Detective Reinink II

After the forensic interview was finished based on what I had observed towards the end of the interview with 1540M, I felt that if I told him what Principal George had told me about no one getting into trouble if they were honest, I asked Kainoa, if she would allow me to speak with 1540M. Kainoa agreed and 1540M. and I went into a room to speak. My conversation with 1540M. was only partially recorded, but in the recorded part was retained as evidence.

When I begin to speak with 1540M., I told him that when I spoke to Principal George, with PRLHS School Resource Officer Chris Davis, Bradley Bennett and Colleen as witnesses, Principal George gave me his word, that he wanted to find out the truth during the investigation, and that no one would suffer any repercussions for the party or drinking of alcoholic beverages if they were honest and cooperative with the investigation.

1540M then sat back in his chair and gave a sigh that in my training and experience appeared to be a sigh of relief and said, "ok, I did have sex with Ms. McCormick in her car the night of the party". I asked 1540M. what he meant by "sex" and 1540M. clarified to me that his penis went into Ms. McCormick's vagina while they were in the back seat of her car.

I asked 1540M. if he wore a condom during the sex, and he stated that he did not. I also asked 1540M. if he had ejaculated during the sex, and 1540M. stated that he did. 1540M. continued by saying that it has been bothering him immensely since it happened and that he knew that it was wrong, and that he didn't want anyone to get into trouble.

It was about that point of the conversation that I was able to begin an audio recording, and as I began the recording, I went back over some of the things that 1540M. and I had just discussed, including 1540M. disclosure of the sexual abuse. The following is a synopsis of the continued recorded conversation.

I asked 1540M. who might have had a copy of the video of him and Ms. McCormick having sex in the back seat of her car and 1540M. confirmed that it could have been a student by the name of 1540M.

I then confirmed with 1540M. that when he told Scott about getting into Ms. McCormick's car with her, it was when she first arrived at the party. 1540M. confirmed that he and Ms. McCormick didn't do anything (sexual) the first time he got into the car because there were people standing right by them at the car. 1540M. describes to me that it was Ms. McCormick's idea for him and her to go back out to the car after they were already kissing and making out inside the party, and that when they did, they both got into the back seat of her car. 1540M. stated that they both took their own clothes off, and that the sex was "normal".

1540M. confirmed to me that the sexual act was his penis into her vagina, that he did not use a condom and that he did ejaculate inside of Ms. McCormick. 1540M. told me that Ms. McCormick never mentioned anything about birth control during the act, nor the next morning, that he doesn't know whom she told that to about the "plan B".

1540M. disclosed that afterwards, he felt terrible and wanted to "throw up"

02/15/23  
14:38

Bonner County Sheriff  
Deputy Report for Incident 21-025020

1241  
Page: 4

because it was with his teacher. I told 15YOM that I wasn't going to share any of the details of what he told me with his mother and at that point, 15YOM told me that he was going to tell his mother everything after the interview, that she deserved the truth. As I ended my discussion with 15YOM he stated he felt much better now that he had told the truth.

BR#355

Report By: Detective Barry D Reinink II  
Approved By: 0355  
Copies To: file

02/15/23  
14:38

Bonner County Sheriff  
Deputy Report for Incident 21-025020

1241  
Page: 5

Supplement

report for arrest warrant

On 11-03-2021, I Detective Barry D Reinink II received a phone call from Priest River School Resource Officer (PRSRO) Chris Davis stating that he had heard rumors throughout the school about a possible sexual encounter over the weekend between a teacher and a student at a Halloween party somewhere near Priest River.

Officer Davis stated he was still investigating the rumor to see if there was any truth to it, and that he would contact me if he learned anything more.

On 11-04-2021, I received a message on my office desk phone from Sarah Estes, who is school counselor at Priest River Lamanna High School (PRLHS), asking me to return her call reference a student disclosing to her, information about an alleged sexual relationship between a student and a teacher at the high school. The call I made to Sarah was recorded and retained as evidence. The following is a synopsis of the call.

Sarah told me that on Tuesday (11-02-2021) after lunch, a student came and talked to her about a Halloween party that he had at his house over the previous weekend and how "absolutely" crazy it was. Sarah stated that at first the student didn't want to tell her about the (15) fifteen-year-old having sex, because she (Sarah) would have to report it.

Sarah stated that the student continued talking and eventually told her that the (15) fifteen-year-old had sex with a teacher that happened to show up at the party. Sarah told me that at first, she didn't really believe it, and she began asking the student questions and learned that someone "Snapchatted" the teacher inviting her to the party, and that she did show up eventually. Sarah added that this teacher is known to allow students to "Snapchat" her.

