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McClatchy plot suspects hear charges

By Hudson Sangree - Bee Staff Writer

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Four teens accused of planning a revenge shooting at C.K. McClatchy High School, including a 14-year-old girl who prosecutors say was at the center of the plot, appeared in court Monday to hear the charges against them.

At the juvenile courthouse on Kiefer Boulevard, the teens were brought into the courtroom one at a time, where Judge Jane Ure read the charges against each.

Each teen was accompanied by a defense lawyer and their parents.

Supervising juvenile prosecutor Rick Lewkowitz said the case involved a plot to take revenge on two female students who allegedly had beaten the 14-year-old girl charged in the conspiracy.

The girl, a McClatchy student, allegedly enlisted the help of her 15-year-old male friend, who also was enrolled at McClatchy but had been truant for two months.

"He was coming to school to shoot two of these young ladies," Lewkowitz said in Monday's court proceeding.

All four suspects were charged as juveniles with conspiracy to commit assault with a firearm.

The Bee is not naming them because they are minors.

The 15-year-old arrested at a Freeport Boulevard light-rail station on April 26 and accused of being the plot's triggerman also was charged with possession of a handgun and ammunition.

A 14-year-old boy, also arrested at the light-rail station, allegedly held photos of the intended victims. Ure said the boy, who is a student at Martin Luther King Jr. Junior High School, recently was inducted into a street gang.

A 13-year-old boy, who attends John H. Still K-8, and who allegedly supplied the gun, was charged with possession of the weapon.

His defense attorney, Kevin Adamson, told Ure the boy had found the gun and had given it to his friend with no idea that it would be used in a crime.

He said the conspiracy charge was unfounded and the boy should be allowed to go home while his case is pending.

Lewkowitz responded that the 13-year-old had supplied a loaded handgun and that "what he admits to is extremely serious and scary."

Ure said that boy also had recently joined a street gang.

The 14-year-old girl, a McClatchy student who allegedly orchestrated the attack, sat beside her parents.

Her defense lawyer asked the judge to allow her to go home, saying she wasn't a danger to herself or to others.

"That's debatable," Ure said, given that the girl was "willing to let someone come and shoot" the girls with whom she'd had problems.

Ure ordered all four suspects held in juvenile hall until their next hearing on May 10.

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