



**"Customers talk about Hometown Bank:  
it is in a recent satisfaction survey."**  
Oxford - Webster - Sturbridge 508-987-1200 Members FDIC †

telegram.com

NEWS



CURRENT:  
43°

[Home](#) | [News](#) | [Sports](#) | [Business](#) | [Deaths](#) | [Entertainment](#) | [Blogs](#) | [Shop](#) | [Real Estate](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Cars](#) | [Advertise](#) | [Contact us](#)

[World](#) | [City/Wachusett](#) | [North](#) | [South & West](#) | [East & Valley](#) | [On the Common](#) | [Living](#) | [Etc.](#) | [Health](#) | [Food](#) | [Court](#) | [Opinion](#)

(+) (-) [change font size](#)

[print article](#)

[email article](#)

[All RSS feeds](#)

Wednesday, April 16, 2008

## Teens charged in beatings

### One victim was kicked, struck as he lay on ground

By Jean Laquidara Hill TELEGRAM & GAZETTE STAFF

**HOLDEN**— A 17-year-old Worcester teenager, a 15-year-old Holden youth and a 16-year-old Worcester youth have been charged with assault and battery with dangerous weapons for their alleged roles in a videotaped beating of two Wachusett Regional High School students after school Monday.

Police said several teenage boys beat two other youths with a pipe, kicking and striking at least one of the youths after he lay injured on the ground. The incident was caught on videotape by someone using a camera phone.

The fight took place about 2:30 p.m. on a side street near the school, as about 15 to 20 students looked on. The two injured youths were treated at a hospital and released, police said.

A student who was at the fight said one student who was injured tried to help the first victim and was hit in the face with a pipe.

Police Chief George R. Sherrill said Brendan M. Simpson, 17, of Katahdin Street, Worcester, who is not a student at any school, was arrested yesterday afternoon and charged with assault and battery with a dangerous weapon, a metal pipe; assault and battery and conspiracy. He is scheduled to be arraigned this morning in Leominster District Court.

Monday evening, a 15-year-old Wachusett Regional High School student was arrested and charged with assault and battery with a dangerous weapon, the ground; and assault and battery. Chief Sherrill said the ground was used as a weapon when the 15-year-old Holden boy belly-flopped onto the youth, forcing the victim's body against the hard ground.

A third teenager, a 16-year-old Worcester boy who



Simpson  
[Enlarge photo](#)

**“From what I’ve seen on the tape, and what I’ve talked about in terms of multiple attackers on one student, and the use of weapons, I think it’s unprecedented.”**

Thomas G. Pandiscio,

**BREAKING NEWS ALERTS**  
The latest news, emailed to you, as it happens. [Sign up now](#) ▶

attends Wachusett Regional High School, learned yesterday that Holden police had a warrant for his arrest and turned himself in, according to Lt. Donald A. Ball. He said the youth was arraigned yesterday in Worcester Juvenile Court on charges of assault and battery, assault and battery with a dangerous weapon (shod foot), assault and battery with intent to do bodily injury and being a disorderly person.

A fourth suspect has also been identified, the lieutenant said.

Asked about a student witness statement that the fight was about drugs, Chief Sherrill said the motive is still being investigated.

"Anything is possible. Could be a girl. Could be sports," he said late yesterday afternoon.

Earlier in the day, the chief had described the fight as vicious, saying it had to be rooted in something important to the participants. .

The fight started between two students at Wachusett Regional High School and escalated when one of the students called friends from Worcester, police said. A student who used his cell phone to make a video of the fight sent it to police an hour after the fight, and other students who had seen the fight called police afterward on Monday because they found it disturbing, Chief Sherrill said.

The investigation started in Holden, late Monday afternoon, expanding to Worcester yesterday morning, as school administrators saw that some of the students in the video were not students at the regional high school. Assisted by school administrators at WRHS and Doherty Memorial High School in Worcester, Holden Police Officer Jon Santimone and other officers learned the names and whereabouts of some of the suspects, Chief Sherrill said.

WRHS has students from the five member towns of Holden, Paxton, Princeton, Rutland and Sterling, and accepts students from other communities, including Worcester, under school choice.

Wachusett Regional School District Superintendent Thomas G. Pandiscio described the fighting as serious and meriting criminal prosecution, but also said conflicts between students within a school and in neighboring communities are not unusual.