Sarah described that this student told her that the teacher showed up to the party intoxicated, and that she had brought "Jell-O shots" to the party for the kids, had also smoked marijuana with some of the kids and by the end of the night took one of the students to her car, and had sex with him in the car.

I asked Sarah who the student was that disclosed this to her, and she stated it was 17 YOM. (date of birth . Sarah stated that he knew it was wrong and that it weirded him out because it happened at his party and that his parents had allowed him to have the party. According to Sarah, she believed 17 YOM parents were on the property during the party.

Sarah told me that 17 YOM stated one of the kids had a video and that there were pictures on Snapchat, but that all the kids had gotten together and deleted everything after the party. Sarah stated that she told 17 YOM how disgusted she was, and she stated 17 YOM told her no one was going to say anything and that it would all go away.

According to Sarah, she ended her conversation with 17 YOM that day by telling him that she would probably have to report the incident, and Sarah told me that by the end of the day she had reported what 17 YOM had told her to the principal of the school.

Sarah stated that when she told the principal about the abuse, the principal had already begun to hear rumors throughout the day such as "our teachers need to



get their shit together" as well as "if that really happened, that teacher should be fired".

Sarah explained that because of what the principal had heard through the day, he was able to question kids without disclosing that Sarah was the one who reported the abuse, in order for her (Sarah) to "save face" with all of her students.

According to Sarah, the principal, whom she identified as Matt (Matthew) George, began interviewing students including the (15) fifteen-year-old alleged victim, [REDACTED], also known as [REDACTED], as well as the alleged suspect teacher, (37) thirty seven year old Sarai McCormick, and that they all denied the rumors as well as denied the fact that the teacher was even at the party. Sarah stated these interviews took place before the end of the school day on Tuesday (11-02-2021).

Sarah continued by telling me that on Wednesday (11-03-2021), the principal interviewed [REDACTED] about the allegations and that [REDACTED] denied everything as well. Sarah stated at that point, she didn't know what to believe, until after lunch that same day (11-03-2021), [REDACTED] again came to Sarah and stated that "Mr. George bought the whole story, we all got our stories straight and this is all going to get dropped, we are just waiting for him to talk to my mom".

According to Sarah, [REDACTED] told her his parents were really upset when the teacher showed up and all the rumors with it, and that his parents were going to say that it was a family barbeque and that there were only (20) twenty people there.

Sarah told me that later that day she spoke to [REDACTED] again and he assured her that the investigation was dropped, that Mr. George had talked to his parents, and they said that "Sarai" was never there, that it was just a family barbeque.

Sarah stated that she then told [REDACTED] that she had reported what he had disclosed to her as well, that she had to. According to Sarah, [REDACTED] was mad at first about her reporting the abuse, but soon stated that he understood, and that he should never had told her about it to begin with.

I asked Sarah if she talked to the principal after [REDACTED] came to her and said that everyone bought the story that nothing about the rumors were true, and she stated she did, and that the principal then encouraged her to report it to Law Enforcement.

I asked Sarah if she had heard any other rumors about Sarai (McCormick) being inappropriate with any other students and Sarah stated she had not. I also asked Sarah if she had seen any inappropriate interactions between Sarai and [REDACTED], and Sarah told me that she hadn't but that her "GEARUP" coordinator, Brenna Ballenger had.

According to Sarah, Brenna came into Sarai's class to teach what she teaches, and she watched [REDACTED] take Sarai's phone from her and instead of demanding the phone back, Sarai and [REDACTED] were "flirty" with each other about not giving the phone back. Sarah said Brenna told her this probably about a week ago, before the alleged Halloween party and that it gave Brenna the "heebie jeebies".

Sarah told me that she had heard other complaints that Sarai was Snapchatting all her students throughout the school day and that Sarah believed that type of behavior was inappropriate. I questioned Sarah how [REDACTED] knew that Sarai and [REDACTED] had sex, and she stated she thought a lot of the kids saw the knees in

02/15/23  
14:38

Bonner County Sheriff  
Deputy Report for Incident 21-025020

1241  
Page: 7

the car, and that 17YOM had told her that at one time 15YOF, a student at PRLHS, possibly had pictures or a video of something.

Towards the end of my interview, Sarah remembered that 17YOM did tell her that on Tuesday (11-02-2021) after Sarai was interviewed by the principal, Sarai "blew up" 17YOM phone stating that they needed to talk immediately, that this was an emergency and that they were all "screwed".

Sarah again stated that 17YOM told her that Sarai showed up to the party after 15YOM Snapchatted her inviting her, and that she had brought "Jell-O" shots to the party and that he 17YOM dropped them on the garage floor causing the floor to be stained.

