Palatka High School teen’s rape report fabricated, Sheriff’s Office says
Posted: Monday, November 3rd, 2008 at 12:52 pm

By JIM SCHOETTLER
The Times-Union

A 15-year-old girl lied about being raped in a Palatka High School bathroom last week to cover up a sexual encounter she had off-campus, authorities said this afternoon.

The Putnam County Sheriff’s Office is continuing to investigate the actual encounter she had and have not decided whether to charge her with filing a false police report, said Capt. Rick Lashley.

Lashley said a detective received information over the weekend that the girl’s initial story was fabricated and deputies confirmed that in a meeting with her this morning.

The girl told deputies she was attacked after being dragged into a second-floor bathroom during school Oct. 27. She said she was held at knifepoint and raped. The girl returned to class and didn’t report the incident until getting home hours later. Her mother called deputies.

The Sheriff’s Office released information about the reported rape three days later, including a composite sketch of the person the girl said committed the attack. Deputies based the sketch on details from the girl, surveillance video taken from near the time she said she was attacked and other accounts.

School officials responded to the reported rape by sending letters home with students and taking phone calls from worried parents.

But Lashley said the girl’s story, including details included in the sketch, was bogus. Lashley didn’t have details about when or where the girl had
the actual encounter. After her mother reported the rape to police, the girl was taken for an examination that showed she had sex, deputies said.

“We are still treating her as a victim and we do believe something happened,” Lashley said. “Hopefully we’ll get to the bottom of it. When the investigation is finished, we’ll decide whether to charge her with filing a false police report.”

30 Responses to “Palatka High School teen’s rape report fabricated, Sheriff’s Office says”

1. **yearight Says:**
   November 3rd, 2008 at 12:59 pm
   
   If it turns out there was no encounter she needs to have charges filed against her. If there was one even though the location is wrong she should not be charged.

2. **Tree Hugger Says:**
   November 3rd, 2008 at 12:59 pm
   
   She needs to be charged with something!!!!

3. **Jaxlady Says:**
   November 3rd, 2008 at 1:18 pm
   
   She should be charged with filing a false report most absolutely. What if some riot took place because everyone assumed a black male raped this girl. Why did she accuse a black man. Anyway, stories like this just sickens me. It makes it difficult for true victims to come forth. I just don’t know what else to say. I hope she’s okay though.

4. **Ms. Mac Says:**
   November 3rd, 2008 at 1:19 pm
   
   In deed she needs to learn her lesson about telling lies, because being raped is a serious thing. I hope that this doesn’t discourage other girls to not tell if the situation is true.

5. **John Meeks Says:**
   November 3rd, 2008 at 1:22 pm
   
   She should be ashamed of herself because there are too many rape victims who are not believed because of idiots like her who get off on crying wolf.
6. carlotta smith Says:
   November 3rd, 2008 at 1:24 pm
   she should not had done that what has happend off campus should stayed off campus. and that's mean she lied
to her mom and dad

7. Dale Says:
   November 3rd, 2008 at 1:40 pm
   I agree John, this gives a bad name to women who are really raped. So many are crying wolf for one reason or
   another these days, that it sends out a bad message. I see way too many gold digging women doing it to men
   with money, but this is a stupid reason to get police involved, just because you regret having sex with your
   boyfriend.

8. bob Says:
   November 3rd, 2008 at 1:58 pm
   Just for the record - I said this sounded like b.s. when the story first broke.

9. heretostay Says:
   November 3rd, 2008 at 2:04 pm
   And I was right there with you Bob saying the exact same thing...sadly we were right..

10. BobD Says:
    November 3rd, 2008 at 2:08 pm
    I saw this happen while I was serving in the millitary. The girl who was engaged got the guilts after having sex
    with another guy. She cried rape. The guy sat in the brig for a night, until the girl recanted in the morning. She
    got off completely scoff free. They claimed that prosecuting her would discourage other women who actually
    were raped from coming forward.

    I don't buy it. Crying wolf, or in this case rape, must have some type of penalty imposed.

    Yes she is a confused little 15 year old. But doing 200 hours community service will only strengthen her
    character, and disuade anyone else from doing the same dumb thing.

11. deloris1 Says:
    November 3rd, 2008 at 2:13 pm
    What if that sketch was a student’s relative, just happen to be at the school and was seen on camera. What a
    shame if he had been arrested and procuted wrongfully. She needs help and a lot of love.

12. fweaver Says:
November 3rd, 2008 at 2:29 pm

I knew this was all fabricated as soon as the story was aired on the news. How many men have you seen with a tear drop Tattoo? She must have been thinking about Little Wayne when she was describing her so call attacker.

