

MailOnline

'Bored' teen who 'gunned down' Australian student 'danced and laughed' after being arrested and said the shooting 'was no big deal' as it emerges he tweeted about 'hating white people'

- James Edwards, 15, and Chancey Luna, 16, are accused of the first degree murder of Chris Lane, an Australian student on a baseball scholarship
- Friend Michael Jones, 17, is charged with being an accessory to the crime and driving the getaway car
- Police chief tells MailOnline Edwards 'danced' at the booking desk after being arrested
- Man who turned them in said that he thinks his son was their next target and that the Friday shooting was not random but a gang test
- Area high school reopened this morning after lock down following anonymous threats
- Victim's girlfriend says she will be going to Australia for the funeral
- White House spokesman says he's 'not familiar with' the case
- Police think the teens 'practiced by shooting dead a donkey just over a block away from where Lane was killed'

By [Jeff Maysh in Duncan, Oklahoma](#) and [Meghan Keneally](#)

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The Oklahoma police chief in charge of the investigation into the death of an Australian baseball player today revealed one of the suspects danced and laughed after they were arrested.

The new jailhouse revelations came as tweets posted by one of the alleged killers emerged claiming that he 'hated white people' and boasting that he beat up five white people after the George Zimmerman acquittal in the Trayvon Martin case.

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Duncan detective John Byers told MailOnline today: 'He did some kind of dance at the booking counter. There's a long desk that you stand in front of. When they got him up to that desk, he began to dance, he did some kind of dance motion.'



Suspects: Michael Jones (left) is accused of being an accessory to murder while Chancey Luna (center) and James Edwards (right) face first degree murder charges for the shooting of an Australian student

Police Chief Danny Ford told [The Herald Sun](#) that Edwards said it was 'no big deal' and that he also 'laughed.

'He didn't say anything for a while after, then on Sunday we got a call from the jailhouse that he had something to tell us.'

Chancey Luna, 16, is the third suspect in the ongoing case, and while the parents of all three boys have expressed public support of their sons, Chief Ford says that they have also hinted at a despicable cause behind closed doors.

'The father of one of them admitted to us that the boys were bored, simple as that,' he told the Australian newspaper.





Victim: Christopher Lane, 22, was visiting his girlfriend's family in Duncan, Oklahoma and out for a jog when he was killed

In public, Edwards' father told how his 15-year-old son wanted to be an Olympic wrestler and said that he knew where his boy was '95 per cent' of the time.

Luna's mother said that he was a good boy who had been through a tough year after being forced out of school following his stepfather's and brother's deaths. She was hoping that he would make something of himself as he planned to go back to the classroom next week when the school year starts again.

During a preliminary hearing on Tuesday, Luna and Edwards looked completely stoic and did not even glance over to their crying relatives in the courtroom.

Jones, 17, did show some emotion, but not as much as his pregnant girlfriend had to leave the room because she was sobbing uncontrollably.