I ended my interview with Sarah and created a Bonner County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) investigative case to continue my investigation. That case number being BCSO # 21-025020. I then attempted to call the victim's parents using school emergency contact information, without success. I did leave a message asking the victim's mother, Kainoa Heimsoth, for a return phone call.

On 11-05-2021, BCSO Victim Advocate Coordinator Colleen Reinink, interviewed Jerien Bennett over the phone. Jerien is 17YOM mother, and along with 17YOM father, is the co-owner of the property and residence that the alleged Halloween party took place on 10-30-2021. That residence being located at Priest River, Bonner County, Idaho. The interview was recorded and retained as evidence. The following is a synopsis of what Jerien told Colleen.

When Colleen told Jerien the investigation that we were conducting, Jerien stated she had heard the same rumors, but that 17YOM didn't have a party, she did, and it was just her coworkers and friends that attended it on 10-30-2021.

When asked, Jerien admitted that 15YOM was at her house that night with 17YOM but denied knowing that any teacher came to the residence. Jerien also denied having any knowledge of 17YOM confiding in a school counselor about what happened at the party, but when confronted by Colleen, admitted that there were "Jell-O" shots that were spilled, during the party. Colleen ended her interview of Jerien.

On 11-05-2021, I interviewed Kainoa Heimsoth over the phone. The conversation was recorded and retained as evidence. The following is a summary of the interview, please see the evidentiary recording for exact verbiage.

Kainoa identified herself as the mother of (15) fifteen-year-old . I spoke to Kainoa about some of the allegation's that 17YOM had disclosed to the counselor and Kainoa stated that she had heard similar rumors and confronted 15YOM about them.

Kainoa stated that when she spoke with 15YOM, he told her that his relationship with Sarai was close, but that it wasn't sexual. Kainoa said she asked 15YOM why would kids create rumors about it being sexual and according Kainoa, 15YOM told her that Sarai has been tutoring him at school, and sometimes when she does, she locks the door so other students do not interrupt them.

Kainoa told me that she was not happy with Sarai locking the door and didn't understand why a teacher would do that with a student inside her classroom. Kainoa also told me that 15YOM did attend 17YOM party and that 15YOM



02/15/23  
14:38

Bonner County Sheriff  
Deputy Report for Incident 21-025020

1241  
Page: 8

told her a couple of students invited Sarai to the party, but she stated she could not attend the party because it could "jeopardize her job".

I asked Kainoa if she would be ok with 15yom being forensically interviewed, and she agreed to bring 15yom to the Children's Advocacy Center in Coeur d'Alene for a forensic interview. I ended my interview with Kainoa.

Later, that same day, I received a phone call from PRLHS Principal George stating that another teacher at the school, whom he identified as Jonathan Baron, told him that a student had disclosed to Baron that he attended 17yom Halloween party, saw Sarai show up to the party intoxicated, and saw 15yom and Sarai kissing each other intimately. I asked Principal George if I could speak to him and Baron at the high school next week, to which Principal George agreed.

On 11-08-2021, myself and BCSO Victim Advocate Coordinator Colleen Reinink traveled to PRLHS and interviewed Jonathan Baron, who is an English teacher at the high school. The interview was recorded and retained as evidence. The following is a synopsis of the interview. Please see evidentiary recording for exact verbiage.

Jonathan stated that a student who often confides in him and that he mentors, came into Jonathan's classroom on Thursday, 11-07-2021, and asked him if he had heard the rumor about a different English teacher at the school having sexual relations with a student.

Jonathan identified the student as (17) seventeen-year-old , and according to Jonathan, after asking the question and Jonathan telling 17yom that he had not heard that rumor, 17yom stated he had to go to work and that he would speak with Jonathan later about it.

Jonathan told me after hearing that, he began to casually ask students about the past weekend and if anything, interesting had happened in an effort to investigate 17yom rumor, but he was not able to obtain any information similar to what 17yom had disclosed.

According to Jonathan, because what 17yom had disclosed was so disturbing, the next day Jonathan spoke to 17yom asking if what he disclosed was a rumor or did he 17yom have firsthand knowledge of the incident and 17yom told Jonathan that he was there (at the party) and had witnessed it firsthand.

Jonathan told me that after assuring 17yom that he (Jonathan) was going to have to report the incident, he asked 17yom to start from the beginning and tell him everything. Jonathan told me that he took notes as he spoke to 17yom and later he (Jonathan) provided me with those notes which were retained as evidence.

According to Jonathan, 17yom started by stating that on Saturday, 10-30-2021, he and a group of his friends, were hanging out in 17yom garage while 17yom parents had their own Halloween party in the residence.

