

# THE ROUNDUP

BY AND FOR THE STUDENTS OF HALF HOLLOW HILLS HIGH SCHOOL WEST

## HOW TO TRACK A PREDATOR

Written by Jordyn Rickles & Design by Julia Camina

As posted on the Half Hollow Hills Central School District's website, a level 3 sex offender has moved into the district. His name is Jamie Sanchez, and he is a 6'2" white male, convicted of forcibly touching both a 16- and a 5-year-old girl's "sexual parts." Are there any other potentially dangerous individuals in the area, and what can be done to protect the children of our community?

Once there is a known predator in the area, many members of the faculty have to follow certain procedures to ensure the safety of the school. Roberta, the first face you see when you enter the building, and security guards surrounding the school receive pictures and information on the offender. Every time someone enters or leaves the school, the faculty has to pay careful attention to every detail about them.

"About five years ago, there was a suspicious man who entered the school," said Roberta, "and security had to be called down and escort him out." Any potential harm that could come to anyone in the school has to be taken care of right away. The school also has begun locking its doors during certain hours in an attempt to keep the students safe.

According to the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services, sex offenders are only allowed within 2,000 feet of a school

or other facility caring for children. There are many restrictions that follow the release from prison for a sex offender. These restrictions include: abstinence from drinking, giving up computers, taking lie detector tests, notifying sex partners, and wearing a GPS tracker for life.

In Suffolk County alone there are a total of 543 registered sex offenders. When broken down by town; Melville has five, and Wheatley Heights and Dix Hills each have two. Although the numbers for Dix Hills may appear to be low, it is still incredibly important that all students and families are notified.

A new way that communities are starting to combat sexual predators is through the use of technology. A fairly new app in the iTunes App Store called "Offender Locator" was introduced in mid-August 2015. Through the app, one could enter a location and see how many offenders are in the area. The locations can be as specific as an exact address. Once the list of offenders is formed, information such as who they are, the offense they committed, and age can be accessed. This app is intended to inform surrounding areas so that everyone can stay safe and aware. It is simple to navigate and extremely helpful for those who are concerned, designed to give people peace of mind about who lives around them. The Offender Locator is constantly being updated to give more precise and accurate information.

Although students, faculty, and parents are concerned with sex offenders in the area, these state laws make it extremely difficult for them to go unrecognized. Precautions have been put in place to prevent sex offenders from committing other crimes; one just needs to stay aware and know how to track a predator.

### TIER THREE

- includes violent and nonviolent acts, with those above or below the age of 18
- the offender is registered on the Sexual Offender Registry for their entire life, which is verified no less than 4 times in one year

### TIER TWO

- typically also of a non-violent nature, but the crime involves kids under the age of 18
- the offender is registered on the Sexual Offender Registry for no less than 25 years, which is verified twice a year

### TIER ONE

- typically of a non-violent nature with persons of age
- the offender is registered on the Sexual Offender Registry for a minimum of 15 years, which is verified every year.

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STORIES OF THE WEEK - MARCH 3, 2016  
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On Wednesday, March 2 at approximately 8:00 a.m., the Walt Whitman Mall's Panera Bread was forced to evacuate employees and patrons after carbon monoxide seeped into the establishment through the vents. Although no one suffered from any life-threatening symptoms, it was a chilling reminder of the incident at the store's neighbor, Legal Sea Foods, almost exactly two years ago.

On February 22, 2014, a combination of police, firefighters, and paramedics rushed to the scene of Legal Sea Foods after it had been reported that a woman had fallen and hit her head in the basement of the restaurant. However, what they didn't expect to find was an unusually high level of the dangerous gas carbon monoxide in the air. Consequently, the restaurant was evacuated, along with its two neighbors, the Cheesecake Factory and Panera Bread.

Luckily, out of all the people that were in the building at the time, only twenty-eight exhibited symptoms. Unfortunately, only twenty-seven cases were proven to be non-life threatening. That day, the restaurant's manager Steven Nelson, 55, passed away due to carbon monoxide poisoning. Often called the silent killer, carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless gas that causes symptoms such as a dull headache, weakness, dizziness, nausea, shortness of breath, and confusion.

Now, almost two years later, when the Huntington Community First Aid Squad arrived, seven of Panera Bread's employees were experiencing just that. Two ambulances were used to transport them to Huntington Hospital, where their symptoms



Written by Lilly Milman & Design by Julia Camina

threatening and one remained at the mall on standby.

Fortunately, there were no more reports of illness after the initial seven were hospitalized and the establishment was once again open to the public by noon. This, however, was no easy feat. When approached during her lunch break at approximately 3:15 p.m., one employee explained that she was not scheduled for a shift at that time, but was called in last minute due to the fact that other employees were feeling ill and she did not find out about the leak until she arrived. Another representative refused to acknowledge the incident, explaining that it did not pertain to Panera Bread, but rather the neighboring building.



One thing that is for certain is that this day has left a bad taste in everyone's mouths, and it wasn't caused by spoiled soup. An investigation completed by local authorities has revealed that the gas leak was, in fact, caused by construction that was happening at the building that was formerly Legal Sea Foods, which has been in the process of renovation

since the incident two years ago.

Following the initial tragedy at the Walt Whitman Mall, though, locals have been left wondering how the same problem can occur twice. Suffolk County Police Chief Stewart Cameron has speculated that the culprit was either a diesel fuel heater or a diesel fuel camper, both of which can generate carbon monoxide. Later, it was confirmed that "a piece of machinery that emits exhaust" was the cause, which is different from the faulty vent pipe that resulted in the death of Nelson at Legal Sea Foods.

It is impossible to say definitively if the two incidents are connected or merely coincidental, but certain precautions should be taken either way. The only surefire way to detect and subsequently prevent carbon monoxide leaks is with a carbon dioxide detector and routine inspections. Specifically, one should keep a close eye on furnaces or other heating systems, water heaters, vents, fireplaces, and wood stoves. Finally, in cases involving gas leaks, ventilation is key.

The official statement from the Panera Bread is that "the safety and well-being of our Panera Bread guests and our staff is our top priority."