



Office of the District Attorney
Nola Tedesco Foulston

July 6, 2007

District Attorney Nola Tedesco Foulston announces the completion of an investigation regarding the reported mutilation of ducks near a local middle school in Wichita, Kansas.

On Tuesday, May 1, 2007 at approximately 3:30 p.m., a student at Wilbur Middle School located a deceased Mallard duck and hatched ducklings on the school grounds. This student immediately notified school authorities. The school's principal, vice-principal and a teacher viewed the adult duck and ducklings and observed them to be dead and badly decomposed. A yellow pencil was observed in the body of the duck. Law enforcement and/or fish and game authorities were not notified of this finding by the school officials. School officials buried the duck and ducklings.

The Mallard duck was last observed alive on the afternoon of Thursday, April 26th. The following days, Friday, April 27th and Monday, April 30th, were in-service days and classes were not in session.

On Wednesday, May 2, the school announced over the student intercom that the ducks had been killed and mutilated; offering a \$500 reward for information leading to the identity of the suspect. It was learned by school officials that a sixth grade male student had made some statements to other classmates that he hated ducks and that he had killed them. This same student told classmates that he had stabbed the ducks multiple times and he made stabbing motions with a pencil. This student's comments were also overheard by the classroom teacher.

In response to the offer of reward money, several students came forward and advised that after school on May 1st they had observed the above mentioned 6th grade student near the ducks. One of these students indicated that he had observed the student "stab the duck six times". The suspected student was interviewed by

school authorities and admitted making the statement attributed to him, but claimed that he was just joking. He denied killing the ducks.

A joint law enforcement/fish and game investigation determined that at the time the duck and the ducklings were discovered on May 1st, the ducks had been dead for at least several days. Forensic testing was not an option because the remains of the ducks were disposed of by school authorities before contacting law enforcement. The school officials did verify that on the afternoon of May 1, 2007, at the time that they observed the ducks, they were decomposed.

While several witnesses placed the suspected male student of being near the ducks on the afternoon of May 1st, they were already deceased and decomposing. While it is possible that the student may have mutilated the duck carcass, it was already dead from other unknown causes.

There exists insufficient facts and evidence to support the filing of any charges in this matter.

District Attorney Nola Tedesco Foulston
Eighteenth Judicial District of Kansas