17yom told Jonathan that he and some of his friends thought it would be great if they could get their teacher Ms. McCormick to come to the party, and 17yom disclosed to Jonathan that he talked to Ms. McCormick (Sarai) on the phone, asking her to come to their party, and eventually she showed up to the party.

Jonathan stated that according to 17yom, when Sarai (McCormick) got out of her car, she was intoxicated, carrying a bag of "Jell-O" shots and some type of

02/15/23  
14:38

Bonner County Sheriff  
Deputy Report for Incident 21-025020

1241  
Page: 9

alcohol in a bottle. Jonathan told me that 1740M made it a point to tell him (Jonathan) that someone dropped the "Jell-O" shots on the floor in the garage, leaving a stain on the floor.

1740M told Jonathan that Ms. McCormick made a point of telling all the kids at the party to call her by her first name Sarai, that she couldn't be known as Ms. McCormick h at the party. Jonathan stated that 1740M told him eventually he saw the teacher (Sarai) and 1540M kissing, as 1540M sat on her lap, noting to Jonathan that this was one of the craziest nights ever.

1740M told Jonathan that eventually he and some of the other kids noticed 1540M and Sarai were no longer in the garage, and according to Jonathan, 1740M told him they found them in her car, and it was obvious they were in a sexual situation.

Jonathan stated that according to 1740M some of the kids had taken photographs of the incident and that Sarai made all the kids delete any evidence of her being there from their phones. Jonathan said 1740M told him that the next morning, 1540M started freaking out telling 1740M that he had done "stuff" with the teacher and that he felt guilty and bad.

According to Jonathan, 1740M told him that the reason he was disclosing this to Jonathan was once the rumors came out and the principal started questioning people, the principal never questioned 1740M. 1740M told Jonathan that he felt like at some point it was all going to "blow up".

Jonathan also said that 1740M had disclosed to him that Sarai had worn a beanie to the party and accidentally left it there. 1740M told Jonathan that he 1740M wore the beanie to school after the party and that eventually Sarai found out and cornered 1740M demanding it back.

Jonathan stated at the end of our interview, that 1740M was a really good kid and that he (Jonathan) wouldn't think that 1740M would make something like this up, knowing how serious the situation was.

We then went to Principal George's office and spoke with him about everything. I asked Principal George to call 1740M mother and ask her if it would be ok for us along with PRPD SRO Davis to speak with (17) seventeen-year-old (date of birth . . . about the party and if she would allow Officer Davis to look through 1740M phone and Snapchat application for pictures or evidence related to what 1740M had disclosed to Jonathan. 1740M mother agreed, and I asked Officer Davis to go get 1740M and bring him to the principal's office and ask him to be able to look through his phone unannounced. This conversation in the principal's office was partially recorded and retained as evidence, the following is a synopsis of the interview.

1740M told us that he did not Snapchat Sarai, but that if there are pictures of the incident, it would have been through Snapchat. 1740M admitted that he did throw the party at his house in the garage, and that he did see the teacher (Sarai) there in attendance in his garage.

According to 1740M he was really intoxicated and that he was sorry that he lied to Principal George when asked if Sarai was at the party or not. 1740M stated that he heard Sarai and 1540M had sex and that if they did, they probably did it when they 1540M and Sarai) left his party in her car.

1740M stated that the reason they all denied it to Principal George when

02/15/23  
14:38

Bonner County Sheriff  
Deputy Report for Incident 21-025020

1241  
Page: 10

asked, is that it's pretty hard to believe, and they thought if they all denied it, it would just go away.

Officer Davis did not find any evidence of pictures of the incident on 1740m's phone or Snapchat account. 1740m told me that this has weighed heavy on him and that he was worried about 1540m, and he and his friends were going to talk to 1540m and encourage him to be honest about everything.

Principal George told 1740m in front of us all that as long as everyone involved with the investigation cooperated and told the truth, there would be no sanctions for the party that took place at 1740m's home.

After speaking with 1740m Colleen and I drove to 1740m's home where he held the party, located at \_\_\_\_\_, Priest River, Bonner County, Idaho. Once there we met with 1740m's mother Jerien and explained what we had learned so far about the investigation and what we had talked to 1740m about.

Jerien stated that 1740m and his friends had their party in the garage, while she and some of her friends and family had a gathering in their house. Jerien stated as far as she knew, no teacher showed up to their property, but that someone did spill "Jell-O" shots on the floor in the garage causing a stain.

According to Jerien, they knew that the kids were having a party, so the adults blocked the kid's vehicles in the driveway, so no one would be driving intoxicated. Jerien said the plan was that 1740m and his friends were going to spend the night at the residence no matter what.

Jerien did say that after the party, something seemed to be bothering her son 1740m and that she kept asking him about it, but 1740m did not tell her what it was. We then left Jerien's residence after thanking her for speaking with us.

