

The Balfour Education Center, a local high school, was forced to initiate emergency lockdown procedures in response to a sighting of a person with what appeared to be a rifle in the vicinity of the school. According to Deputy Terry Tweed, the School Resource Officer assigned to the school, a bus driver spotted what appeared to be a female with a rifle and sling standing very near to the school property. The driver did exactly what should have been done in reporting the incident to the school authorities who initiated lockdown procedures while the SRO responded to the situation while calling for assistance. In moments the entire area was secured outside as well and deputies saturated the neighborhood looking for a suspect

The resulting investigation determined that no crime had been committed. The area where the person was sighted was private property and there was no reason to believe that a weapon was brandished in a threatening manner. The weapon may have been a BB rifle, or could have been an actual firearm; however there was no indication of threat or other criminal intent. As law enforcement officers, we have to balance the safety of the public with the rights of our citizens own their own property; to possess and use firearms in a safe manner.

Sheriff Davis said that "The response of all those involved with the safety of the school was text book perfect from what he observed from the officers in the field. We handled it as well as could be done, and our job was made so much easier by the quick response of all of the school staff. From the bus driver who saw something that alarmed him, and rightfully so, to the principal and teachers at the school. Everyone did their job and we are encouraged by their quick and decisive response and by the fact that it turned out to be a non threatening event. We would not change a thing about the response to the events as they unfolded. We would not want any lesser degree of vigilance on the part of those whom