

Thursday - September 23, 2010  
Panama City, Florida



Search:

- [Home](#)
- [News](#)
- [Weather](#)
- [Sports](#)
- [Features](#)
- [Inside News13](#)
- [Contests](#)
- [Advertise](#)
- [Dokken](#)

NMBB-TV - Movies, TV Shows and much much more

Members: [Login](#)



## Boarding School Faces Child Abuse Allegations

06/04/10 - 08:02 PM

[RSS Feed](#)

**Kevin Character** - bio  
[kcharacter@wmbb.com](mailto:kcharacter@wmbb.com)

### Bay County, Fla:

An all boys boarding school is facing allegations of child abuse. That's after being open for more than 10 years in Bay County.

17 boys are being questioned, and the sheriff's office is expecting to make arrests. Wednesday, the sheriff's office got reports that a juvenile left the facility and was beaten by his peers.

"According to the boys they were sent there to catch this other boy," Bay County Sheriff Frank McKeithen said. "They were actually told to beat the boy. One of them said he did hit him. The boy had a broken nose."

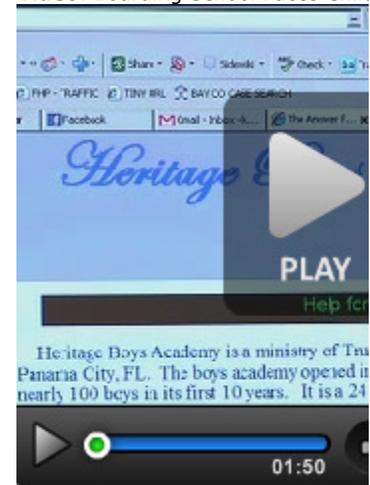
The Bay County Sheriff's Office took action Friday. They found 17 juveniles and recovered several sticks that were reportedly used to beat the boys. Sheriff McKeithen says according to the rules and regulations, the sticks have to be nine fists long and be around as your pinky. However, the sheriff confirms the sticks varied in size. To add, the property has had several reports of unusual activity over the past ten years.

"There was information provided by some of the people there that they had been choked, beaten with fists and held down," McKeithen said.

The facility claims it's a form of corporal punishment called corporal correction. Nonetheless, the Department of Children and Families confirms the school is not licensed by the state to house children.

Sheriff's officials say facilities like the Heritage Boys Academy could get around the rules.

Video: Boarding School Faces Child Abuse Allegations



### Local Headlines (wmbb.com)

#### Florida Deer Hunters Will Zones, Dates Change

Source: Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC)

#### Florida First State to Post Chocolate Milk in Schools

By: Nadeen Yanes

#### Plane Makes Emergency Landing at Joe Beach

By: Mary Scott Speigner

#### Area Industry Appreciation Dinner

By: Elizabeth Cate

#### Guy Tunnell-Candidate

By: Amy Hoyt

#### Two Arrested on Drug Charges in Washington County

Source: Washington County Sheriff's Office

#### Missing WWII Soldier is Identified

Source: U.S. Department of Defense

"People are able to get around laws by calling themselves churches and boarding houses and things like this," McKeithen said. "This had some church affiliation."

Currently 17 boys, from ages 13 to 18 are in custody by the Department of Children and Families. Their families were notified.

"The boys are safe," 14th Judicial Circuit Administrator Vicki Abrams said. "They are going to be in safe and licensed facilities tonight if they have to stay over."

Sheriff McKeithen says there have been no arrests yet, but several are expected after the investigation is over.

Like

Be the first of your friends to like this.



### User Comments

Yeah, they killed a boy I was the guardian of.

Don't worry, it wasn't Florida, it was NY.

As for Bay County, kicking a kids ### in is a sport, not a crime.

Does the "Sheriff" claim that a Priest, Rabbi or Pastor who drives in his County without a drivers license is exempt from his control because they come from a religious group?

It would not surprise me one bit if the "Sheriff" not only looked the other way when a kid was getting his ### kicked in, but encouraged it.

Let's keep in mind, the kid he murdered was in HIS boot camp.

Posted by **SANCTUARY** on 06/07 at 09:34 AM

Sanctuary,... have you had any personal dealings with CPS? Just wondering if you know something about them first hand.

Posted by **Believer** on 06/06 at 11:33 PM

You boys up there sure do like kicking little kids asses in, don't you?

