

**THOMAS D. ALLMAN**  
Sheriff-Coroner



Undersheriff Gary Hudson

**Captain Kevin Broin**  
*Field Services*  
**Captain Tim Pearce**  
*Corrections*

## County of Mendocino Office Of The Sheriff-Coroner

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July 17, 2008

Honorable Cindee Mayfield, Presiding Judge  
Superior Court of California  
County of Mendocino  
County Courthouse  
Ukiah CA 95482

**RE: Response to Report of the 2007-2008 Grand Jury**

Dear Judge Mayfield:

Attached and enclosed please find my responses to the Grand Jury's report entitled:

**HATS OFF TO ROUND VALLEY!  
A 2007-08 Grand Jury Report on:  
Round Valley Unified School District  
Covelo, California**

The Grand Jury requires me to respond to Findings 3, 5, 13, 17, 20, 25, 29, 31, 33, 44 through 49; and Recommendations 1 through 4. My responses are as follows.

**Findings**

- 3. *The illegal drug industry dominates the Round Valley economy.***

Sheriff's Response: I agree with this finding.

- 5. *Many students experience domestic violence and unstable home environments. Abuse of alcohol and illegal drugs is widespread.***

Sheriff's Response: I agree with this finding.

- 13. *The campus is fenced and gated on the main street. Gates remain open during the day and are locked at night and on weekends.***

Sheriff's Response: I agree with this finding.

- 17. *A recently installed phone system makes it possible to communicate with teachers in their classrooms in the event of an emergency.***

Sheriff's Response: Without further information I can neither agree nor disagree with this finding.

- 20. *Classrooms cannot be locked from the inside. Jurors were advised of the intention to install appropriate interior locks.***

Sheriff's Response: Without further information I can neither agree nor disagree with this finding.

- 25. *Some students miss school to fill lucrative jobs in the marijuana industry***

Sheriff's Response: I agree with this finding.

- 29. *The School Attendance Review Board (SARB) has been reinstated and truant students are referred for disciplinary action.***

Sheriff's Response: Without further information I can neither agree nor disagree with this finding. The Sheriff's Office participates in the Laytonville SARB, but we have not yet been asked to participate in a Round Valley SARB.

- 31. *The administration is committed to maintaining the school campus and a 100' perimeter as a safe zone: "...no drugs, no bullying, no bigotry." However, some younger and other vulnerable high school students are still subjected to hazing.***

Sheriff's Response: Without further information I can neither agree nor disagree with this finding.

- 33. *Marijuana-related incidents occur at both the Elementary/Middle and High Schools. They are dealt with promptly in accordance with published disciplinary policies.***

Sheriff's Response: I agree with this finding. The schools make prompt reports of marijuana-related incidents to the Sheriff's Office.

- 44. *RVUSD is working with MCOE to develop a fully coordinated emergency response plan and to engage youth in emergency preparedness by establishing the Teen CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) program.***

Sheriff's Response: Without further information I can neither agree nor disagree with this finding. I fully support the development of a coordinated emergency response plan for the schools, but I have not yet been contacted by RVUSD or MCOE.

**45. *Lockdown drills have been discussed but have yet to be implemented.***

Sheriff's Response: Without further information I can neither agree nor disagree with this finding. The Sheriff's Office has not been asked to participate in any such drills.

**46. *The District has received a grant to secure video surveillance cameras for the campus but has not yet acquired and installed them.***

Sheriff's Response: Without further information I can neither agree nor disagree with this finding.

**47. *State categorical funding currently provides a Campus Security Supervisor, who is on the grounds during school hours and sporting events to monitor student behavior and intervene as necessary. Continued funding for this position is uncertain.***

Sheriff's Response: Without further information I can neither agree nor disagree with this finding.

**48. *Two resident Sheriff's Deputies were hired in spring of 2008 to fill long-standing vacancies and serve Round Valley.***

Sheriff's Response: I agree with this finding, but both deputies have since resigned.

**49. *In keeping with long-standing tradition, Tribal Police provide back-up when needed. Tribal Police have a good working relationship with the District although an MOU is not yet in place to formalize the relationship.***

Sheriff's Response: I agree with this finding, but it is important to remember that Tribal Police are not recognized as California peace officers and do not have the same authority as Deputy Sheriffs.

**Recommendations:**

**1. *Establish an on-going public forum to foster school/community discussion and widespread engagement with the recovery process.***

Sheriff's Response: This recommendation has already been implemented, at least in part. Both the Sheriff's Office and the District participate in monthly town hall meetings in Covelo. Attendance at these meetings has been increasing.

2. ***Complete an emergency response plan, including implementation of the Teen CERT Program; include campus health and safety personnel and representatives from the Sheriff's Office, Tribal Police, and Fire Department in the planning process.***

Sheriff's Response: This recommendation is directed to the District. The Sheriff's Office welcomes the opportunity to work with the District and allied agencies toward development of a comprehensive school emergency response plan.

3. ***Develop a lockdown plan, conduct periodic lockdown drills and install interior locks on classroom doors.***

Sheriff's Response: This recommendation is directed to the District. The District should contact this office to discuss the expectations for Sheriff's dispatch and responding deputies during such drills.

4. ***Install outside video surveillance on the campus.***

Sheriff's Response: Again, this recommendation is directed to the District. Sheriff's Office personnel are available to assist the District or its surveillance vendor in developing a system that will both deter crime and provide evidence for the arrest and prosecution of offenders.

Should you or the Grand Jury have questions about any of my responses, please do not hesitate to contact me or my Undersheriff, Gary Hudson, at the address and phone number listed below.

Sincerely,



THOMAS D. ALLMAN  
Sheriff-Coroner

Cc: Dennis Scoles, Grand Jury Foreman  
Jim Wattenburger, Chair – Board of Supervisors  
Tom Mitchell, County CEO  
Jeanine Nadel, County Counsel  
Lt. Ronald Welch, MCSO Northern Area