Designer Drug Epidemic

Introduction

Like all cities, Riverbend City has seen its share of drug problems. But suddenly, a new drug seems to be everywhere, and it’s a public health and law enforcement nightmare. The city thought it had the right solution, but some in the community think the problem has only gotten worse. How did this happen? How can law enforcement respond?

An Unhappy City

**Hennsey County Court Docket**

| **Docket** | **Court** | **Case Name** | **Judge** | **Courtroom** | **Time** | **Matter** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 34-HC-00-063839 | Crim/Traf Mandatory | County of Hennsey vs. JOHN LOGAN DIEHL | Traxler, Jonathan G. | TBD | 6:00 PM | First Appearance |
| 34-HC-00-100571 | Crim/Traf Mandatory | County of Hennsey vs. ROBERT DAVIS | Traxler, Jonathan G. | CC-B224 | 8:30 AM | First Appearance |
| 34-HC-02-069135 | Crim/Traf Mandatory | County of Hennsey vs. BAHLIL ARED | Traxler, Jonathan G. | CC-B224 | 8:30 AM | First Appearance |
| 34-HC-05-012291 | Crim/Traf Mandatory | County of Hennsey vs. ROBERT DAVIS | Traxler, Jonathan G. | CC-B224 | 8:30 AM | Active Warrant |
| 34-HC-05-078989 | Crim/Traf Mandatory | County of Hennsey vs. DIEGO RIVERA | Carlson, Heather J. | CC-A119 | 9:00 AM | Omnibus Hearing |
| 34-HC-06-021141 | Crim/Traf Mandatory | County of Hennsey vs. CORDELL HULL | Tilion, Meriadoc B. | JC-3A | 9:00 AM | Sentencing |
| 34-HC-07-123321 | Crim/Traf Mandatory | County of Hennsey vs. KEVIN SMITH | Coughlin, Jay | JH 143 | 1:30 PM | First Appearance |
| 34-HC-08-7733 | Crim/Traf Mandatory | County of Hennsey vs. ROBERT DAVIS | Traxler, Jonathan G. | CC-B224 | 8:30 AM | Hearing |
| 34-HC-08-33348 | Crim/Traf Mandatory | County of Hennsey vs. DARRYL CURTIS | Diaz, Alicia P. | CC-G017 | 10:00 AM | Hearing |
| 34-HC-08-54210 | Crim/Traf Mandatory | County of Hennsey vs. KERRY FRANCO | Rodriguez, Thomas | JH 142 | 9:00 AM | Probation Violation Hearing |
| 34-HC-08-54210 | Crim/Traf Mandatory | County of Hennsey vs. KERRY FRANCO | Zholi, Angelina N. | JH 142 | 9:00 AM | Probation Violation Hearing |
| 34-HC-08-57626 | Crim/Traf Mandatory | County of Hennsey vs. JOHN GOODE | Goldstein, Robert J. | Ferndale 101 | 8:30 AM | Pre-trial |
| 34-HC-09-4658 | Crim/Traf Mandatory | County of Hennsey vs. RASHAD TURNER KIMBERLEE DUGGS | Drumpf, Peter A., Jr. | Riverdale 227 | 8:30 AM | Hearing |
| 34-HC-09-5894 | Crim/Traf Mandatory | County of Hennsey vs. LAINIE DEE CYNTH | Traxler, Jonathan G. | CC-B224 | 8:30 AM | First Appearance |
| 34-HC-09-29760 | Crim/Traf Mandatory | County of Hennsey vs. JAMES NABORS | Quince, Patricia G. | CC-C1953 | 9:00 AM | Jury Trial |
| 34-HC-09-36635 | Crim/Traf Mandatory | County of Hennsey vs. BAHLIL ARED | Traxler, Jonathan G. | CC-B224 | 8:30 AM | Active Warrant |
| 34-HC-09-39271 | Crim/Traf Mandatory | County of Hennsey vs. HOLLIE DALE | Goldstein, Robert J. | Ferndale 101 | 8:30 AM | Pre-trial |
