

Press Release

On Thursday afternoon, April 3, 2025, the Cheyenne County Sheriff's Office was contacted by the principal of Potter-Dix High School, Potter, NE who advised of a situation involving threats of violence towards particular Potter- Dix High School students.

The subsequent investigation revealed that through a string of Facebook and Snap Chat posts, the following occurred. A city employee of the City of Sidney found a softball lying in the ditch on Haskell Hill Road, just north of the edge of Sidney. He observed the softball was completely covered with names. One of the names he believed to be a Potter-Dix High School student and reached out to that student asking if it was a team ball that belonged to him and if he wanted it back. The student did not recognize the ball and advised the employee that it was not his. The student then sent out a message on social media to a senior chat group to help identify the softball.

Approximately one hour later, another Potter-Dix High School student received a Facebook message from a Sidney High School student, warning the Potter-Dix High School student to be careful, because the softball was a hit list of students that a certain group of Sidney High School students wrote out and were going to act upon.

During the course of our investigation, the Sidney Police Department also began fielding calls from Sidney High School students and parents regarding this same information.

With the assistance of the Sidney Police Department, the investigation began tracing the threats back to the source in order to identify whether or not this was a credible threat to one or both schools and their students.

In the end, our investigation concluded that this was an exaggerated threat, a story inadvertently spread by at least one, possibly two students from Sidney High

School. It appears to be a case involving rumors being spread via social media that begin to get more and more grandiose each time the story was told and then the story began to take on a life of its own.

The Cheyenne County Sheriff's Office and the Sidney Police Department are confident that there is no risk to students at either the Potter-Dix High School or the Sidney High School.

We ask that this be a lesson to everyone, that your actions have consequences. Something as innocent as a City of Sidney employee finding a lost softball, blew up into a threats case involving a hit list, which turned into an hours long investigation, tying up numerous personnel and resources from Potter-Dix High School, Sidney High School, Sidney Police Department and the Cheyenne County Sheriff's Office. All to be traced back to a rumor.

I remain,

Adam E. Frerichs, Sheriff
Cheyenne County Sheriff's Office
1000 10th Avenue / PO Box 75
Sidney, NE 69162
Phone: 308-254-2922 / 308-254-5879
Fax: 308-254-4641
Email: adam.frerichs@cheyennecountysheriff.org