On 11-10-2021, Colleen and I interviewed (17) seventeen-year-old \_\_\_\_\_ (date of birth \_\_\_\_\_) after getting permission from his father, at the Priest River BCSO Substation. The interview was audio recorded and retained as evidence. The following is a synopsis of the interview.

1740m started by explaining that 1740m held the party in the shop on his property and that even though it's not "1740m's thing", 1740m invited 1740m because they are best friends. 1740m then began to name several friends that attended the party.

I immediately asked 1740m if there were any pics or videos the teacher and the "incident" and 1740m said that he hasn't personally seen any, but he had heard there were some, but that 1540m had gone to everyone and made them delete them all.

1740m said that he and 1740m tried to keep control of the party as best they could as far as who came and who wasn't allowed to attend, and that 1740m's parents made sure that if anyone came, they were spending the night so no one would be driving drunk.

According to 1740m he had Sarai as a teacher his freshman year and never noticed her do anything inappropriate with anyone. 1740m stated that after returning from teaching overseas, this year, Ms. McCormick (Sarai) seemed much more relaxed, especially with the senior class.

1740m said he had heard rumors this year about 1540m and Sarai being "flirty"

02/15/23  
14:38

Bonner County Sheriff  
Deputy Report for Incident 21-025020

1241  
Page: 11

with each other in class prior to the party, but he never paid attention to it. According to 17yom while at the Halloween party at 17yom house, the first time he ever heard anything about Sarai was when 15yom was talking to her on his 15yom cell phone.

17yom said he heard 15yom asking someone what 17yom address was because he was going to try and get "Ms. McCormick" to come to the party. 15yom passed the phone to 17yom and 17yom told us he talked to her on the phone, trying to remember 17yom address.

17yom told me he thinks approximately (1) one hour later, Sarai showed up to 17yom house driving an SUV type vehicle and he and a bunch of other people ran out to her car to greet her. 17yom described that Sarai got out of the car wearing a beanie, and that it would come into play later in the story.

According to 17yom, when Sarai got out of the car she was also carrying a glass bottle of alcohol that started being passed around to "students", and a bag of "Jell-O" shots that she handed to 17yom. 17yom said 17yom ended up opening the bag of "Jell-O" shots and a bunch of them spilled onto the floor causing a stain.

17yom stated that she told them all "you can't call me Ms. McCormick, you have to call me Sarai", which 17yom said was really weird because they had never done that before. 17yom said it seemed like Sarai was dressed like a student, so she seemed to blend in with everyone.

17yom told me that he "definitely" saw 15yom sitting on Sarai's lap in the garage and that they were kissing each other, describing the kissing "like making out kissing". 17yom said Sarai wasn't doing this with any other student, just 15yom.

17yom said that after a while 15yom and the teacher disappeared, but that he didn't really notice that they had disappeared, and that he didn't remember "the car" but he had been told they were caught having sex in the car.

17yom said he doesn't remember if he was at the car or not, but that he doesn't remember seeing them in the car. 15yom said that at some point, he was told, Sarai got mad at everyone and moved the car further down the road to get away from all of the kids.

According to 17yom he didn't see 15yom again until the next morning, and when he did see him, 15yom seemed very upset. 17yom said 15yom was open and upfront with everyone that morning and said that he 15yom had sex with Ms. McCormick last night, and that it was a bigger deal than he thought.

17yom disclosed that 15yom had "Snaps" of her buying "plan B birth control" the next morning, and all though he didn't see the "Snaps" he was right next to 15yom as he described the conversation. 17yom stated he didn't think 15yom would lie about anything like that.

17yom described 15yom as being upset and depressed for the next couple of days and that 15yom had mentioned to him 17yom that if 17yom saw anyone with pics or videos, they had to delete them. 17yom told me he never saw any pics or videos, but that he had heard a rumor that 15yom had videos of it and that most of it would have been done through Snapchat knowing that Snapchat deletes everything.



02/15/23  
14:38

Bonner County Sheriff  
Deputy Report for Incident 21-025020

1241  
Page: 12

I asked who was there and heard 15 yom state that he had sex with Ms. McCormick and 17 yom said besides him, most of the people that had attended the party the night before. 17 yom said they all talked about keeping it quiet, and that he questioned 15 yom about having videos of the incident, but that 15 yom as well as everyone else has denied having them, saying it was just rumors and he didn't know why people were saying that he had videos.

17 yom said he had also heard a rumor that Sarai made a statement to someone that if it got bad, she was going to say that 15 yom raped her as a defense to all the rumors. I then asked 17 yom about the beanie, and 17 yom said he had found Sarai's beanie the next morning after the party when they were cleaning things up. 17 yom told me it was the same one that he saw Sarai wearing when she arrived at the party.