Let's face it, in comparison with the Sheriffs Boot camp Gestapo, this place probably seems like they were being molly coddled to him.

Did he EVER meet a child beater he didn't like?

Sadly, the boys are now in the hands of Florida CPS. NOW those boys are REALLY in very big trouble.

Posted by **SANCTUARY** on 06/06 at 07:12 PM

The Sheriff has nothing to do with the facility operating without a license. The facility operates under a religous organization, therefore they do not

### 11th Street Repaving Pro Detour Beginning Friday

Source: Bay County Commission  
**Sheriff's Office Reactivates Unit**

### Plane Makes Emergency Landing at Beach

Source: Bay County Sheriff Office  
 Source: WMBB News Department

For Additional Headlines - go to [Section](#) »

### Recent Comments

- [Bay County TPO Ends Highway 390](#)  
made by gator
- [Bay County TPO Ends Highway 390](#)  
made by Athena
- [Big Plans For Former Library Building](#)  
made by mamajojo
- [How Bay County School Class Size Restriction](#)  
made by Oldman
- [How Bay County School Class Size Restriction](#)  
made by yerpointis

**Panhandle Auto Deals:** Call how auto dealers throughout Panhandle are willing to put vehicle, at the right price, right



have to be governed by any agency, licensed or accredited. Nothing to do with the sheriff.

Also, the sheriff was citing the rules and regulations of the facility itself, not laws stating what size the switches had to be.

The school may have been good for some of the boys who have been there. But it appears, there were some that were abused. I, for one, cannot accept the "bloody underwear" described in the newspaper. While I do believe the group had good intentions, I think at least one staff person went overboard if the boys had bloody bottoms. I am all for bootcamp techniques to address disrespect and conquer rebellion. However, I cannot support some of the evidence described in the news. I'm sure these kids were examined. So, there is evidence somewhere to corroborate the statements in the news.

Posted by [Believer](#) on 06/06 at 05:35 PM

I will leave my name anonymous, but I was sent to this military school before. What the officer found was true because they used the whip on me to. The staff there treated the boys unfairly and used physical abuse as punishment. They used violence as their tactic to try and change the boys. Mr. Maynard was abusive with his beatings and after everytime we got whipped, it left scars and marks. This place was made for parents who wanted to help their children, but it says on the site that they whip the boys there. It was stated so that it was hidden within the rules and regulation of the place. I hope they arrest all the staff there and they should get what they deserve for making such a horrible place. Thank you for your time. Truth be heard. Heritage Boys Academy is done for.

Posted by [truthbeheard](#) on 06/06 at 01:51 AM

Oh come on SaveTheCirclePit for you to say "You religious folks are scary!" is like saying "You Germans folks are scary" because of what Hitler and his regime did. That is a ridiculous and intentionally slanderous comment.

Posted by [LetsBeReasonable](#) on 06/05 at 02:59 PM

Look on the bright side, they could have used ammonia ampules and stuck them up the kids nose. In his County, that's legal right?

Has anyone asked the Sheriff, who knew the place had no license, why he allowed the kiddies there to continue to party on their friends?

Was he waiting for a kid to show up at the morgue again?

Posted by [SANCTUARY](#) on 06/05 at 10:18 AM

Sheriff McKeithen says according to the rules and regulations, the sticks have to be nine fists long and be around as your pinky. However, the sheriff confirms the sticks varied in size.

I can't believe we have an actual regulation that states the size of the stick to beat a child. It's OK to beat a child within an inch of his life as long as your stick is not too big? Besides I thought it was "rule of thumb" not "rule of pinky". Maybe you use the "rule of thumb" for your wife? You religious folks are scary!

Posted by [SaveTheCirclePit](#) on 06/05 at 08:04 AM

Page 1 of 1 pages



Copyright 2010 Hoak Media  
EEO Report



WMBB.com requires that you be a registered site member to post comments and content.

[login](#) | [register](#)

**Why Register?**

First, we are not being sneaky and gathering your email or other information to sell to telemarketers or e-mail spam companies.

Registration on this site is required simply to allow us to keep people who would post discriminatory, threatening and harassing messages and comments from doing it again.

By having user registration, we hope to provide you with a better user experience. Please view WMBB.com's full [Terms & Conditions](#)

**[Adventure Therapy](#)**

Helping youth become healthy adults by teaching & therapy.

**[Teenager Out of Control?](#)**

Enroll Him in a Residential School Designed to Help Troubled Teens