| 34-HC-09-39783 | Crim/Traf Mandatory | County of Hennsey vs. KAREN ASKAR | Geyer, Nancy | CC-C857 | 8:00 AM | First Appearance |
| 34-HC-09-57297 | Crim/Traf Mandatory | County of Hennsey vs. MARK CAESAR | Katahdin, Rainaldo | JH 141 | 8:30 AM | Arraignment |
| 34-HC-09-58640 | Crim/Traf Mandatory | County of Hennsey vs. Skinnard Bond | O’Malley, Colleen | Townsend 323 | 8:30 AM | Hearing |
| 34-HC-10-36907 | Crim/Traf Mandatory | County of Hennsey vs. DARRYL CURTIS | Diaz, Alicia P. | CC-G017 | 10:00 AM | Omnibus Hearing |
| 34-HC-10-37694 | Crim/Traf Mandatory | County of Hennsey vs. EDUARDO RAMON JOHNSON | Townville, Felicity | Riverdale 229 | 1:30 PM | Pre-trial |
| 34-HC-10-56321 | Crim/Traf Mandatory | County of Hennsey vs. Jose Sinaloa | Drumpf, Peter A., Jr. | Riverdale 229 | 1:30 PM | Pre-trial |
| 34-HC-10-58057 | Crim/Traf Mandatory | County of Hennsey vs. RACHEL DEAN FOX | Butcher, Carlotta B. | JH 141 | 1:30 PM | Hearing |
| 34-HC-10-58569 | Crim/Traf Mandatory | County of Hennsey vs. RACHEL DEAN FOX | Butcher, Carlotta B. | JH 141 | 1:30 PM | Hearing Active Warrant |
| 34-HC-11-9628 | Crim/Traf Mandatory | County of Hennsey vs. JAMES PETHOUKIS | Drumpf, Peter A., Jr. | Riverdale 227 | 8:30 AM | Hearing |
| 34-HC-11-12342 | Crim/Traf Mandatory | County of Hennsey vs. ROBERTO DIAZ | Katahdin, Rainaldo | JH 141 | 8:30 AM | Arraignment |
| 34-HC-11-17841 | Crim/Traf Mandatory | County of Hennsey vs. NYATTA RAE WARNER | Banks, Anita | CC-C857 | 1:30 PM | Probation Violation Hearing |
| 34-HC-11-17841 | Crim/Traf Mandatory | County of Hennsey vs. NYATTA RAE WARNER | Tempelhof, Eric | CC-C957 | 10:00 AM | Probation Violation Hearing |
| 34-HC-11-19055 | Crim/Traf Mandatory | County of Hennsey vs. DANIEL REISER, Jr. | Geyer, Nancy | CC-C857 | 9:00 AM | First Appearance |
| 34-HC-11-21055 | Crim/Traf Mandatory | County of Hennsey vs. ROBERT BOWAR JR | Johnson, Tim C. | CC-G555 | 8:30 AM | Pre-trial |
| 34-HC-11-23032 | Crim/Traf Mandatory | County of Hennsey vs. JOEL JOSEPH DEE FOSTER | Zholi, Angelina N. | JH 142 | 9:00 AM | Probation Violation Hearing |
| 34-HC-11-28396 | Crim/Traf Mandatory | County of Hennsey vs. Lukas Baas Jr. | Townville, Felicity | Riverdale 227 | 8:30 AM | Hearing |
| 34-HC-11-29336 | Crim/Traf Mandatory | County of Hennsey vs. RACHEL DEAN FOX | Butcher, Carlotta B. | JH 141 | 1:30 PM | Hearing |
| 34-HC-11-30864 | Crim/Traf Mandatory | County of Hennsey vs. JOEL JOSEPH DEE FOSTER | Zholi, Angelina N. | JH 142 | 9:00 AM | Probation Violation Hearing |
| 34-HC-11-31457 | Crim/Traf Mandatory | County of Hennsey vs. MADONNA GILMORE | Reding, Jeannice M. | CC-C1856 | 9:00 AM | Hearing |
| 34-HC-11-32707 | Crim/Traf Mandatory | County of Hennsey vs. RACHEL DEAN FOX | Butcher, Carlotta B. | JH 141 | 1:30 PM | Hearing |