According to 17 yom the first day back to school after the party, everyone that attended and knew what happened, was highly stressed and trying to figure out what to do. 17 yom said he had brought Sarai's beanie to school and was wearing it as a joke to kinda mess with her.

17 yom told me that later, when he was sitting on a bench next to Sarai's classroom, Sarai confronted him by saying that she needed her beanie back. 17 yom said he didn't know what to do, so he lied to Sarai saying that someone else had stolen it from him, but that he would get it back to her.

The next day, 17 yom believes it was possibly Tuesday (11-02-2021), 17 yom gave Sarai her beanie back and told her that "they" had talked and that "they" were all on her side, to some degree. 17 yom said he thinks she asked about photos or videos and that they all needed to be deleted, but he couldn't remember the entire conversation.

17 yom told me that the morning after the party, he and his friends had a group "Snapchat" talking about the need for everyone to get their "stories" straight to protect Sarai, but he believes everyone left the group "chat", which deletes that chat from "Snapchat".

According to 17 yom the story everyone was going to stick to was that it was just a barbeque at 17 yom's house and that the idea that Ms. McCormick was there was so outlandish, that they would all say it was just a rumor, and that she was never there.

After speaking with 17 yom myself and Colleen went to the Walmart Supercenter located at 476999 US-HWY 95 in Ponderay, Idaho. Through a check of Idaho Department of Motor Vehicles records as well as BCSO records, I knew that Sarai McCormick lived at Ponderay, Idaho, which is a very short distance from Walmart, and the most logical place someone would go to purchase the "plan B" birth control product early on a Sunday morning.

Once at Walmart, with met with loss prevention officer Shawn Flynn and told him that we were looking to identify a female that might have purchased the "plan B" birth control pill sometime on 10-31-2021, possibly in the morning.

The product, "Plan B One-Step" is an emergency contraceptive pill that is taken usually within (72) seventy-two hours of unprotected sex and is designed to temporarily delay ovulation. It is expensive and sold from the shelf of a store, not a prescription. To prevent theft, the product is "electronically protected" by Walmart, and its sale is easily tracked, when purchased.

02/15/23  
14:38

Bonner County Sheriff  
Deputy Report for Incident 21-025020

1241  
Page: 13

Shawn took me to the shelf in Walmart where it is displayed, then searched his store's electronic sales data base to see if there was a sale of the product on 10-31-2021. Shawn could not find a sale of the "Plan B One-Step" on that date.

On the shelf where we saw the "Plan B One-Step" displayed, we noticed that there was a similar product displayed next to the "Plan B One-Step" that was less expensive but was designed to prevent pregnancy similarly. It was called "Take Action".

Shawn searched the store's electronic sales data base for a sale of "Take Action" on 10-31-2021, and at 10:33:24 hours on the morning of 10-31-2021, a customer purchased the "Take Action" pill, along with a couple of other items, using a debit card with the numbers , with an expiration date of according to the electronic receipt.

Using the terminal identification number on the electronic receipt, Shawn was able to retrieve video of the purchase showing a white female adult completing the transaction purchasing the "Take Action" pill, as well as other products, then walking out of the store to her light-colored SUV in the parking lot, driving away.

The woman appeared to resemble Sarai McCormick based on Facebook pictures I have observed, as well as a Idaho Department of Motor Vehicle driver's license photo.

I took pictures of the pills displayed in Walmart, collected a copy of the electronic receipt showing the purchase and obtained the video evidence that Shawn had discovered, retaining it all as evidence.

On 11-12-2021, myself and Colleen met the alleged victim, (15) fifteen-year-old and his mother Kainoa, at the Children's Advocacy Center in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. Prior to the interview, Colleen and I spoke with 15yom about the investigation.

I asked Kainoa if I could consensually take 15yom cell phone with me, download it and search through it looking for evidence related to him being victimized by Sarai. Kainoa agreed and provided me the phone and signed a note consenting to the search of the phone and its applications.

Kainoa again expressed her concern about Sarai's behaviors regarding the locking of the door while tutoring 15yom and stated she felt something had been bothering 15yom since the party at 17yom house. Kainoa stated that she doesn't let 15yom attend events like this but has been trying to let him do more things as he matures.

Eventually 15yom met with forensic interviewer Scott Coleman, and Scott began the interview. This forensic interview was both audio and visually recorded, and me and Colleen viewed the interview remotely from another room. The interview was retained as evidence, and this is a synopsis of his interview.

After explaining the rules of the interview, and 15yom agreeing to only talk about things that really happened, Scott began talking to 15yom about things that he likes to do as well as things that have happened to him recently, both good and bad.