13. Eddie Says:
November 3rd, 2008 at 2:39 pm

Just “kids being kids” these days.
It’s their extracurricular activities.
This country is going to hell fast and after the elections tomorrow it will pick up speed!
I’m heading to New Zealand.

14. Rightthinker Says:
November 3rd, 2008 at 2:41 pm

I said on the day that it happened that something wasn’t right with that story. You just don’t “hide in the hallway” in the middle of the day in a middle school and wait for a victim...too hollywood!

15. J.E.T. Says:
November 3rd, 2008 at 2:51 pm

This is saddening

16. Say What? Says:
November 3rd, 2008 at 2:57 pm

beautiful...as if victims of sexual assault haven’t had a hard enough time being taken seriously...she was directly responsible for a false police report being filed, man hours of investigative police work, medical/laboratory costs for the rape kit to be run, administrative costs to the school to notify students/parents and the community at large, causing an atmosphere of fear among the female population of the school~both faculty and student body, plus the possible damage done to the reputation of the school...i’d say there’s plenty to charge her with...

17. Denis Says:
November 3rd, 2008 at 3:11 pm

Good thing our prosecutor is not named Nifong.

18. Denis Says:
November 3rd, 2008 at 3:18 pm
"We are still treating her as a victim and we do believe something happened," Lashley said. "Hopefully we'll get to the bottom of it. When the investigation is finished, we'll decide whether to charge her with filing a false police report."

Wonderful. Now she's a victim. Yeah something happened. She laid down for some punk. I guess we won't get her name anytime soon, will we.

But if they actually had a perp, say from that supposed video, his name would be plastered all over the paper.

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<th>19. Someone Says:</th>
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<td>Actually there are plenty of people who have teardrop tattoo's, maybe not around your area, but there are plenty of people who have them, not just lil' wayne and other rappers. Just because he had a teardrop tattoo doesn't mean it was fabricated, unfortunately it was fabricated (not because of the tattoo) and charges need to be brought against this girl, she is no longer a victim. Someone who played a Halloween prank on an employee and played dead was charged with filing a false police report why not someone who accuses someone completely innocent of a crime.</td>
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<th>20. buckeeyebob Says:</th>
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<td>The news media get these types of stories and runs with them as if they were gospel. It was the same thing with the woman who claimed that she was assulted in the restroom of the Avenues Mall and the girl who claimed that she was raped at the beach by a bunch of Bolles students. Why don't you let the authorities investigate these false claims before you beat the story to death.</td>
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<th>21. bolles mom Says:</th>
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<td>the bolles thing was bought out by wealthy dads money can buy alot of things she was conned into going to the party for that reason stupid and young but no lying</td>
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<th>22. bigt24 Says:</th>
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<td>the only thing here is you cant rape the willing.she should be charged.she should be sented to another school until this thing is all cleared up.that is why so many innocent guys are falsely acussed.</td>
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<th>23. New Yorker Says:</th>
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typical redneck trying to cause division at a crucial TIME.

24. beachesnole Says:
November 3rd, 2008 at 5:11 pm

Well, if she was 15 having sex, technically, somebody raped her. The difference is, she knows who, and he should also go to jail

25. rafael Says:
November 3rd, 2008 at 5:27 pm

If the story was fabricated she should be charged with filing a false police report. That way you discourage others who want to do the same. If you do not charge this young lady, then drop any false police report charges filed by your office on anyone for the last year. That way your Police Department doesn't show preference to anyone, you see the Sheriff's office doesn't have much choice. False reports of rape hurt women the most.

26. Michelle Creeron Says:
November 3rd, 2008 at 5:36 pm

this isnt right.

she should be charged.

i dont care if you think you will get into trouble for having sex.

i attend this school and you are not making this situation easier on ANY of us girls.

we have been doing the buddy system for the last week.

if she isnt charged with something then there are gunna be a lot of parents pretty upset about this whole encounter.

27. rh18 Says:
November 3rd, 2008 at 6:24 pm

i kind of had an idea that this is what happened. didnt want to put it on the girl, but an incident just like this happened at my high school a couple of years ago. it turned out the whole thing was consentual. its rediculous!

it's sad that people-like myself-are more likely to think its fabricated than real. i do believe she should be charged with something.

28. eddie Says:
November 3rd, 2008 at 8:21 pm

typical mccain supporter...
29. **Factualist** Says:  
November 3rd, 2008 at 11:01 pm

New Yorker

Why do you assume she is a “redneck” or even white for that matter?

30. **C Dane** Says:  
November 18th, 2008 at 4:20 am

Hey eddie. Its a good thing stupid comments aren’t chargable offenses as well. and beachesnole, a 15 year old having sex might be technically statutory rape but if everybody who ever had sex at 15, was charged you would most likely have to lockup over 50% of the population. And when did you start having sex? Oh, but of course... You are perfect, huh?