



Chase shuts down I-75, ends in death of suspect. B2

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"We need our technical college system funded at the right level because right now they're our secret weapon."

Mark Butler
 Georgia Labor commissioner

DEKALB COUNTY

Report finds fault at lockup

Juveniles attacked each other and staff.

Lack of supervision cited as a factor in DJJ special report.

By Rhonda Cook
 rcook@ajc.com

Juvenile offenders in a DeKalb County lockup attacked each other and staff in a planned disturbance that might have been avoided if the teenage boys had been properly supervised, according to reports on the Aug. 11 incident.

This was the third significant disturbance at the DeKalb County Regional Detention Center since May 2011, when the juveniles did \$22,000 in damage to the facility. The incident last month was not as serious or out-of-control as the one last October when police were called to help lock down about 65 rioting teenage boys, almost all of them being held on pending charges.

The Department of Juvenile Justice declined to talk about the Aug. 11 disturbance because an internal investigation has not been completed. But the agency said in an email that the special incident report, which is not based on

t new CEO

financial situation,' rep says.





at the Dunwoody station on Sunday. The Legislature
 tical of how the agency runs the system and man-
 MPTON@AJC.COM

as the previous incidents. Unlike prior occurrences at the DeKalb RYDC, the August 11th group disturbance resulted in minor injuries to youth and no damage to state property.”

Staff restored order without calling outside agencies for help, DJJ said.

According to the redacted special incident report, three officers were hurt and 10 teenage boys suffered minor injuries. An officer reported a hurt back, the most seriously injured of the three. The most extensive injuries to the boys were black eyes and bloody noses.

The disturbance was quick, lasting about five minutes, but it had been planned for almost a week, according to reports.

Melee continued on B3

Democrats than Republicans?

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and every statewide elected official are Republicans. In the Georgia Legislature, Republicans hold 115 of 180 House seats and 36 of 56 seats in the Senate.

Considering such dominance, what's the basis for claiming there are more Democrats in Georgia?

Democratic leaders are hoping the state's increasingly diverse electorate will help Pres-

ident Barack Obama pull off a victory in Georgia this year. Most polls, though, put Georgia on the Republican or leaning-Republican side of the scale.

State Democratic Party spokesman Eric Gray forwarded us a spreadsheet that shows a slight majority of Georgians who voted in 2004 and 2008 elections considered them-

PolitiFact continued on B3





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KENT D. JOHNSON / KDJOHNSON@AJC.COM

Rapper ordered to pay woman \$60K

In 2011, Gucci Mane, whose real name is Radric Davis, pleaded guilty and was sentenced to six months in jail for pushing Diana Graham out of a Hummer.

According to a police report, Davis pushed Graham from his vehicle as he drove down Brannen Road in DeKalb County. He picked up Graham as she was standing outside the South DeKalb Mall. He asked her to eat breakfast with him, and she agreed, but then he told her he wanted to take her to a hotel. He offered Graham \$150, but she declined and

asked to be returned to the mall. That's when Gucci Mane shoved her out of his Hummer. Police said she suffered minor injuries.

Graham sued the rapper for mental anguish, pain and emotional distress, according to TMZ. A Georgia judge awarded Graham \$58,161.24 for medical expenses, lost wages, pain and suffering, TMZ reports.

She received a default judgment because Gucci Mane failed to show up in court and submitted false testimony, according to TMZ. Graham can go after the rapper's cars, bank accounts and other assets to settle the debt, TMZ reports.

lanta for auto races, football games, gay pride activities, a sci-fi convention and other activities.

Another melee at lockup

Melee

continued from B1

The reports do not say the cause or whether it was gang related.

According to some of the statements from boys who participated or witnessed the "large" disturbance, the instigators began recruiting almost a week earlier. Some had said they didn't want to join but they were caught up in the fight anyway when they were punched, the statements said.

The boys were lining up just before 1 p.m. to return to their unit, B4, after their daily recreation period when one boy punched another in the face, starting a melee of perhaps 11 juveniles.

One boy wrote that another "looked at me and pointed at me and said

you scared?' I looked to my right then I was turning my head to look to the left, midway I got hit.... I think I got jumped because it felt like 6 feet on me at one time."

Some of the teenagers also turned on staff.

"I entered the multipurpose room and witnessed youth ... engaged with 2 staff trying to assault them," Lt. Larry Guthrie wrote.

"Several verbal directives were given to all youths but they did not comply," officer Leslie Williams wrote. "All staff were involved in restraining and escorting them to the B1 and B4 units."

One supervisor wrote that "staff responded

quickly and assisted well" but there may have been "improper supervision of youth," which was not explained.

Commissioner Gale Buckner, who took the position last November, has said there would be serious consequences for the teenagers in DJJ's custody who instigate or join in any disturbances.

The offenders held in the short- and long-term DJJ facilities are young, impulsive and violent. According to the agency, 90 percent of them are "designated felons" accused of serious crimes that resulted in significant property damage or caused their victims serious physical harm.

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