When Scott asked 15yom to talk about something that made him not so happy in the past week, 15yom responded by saying "people saying stuff about me". 15yom explained that because he was quarantined recently, he was behind in his



02/15/23  
14:38

Bonner County Sheriff  
Deputy Report for Incident 21-025020

1241  
Page: 14

schoolwork and his teacher, Ms. McCormick would allow him to come to her classroom everyday during lunch and help him catch up on his work for her class.

15 yom stated even though he was going to her classroom every day, he was still behind. 15 yom told Scott that he gets distracted really easily and that while she was helping, kids kept coming into her classroom and disrupting their work, so she ended up shutting and locking the door, to avoid any further disruptions. 15 yom said he did get more work done after that, but that people started assuming he was having sex with her (Ms. McCormick).

Scott asked 15 yom why people would think that and 15 yom responded, "when I am in class with her it gets to the point where I guess I am flirting with her, and I have told her stuff that I haven't told my best friends. She is really cool and understands me."

As the interview progressed, 15 yom eventually admitted that he called Ms. McCormick and invited her to the party, and that when she eventually got there, he went out to her car and sat in the passenger seat, eventually leaving the car, and going into 17 yom party with Ms. McCormick and several other people. When Scott asks 15 yom if he "made out" with Ms. McCormick, 15 yom says "yes", but that he doesn't want to talk about, stating they also "drank a little bit hanging out".

15 yom continued to deny having sex with Ms. McCormick, but by the end of the interview with Scott, when questioned by Scott about holding information back and if he 15 yom was worried about getting Ms. McCormick in trouble, 15 yom stated "yes, he doesn't want his friends or anyone to get into trouble" and that "she messed up, we all messed up".

Scott ended the interview and based on what I had observed towards the end of the interview with 15 yom I felt that if I told him what Principal George had told me about no one getting into trouble if they were honest, I asked Kainoa, if she would allow me to speak with 15 yom. Kainoa agreed and 15 yom and I went into a room to speak. My conversation with 15 yom was only partially recorded, but in the recorded part was retained as evidence.

When I begin to speak with 15 yom, I told him that when I spoke to Principal George, with PRLHS School Resource Officer Chris Davis, Bradley Bennett and Colleen as witnesses, Principal George gave me his word, that he wanted to find out the truth during the investigation, and that no one would suffer any repercussions for the party or drinking of alcoholic beverages if they were honest and cooperative with the investigation.

15 yom then sat back in his chair and gave a sigh that in my training and experience appeared to be a sigh of relief and said, "ok, I did have sex with Ms. McCormick in her car the night of the party". I asked 15 yom what he meant by "sex" and 15 yom clarified to me that his penis went into Ms. McCormick's vagina while they were in the back seat of her car.

I asked 15 yom if he wore a condom during the sex, and he stated that he did not. I also asked 15 yom if he had ejaculated during the sex, and 15 yom stated that he did. 15 yom continued by saying that it has been bothering him immensely since it happened and that he knew that it was wrong, and that he didn't want anyone to get into trouble.

It was about that point of the conversation that I was able to begin an audio

02/15/23  
14:38

Bonner County Sheriff  
Deputy Report for Incident 21-025020

1241  
Page: 15

recording, and as I began the recording, I went back over some of the things that 15 yom and I had just discussed, including 15 yom disclosure of the sexual abuse. The following is a synopsis of the continued recorded conversation.

I asked 15 yom who might have had a copy of the video of him and Ms. McCormick having sex in the back seat of her car and 15 yom confirmed that it could have been a student by the name of 15 yof.

I then confirmed with 15 yom that when he told Scott about getting into Ms. McCormick's car with her, it was when she first arrived at the party. 15 yom confirmed that he and Ms. McCormick didn't do anything (sexual) the first time he got into the car because there were people standing right by them at the car. 15 yom describes to me that it was Ms. McCormick's idea for him and her to go back out to the car after they were already kissing and making out inside the party, and that when they did, they both got into the back seat of her car. 15 yom stated that they both took their own clothes off, and that the sex was "normal".

15 yom confirmed to me that the sexual act was his penis into her vagina, that he did not use a condom and that he did ejaculate inside of Ms. McCormick. 15 yom told me that Ms. McCormick never mentioned anything about birth control during the act, nor the next morning, that he doesn't know whom she told that to about the "plan B".

15 yom disclosed that afterwards, he felt terrible and wanted to "throw up" because it was with his teacher. I told 15 yom that I wasn't going to share any of the details of what he told me with his mother and at that point, 15 yom told me that he was going to tell his mother everything after the interview, that she deserved the truth. As I ended my discussion with 15 yom he stated he felt much better now that he had told the truth.