However, he said he believes the fight was the worst ever experienced at WRHS.

"From what I've seen on the tape, and what I've talked about in terms of multiple attackers on one student, and the use of weapons, I think it's unprecedented," Mr. Pandiscio said.

Some of the students involved may be barred from returning to Wachusett Regional High under a state law that allows expulsion to preserve the safety of students, Mr. Pandiscio said.

Usually, planned fights are stopped before they begin because students talk among themselves, and often students tell teachers what is going on, said Mr. Pandiscio, who was principal of Wachusett Regional High before becoming superintendent.

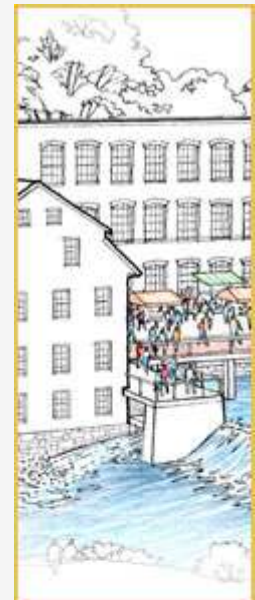
"What happened in this case is that there was very little talk about it, which is rare for this many students. When I talked to the vice principals this morning, they were upset about the event but they were also upset that students who knew about it didn't come forward," he said.

Asked if he would recommend against continuing school choice if a school-choice student is involved in this incident, Mr. Pandiscio said: "We make our students safe by good policy and good practice, not by preventing their associations."

## WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

### External links:

» VIDEO: Wachusett Regional High student beaten



WHITIN  
MILL  
CAPITAL  
CAMPAIGN

ONLINE  
DONATIONS



WorcesterWorks.com  
**TOP Jobs**

**DRIVER** Award winning est. local company looking for FT Class B Driver to ...

**Health and Safety Instructors needed at the American Red Cross of Central ...**

**DRIVER - LQK RT16 Class** A CDL driver needed f / t evenings mon thru fri. ...

"If any student committed a felony assault in connection with our school, it would be my opinion that that student would surrender his right to attend our school, whether that is a school-choice student or a student from one of the member towns," he said. "Whether a student is from another place or from a member town I don't think is germane."

A senior, who identified himself as a witness to the fight and a friend of one of the youths who was beaten, said yesterday that the fight was over drugs.

"That was pretty out-of-hand," he said yesterday.

Another student, a junior, said he also saw the fight. "It was pretty bad," he said. One of the victims was knocked unconscious after a group of boys beat him and kicked him while he was on the ground, he said.

Telegram & Gazette intern Amanda Francoeur contributed to this report.



**Click here**  
to subscribe to the  
Telegram & Gazette

**Reader Comments -- This article has 7 comments**

» [Add your comments to this article..](#)



**Refinance and Save \$1,000s**

\$150,000 Mortgage for \$483/month. Compare up to 4 free [www.pickamortgage.com](http://www.pickamortgage.com)

**Refinance \$300,000 for Only**

\$300,000 Mortgage for only \$965/month. Save \$1,000's - No [www.HomeLoanHelpLine.com](http://www.HomeLoanHelpLine.com)

**Fed Cuts Interest Rates Again**

Mortgage Rates Hit 26 Month Lows. Calculate Your New [www.LowerMyBills.com](http://www.LowerMyBills.com)

[Ads by Yahoo!](#)

**Sales Representative** - Air Compressors. Kaeser Compressors, Inc is ...

**GENERAL Garden Center** Outside Labor. Call Bigelow Nurseries Inc., 8-4, ...

**CASE WORKERS Part time, full time, experienced case workers needed for ...**

**CNA's** Full-Time and Part-Time All Shifts 5pm to 9pm option also ...

**ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE / COLLECTIONS** Full time office position available at ...

**CHILDREN'S COUNSELOR** - New Hope is seeking a Master's level clinician to ...

**DENTAL ASSISTANT** position needed Part Time in a Multi Specialty Dental ...

**More great jobs at WorcesterWorks.com**

**Employers Advertise Here**

[News](#) | [Entertainment](#) | [RSS](#) | [Personals](#) | [Corrections](#) | [Weather](#) | [Company Store](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Submissions Policy](#) | [Contact us](#)

© 2008 Worcester Telegram & Gazette Corp.

Order the Telegram & Gazette, delivered daily to your home or office!