Glen Edwards Voice Mail

Hey, Max, Glen Edwards. I wanted to get something on your radar, because it’s becoming a problem. The jail is up to about 105 percent capacity, which is not new, but it’s been at or near that level for a month, and that IS new. We’re getting a lot more drug offenders than we’re used to from the downtown district, and that’s pushing against the normal levels at the jail. Do we have any options for increasing capacity in the short term? I don’t need to tell you that a full jail can be a security nightmare. And Hennsey County is already making noises that the city is taking up more than its fair share of capacity. I don’t disagree, but we can’t exactly not arrest people because we know the jail is full. Any thoughts you’ve got on this would be great. Give me a call when you get out of your budget meeting, if you can. Thanks.

Email Inbox

Subject: Overdoses going up and up and up  
From: Alan Warnack, RN  
To: Lurie Boyett

Dear Ms. Boyett,  
Hello. I’m an RN at Riverbend City Medical Center. I work in the ICU, but I sometimes take shifts in the ER. I used to work there full time.

I don’t know if I should be writing to you, but there’s something I think you should know. I’ve been working here for 8 years, and I’ve seen my share of drug overdoses. And I know the city has been trying to manage things, but it’s clearly not working.

In the last three months or so, we’ve had more overdoses than ever. People aren’t necessarily dying of them, so the state information isn’t showing how many more there are. But whatever you’re hearing about Mad Cow overdoses from the state, you can probably double it, based on what I’m seeing.

Is this something the Free Press is looking into? If not, I really suggest that you do. I don’t think the hospital is trying to cover it up, but the leadership doesn’t have the ground-level view we do, and I can’t seem to convince anybody that it’s getting worse instead of better.

Sincerely,  
Alan Warnack

How Did We Get Here?

KQMS Interviews Liz Mackie

**Jesse Cann:** Tonight, we have a special report on a mother who is grieving. Liz Mackie is the nurse manager of the medical-surgical unit at Riverbend City Medical Center. She’s also a mom…and tonight, she’s mourning the death of her son. It’s a death that she says shouldn’t have happened — and shouldn’t happen to anyone else either.

**Liz Mackie:** [sounding soft and sad] He’s been a good boy since the day he was born.

**Jesse Cann:** Todd Mackie turned 15 last month, and he was a well-adjusted freshman at Lindner Hills High School. Teachers liked him…

**Tracy Davis:** Todd was a dream student. Organized, respectful, kind to other students…really, just the nicest kid.

**Jesse Cann:** …and friends liked him as well. He was on the cross-country team and the baseball team, and he had his life ahead of him. But something else was going on in Todd’s life…something nobody else knew about.

**Liz Mackie:** I guess one of his new friends encouraged him to try it. He met a lot of new people when he started at Lindner Hills High School, and maybe one of them got him involved.

**Jesse Cann:** “It” is Mad Cow, a drug that has some of the same effects of the strongest, most illegal drugs you can think of. But like other so-called designer drugs, Mad Cow is legal. It’s a drug created by tinkering with the chemical structure of illegal plant-derived drugs like cocaine or morphine in a lab. Ecstasy, meth, and GHB are all designer drugs, but there are many more on the market.

**Tracy Davis** There just weren’t any signs. Some drugs, you can tell over time that a student is using them. But with Todd, it was like he was here one day and gone the next.

**Jesse Cann:** This is the second death attributed to Mad Cow in the last month, and people like Liz Mackie want something — anything — done.

**Liz Mackie:** I don’t know what the answer is. But if we can get this awful drug outlawed, at least I can feel like Todd’s death led to something positive.

Three Months Later

Rick Hilliard Holds Press Conference

**Rick Hilliard:** Good morning, and thank you for coming. I’d like to announce some actions that the Riverbend City Council has taken, and talk about what we hope it will achieve for the city.  
  
At last night’s meeting, the council voted to serve a notice of public nuisance on The Talking Yam, which is an establishment on Carlson Street in the downtown district. It was known for selling the legal but extremely dangerous designer drug called Mad Cow.   
  
Many things prompted this action. There has been, in the last six months, a significant increase in calls for service in the area immediately around the store. Police have had to respond to numerous incidents of violence and disorderly conduct. First responders have been called to this area a great deal, both for people who are injured in altercations and for people who have overdosed on the drug.  
  
After several attempts to convince the proprietor of The Talking Yam to cease and desist his sales of the Mad Cow drug failed, the City Council moved to address the issue by other means.  
  
I’ll take a few questions now.

**Jesse Cann:** Mr. Hilliard, what happens now? Does the store have to close down?

**Rick Hilliard:** Not necessarily. The store will close temporarily, and law enforcement carried out that closure about an hour ago. In order to reopen, Mr. Martin will need to comply with some significant requirements from the city, and he’ll have to be monitored for compliance for at least six months if he does reopen.

**Jesse Cann:** Why didn’t the council simply outlaw the drug? Why was it necessary to shut down the business?

**Rick Hilliard:** Designer drugs are tough to outlaw. A drug is legally defined by its chemical structure. But it’s quite easy to produce a drug that differs chemically by only a tiny amount, which is then technically legal because it doesn’t have the exact same chemical structure as the banned drug.  
  
In this case, we could see that the problems related to the drug were extremely concentrated in the general vicinity of this store, which as far as we know was the sole supply of the drug in the city. It is our hope that by closing The Talking Yam, we not only cut off the supply but also close down the environment in which the Mad Cow drug is being consumed.

**Jesse Cann:** What can the city expect?

**Rick Hilliard:** Well, folks can definitely expect that the calls for service in this area will go down. We hope that there will be fewer emergency calls, less need for the police to intervene, and so on. This area has been putting up with a lot from the folks who were coming in to get the drug, and with the drug unavailable, we hope the area will see some relief.