I then went and spoke with Kainoa, thanking her for bringing 15 yom in for the interview and allowing me to download his cellphone. I told her that I believed 15 yom was honest with me and that he told me that he had some things he wanted to tell her on the way home today. The investigation, including gathering of records and interviews is ongoing.

Based on (15) fifteen-year-old [redacted] of birth [redacted] disclosing that he and (37) thirty-seven-year-old Sarai Lynn McCormick engaged in mutual intimate kissing, with the intent of gratifying their lust, passions and sexual desires, in front of several first hand witnesses, while inside the party located at [redacted] Priest River, Bonner County, Idaho, and that the kissing did not amount to Lewd Conduct as defined by Idaho Code, I ask that Sarai Lynn McCormick be charged with (1) one count of SEXUAL ABUSE OF A CHILD UNDER THE AGE OF SIXTEEN YEARS, Idaho Code 18-1506(b) - FELONY.

Also, based on (15) fifteen-year-old [redacted] (date of birth [redacted]) disclosing that he and (37) thirty-seven-year-old Sarai Lynn McCormick engaged in a sexual act, while at the property located at [redacted] Priest River, Bonner County, Idaho, specifically his penis penetrating her vagina, causing genital to genital contact, again with the act done with the intent of arousing, appealing to, or gratifying the lust or passions or sexual desires of either party, I ask that Sarai Lynn McCormick be charged with (1) one count of LEWD CONDUCT WITH MINOR CHILD UNDER SIXTEEN, Idaho Code 18-1508 - FELONY.

02/15/23  
14:38

Bonner County Sheriff  
Deputy Report for Incident 21-025020

Page: 1241  
16

BR#355

02/15/23  
14:38

Bonner County Sheriff  
Deputy Report for Incident 21-025020

1241  
Page: 17

Supplement

01/18/2022 interview with Brenna Ballenger.

On 01/18/2022, I Colleen Reinink received a phone call from Brenna Ballenger from the Priest River High School. I had contacted Brenna last week via email to coordinate an interview with regards to her observations between Sarai McCormick and 1540M. Brenna explained that a few weeks before the alleged incident at the Halloween party she had noticed Ms. McCormick Snap chatting with a sophomore student, Juvenile Unknown DOB

Brenna thought that Snap chatting a student was inappropriate and the students are not supposed to be on their phones during class. Brenna went to Mr. George, the principle, and advised him of the Snap chatting. Mr. George had a talk with Ms. McCormick after that.

About a week before the Halloween party, Brenna was working in Ms. McCormick's classroom when she observed what she called "flirting" between Ms. McCormick and 1540M. Brenna explained that 1540M was sitting up by Ms. McCormick's desk and kept taking items from her like her phone. Rather than taking the role of a teacher, Brenna stated Ms. McCormick was flirty back with 1540M. Brenna was disturbed by what she saw. Brenna thought 1540M was the instigator of the flirting however, Ms. McCormick flirted back.

Brenna learned of the allegations of the Halloween party from talk around town and school. Brenna stated a student, unknown juv/m, went to her the week following the party and told her he was not at the party but heard that 1640M had a video of what happened.

Brenna stated many students have talked about a video however, she has not found anyone who saw the video. Brenna stated the week after the Halloween party, Ms. McCormick seemed more "serious" and the students were "hush hush" until Ms. McCormick was placed on leave, then all the students started talking about it.

Brenna will contact me again if she gains any more information from anyone at the school. This interview was audio recorded and retained as evidence. For exact verbiage refer to the recording

02/15/23  
14:38

Bonner County Sheriff  
Deputy Report for Incident 21-025020

1241  
Page: 18

Supplement

01/24/22, phone contact with Sarai McCormick's mother, Jackie Starkey.

On 01/24/2022, I Colleen Reinink, received information from the Prosecutor's Office, Cherie Moore, advising that she had received a call on 01/21/2022 from Jackie Starkey alleging that her daughter, Sarai McCormick, had been the victim of a crime.

Starkey told Cherie that she would like the warrant for Sarai to be quashed by the judge because she (Sarai) was the victim. A warrant had been issued for Sarai earlier in the day for one county of Lewd Conduct and one count of Sexual Abuse of a Minor under 16, both resulting from a relationship Sarai had with a 15 year old male student while employed as a teacher at the Priest River High School.

Cherie was unable to contact anyone in the courts that late in the day but gave me the information to follow up on.

I called Jackie and asked her if Sarai was the victim of a crime and if so, did they want to report it. Jackie stated yes, Sarai was a victim of a crime however, they have hired an attorney, "Jeremy", and she would consult with him. I have her my name and number and advised if they wanted to report a crime to contact me. Jackie agreed and the call was ended.