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DANGEROUS DRUG



Veronica Cabada hugs Alondra Lucio, who is 33 weeks pregnant with the child of Cabada's late son, Johann Sebastian Cabada. Johann Sebastian, 17, died in his bedroom after ingesting the designer drug "N-bomb," which is a synthetic substitute for LSD.

Family believes 'designer' form of LSD killed teen

By Diana Washington Valdéz
EL PASO TIMES

A new and lethal designer drug known as "N-bomb" may be responsible for the death of a 17-year-old boy in El Paso, his relatives said Thursday.

Although a toxicology report for Johann Sebastian Cabada is not yet ready, his family suspects that the drug was involved based on the boy's social media and telephone communications before his death.

"We reviewed his phone and social media messages and saw that another teenager told him he had the N-bomb and offered it to him," said Veronica Cabada, the boy's mother. "There were other youths who may have taken the drug when they got together with my son on the same day. One of them told my daughter that he gave the drug to my son. We are concerned that this will spread and harm other youths in the area."

The County Medical Examiner's Of-

fice confirmed that its investigation into Cabada's cause of death is pending.

"My son had a medical condition that caused him to have seizures, and for someone like him, this drug can mean instant death," Cabada said. "The police said they can't do anything until the toxicology report is done, but we decided to go public because we don't want to wait for someone else to die or suffer injury because of this drug."

Sal Montelongo, the mother's partner and a friend of the family, said

there seems to be little awareness in El Paso about N-bomb, a synthetic substitute for LSD.

"Apparently, it's not hard get this new drug," Montelongo said. "Kids can order it online from sources in other countries like China and Turkey and have it delivered through the mail."

According to the Drug Enforcement Administration, the street names for this new hallucinogenic drug is "N-

Please see **Drug 7A**

Legislature Tornillo port area zoning bill is stymied

By Marty Schladen
AUSTIN BUREAU

AUSTIN — A bill that would have granted the county power to zone land around the Tornillo Port of Entry likely is doomed, El Paso legislators said last week.

It ran into opposition from a number of lawmakers who would not allow it to come to a vote in either the House or the Senate — even though some represent counties that already have zoning power.

Such a bill would have given the government power to designate some areas for industry, others for commercial development and others for residences.

County officials who supported the legislation said that without it, they won't be able to plan for the growth that will accompany a \$140 million expansion at the port. In addition, county residents will have to shoulder expenses and face the dangers that might result from willy-nilly development, the officials said.

When it's completed, the Tornillo international port will be the largest in an unincorporated area in the United States, said the zoning bill's author, state Sen. José Rodríguez, D-El Paso.

Zoning opponents said they were reluctant to give the El Paso county government power to control the uses to which owners can put their land.

Former state Rep. Pat Haggerty, a paid lobbyist for Jobe Materials, worked against the bill, claiming it was a county government power grab.

Farmers, whose land would be exempt from zoning, said they just didn't trust the government with that power.

That argument found sympathy in the Legislature.

Senate Bill 461 would have allowed El Paso County Com-

Please see **Zoning 7A**

Drug

Continued from 1A

bomb," "Smiles," "Legal Acid" or "251."

It is called N-bomb because its chemical name is either 2C-I-NBOMe or 25I-NBOMe. Both names refer to the formula N-(2-Methoxybenzyl)-4-iodo-2,5-dimethoxyphenethylamine.

DEA Special Agent Diana Apodaca said that El Paso DEA investigators are not aware of any cases involving N-bomb being sold locally, but that drug sellers are always looking for ways to bypass legal controls for dangerous drugs.

"In general, synthetic drugs

are being marketed towards our youth and in many cases marketed as a legal high," Apodaca said. "These products are often more potent and dangerous than the drugs they are designed to mimic. It like playing Russian roulette with your body. You never how potent the drug is that you are taking."

DEA officials said N-bomb is a potent synthetic hallucinogen that is killing users around the country. Deaths associated with the drug have been reported in California, Louisiana and North Dakota.

N-bomb is a derivative of mescaline and an analogue of 2C-I as well as 2C-B, both Schedule I synthetic hallucinogens, which the DEA got scheduled in July 2012. Analogue

refers to chemical compounds with a similar structure.

Preliminary research suggests N-bomb is much more potent and dangerous than its parent drugs, Apodaca said.

N-bomb is a liquid that is commonly soaked onto blotter paper that users put on their tongue. A user in Louisiana who died reportedly had a drop of the liquid dropped into his nose.

Frank LoVecchio, Adam Bosak and Michael Levine authored a report for the American College of Medical Toxicology on the drug that was published Feb. 2 and titled "Recurrent Seizures and Serotonin Syndrome Following '2C-I Ingestion.'"

The report said the new drug

and its variants "have recently emerged as a new class of designer drugs ... Overdose of the phenethylamines are relatively new in the USA and serious toxicity from 2C-I has only rarely been described."

The report also said that N-bomb-associated drugs became a "major health problem in Europe," before they recently appeared in the United States.

LoVecchio told the Arizona Republic in a May 4 news story that the drug was synthesized by a Bay Area chemist in 1991. Other sources said the drug hit the Internet in 2010.

Ruth Rivas, an El Paso mother who believes spice, another designer drug, contributed to her 28-year-old son's death last year, said parents need to be-

come informed about the availability of designer drugs that are being marketed to teens and young adults.

Spice is the name for a mix of herbs laced with chemicals and marketed under different names. It is sometimes marketed as potpourri or incense and is labeled "not for human consumption."

The DEA's Apodaca said spice is a nationwide problem.

Rivas said regular drug tests do not detect the presence of many synthetic drugs like bath salts (which mimic cocaine, amphetamine), spice (imitates the active ingredient in marijuana) and probably including N-bomb.

"I am trying to get the City Council to ban Spice packets

from headshops and headstands in El Paso," Rivas said. "The people who make these drugs try to stay ahead of the law by constantly altering their chemicals. If one chemical is illegal, then they will substitute it for another one that is legal. All they have to do is change one molecule."

Rivas does presentations for schools, organizations and businesses on the dangers and wide availability of synthetic drugs.

She founded "Spice is Not Nice" after her son's death. See more information at spiceisnotnice.org.

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