



Chico Police Department, 1460 Humboldt Road, Chico, CA, 95928 www.chico.ca.us/
530.897.4900

PRESS INFORMATION OFFICE, Julia Yarbough
Tel: 530.897.5812, email: julia.yarbough@chicoca.gov

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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7-Year Old Brings Loaded Gun to School at Parkview Elementary

--Dangerous Lesson on Gun Safety--

Chico, CA – Chico Police say what could have been a deadly incident taking place at Parkview Elementary School, 1770 East Eight Street, Chico, CA 95928, is a prime opportunity to teach the public about the dangers of improper firearm storage and the legalities of owning a firearm.

Shortly before eleven a.m., Thursday, March 30, 2017, Chico Police received a call from authorities at Parkview Elementary, to report a small handgun had been safely removed from a student.

Upon arrival officers learned from school officials that a male, 7-year old second grade student had brought a loaded .380 caliber Ruger handgun to class. A teacher found the gun in the student's desk, quickly turned it over to a janitor who immediately checked the gun for live rounds and removed the magazine. At the time, the gun held a full magazine of six bullets. Officers say at no time was the gun fired. The gun was immediately turned over to Parkview's Principal who contacted police.

"The biggest fear was had there been a live round in the chamber and the trigger pulled, that gun very well could have killed someone," said Chico Police Department Interim Sergeant Terry Tupper. "This situation was extremely frightening because this child was only seven years old."

Officers say based on interviews with the teacher, no threats were made and the young man involved is described as a good student, well-liked by his classmates and has no prior history of social or behavioral problems.

Based on questioning of the child, police say the young boy obtained the gun from an unlocked and unsecured location inside his home. Investigators say he may have brought the gun to school as a 'show & tell' to impress his friends. One day prior, a fellow student had brought a small, laser-light butane lighter in the shape of a 9-millemeter gun to school.

Under California state law it is a Misdemeanor violation punishable up to a year in jail to, "Keep any loaded firearm within any premises that are under the person's custody or control and negligently stores or leaves a loaded firearm in a location where the person knows, or reasonably should know, that a child is likely to gain access to the firearm without the permission of the child's parent or legal

guardian, unless reasonable action is taken by the person to secure the firearm against access by the child.”

Criminal charges are pending further investigation.

The Chico Police Department encourages lawful gun owners to be reminded of their legal responsibility to safely store any, and all firearms.

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*The Chico Police Department is committed to ensuring our community is a safe place to live, work, and
recreate within!*