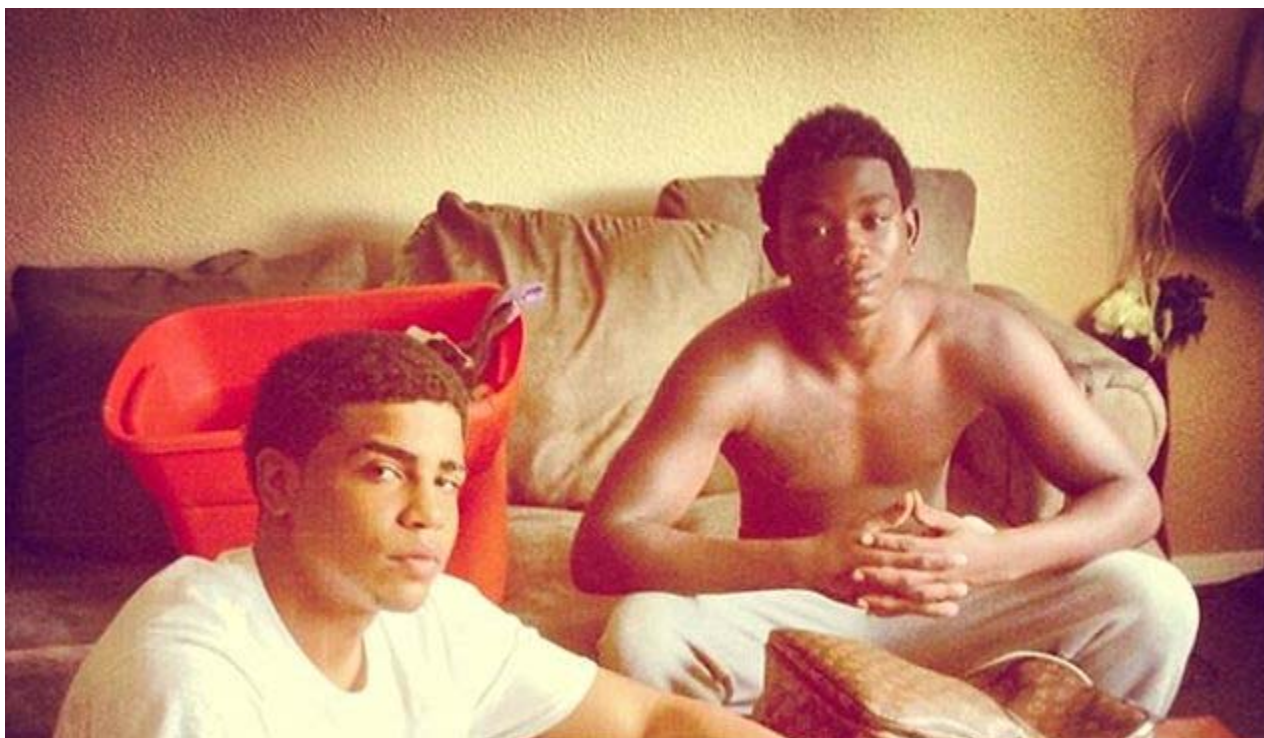
'I haven't seen that,' Assistant District Attorney Greg Steward said of the boys' callous behavior after they were arrested.

'Usually they're quiet, or angry. He was really making light of it but then when they got to court, Jones didn't fully cry but he was upset.

'Their demeanour now? I'd say they're sullen. They're in a jailhouse with about 170 others. They'll be staying there at least until October when we have the preliminary hearing.'

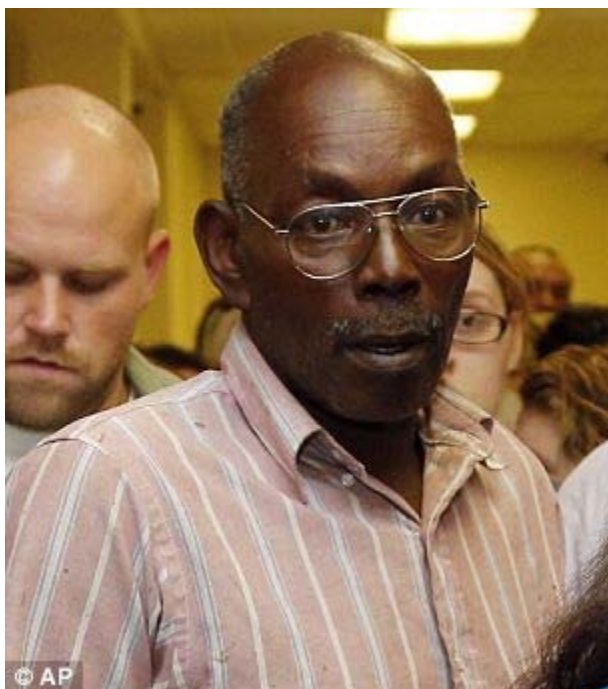
Their social media profiles show that the boys affinity for guns and harsh talk came well before the August 16 shooting.

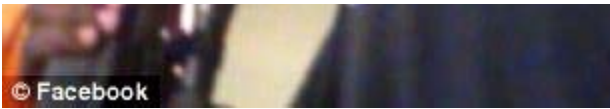
James Edwards, the youngest of the group at only 15-years-old, posted Vine videos of himself tossing around a rifle and numerous Facebook photos showing him posing with guns and stacks of money.



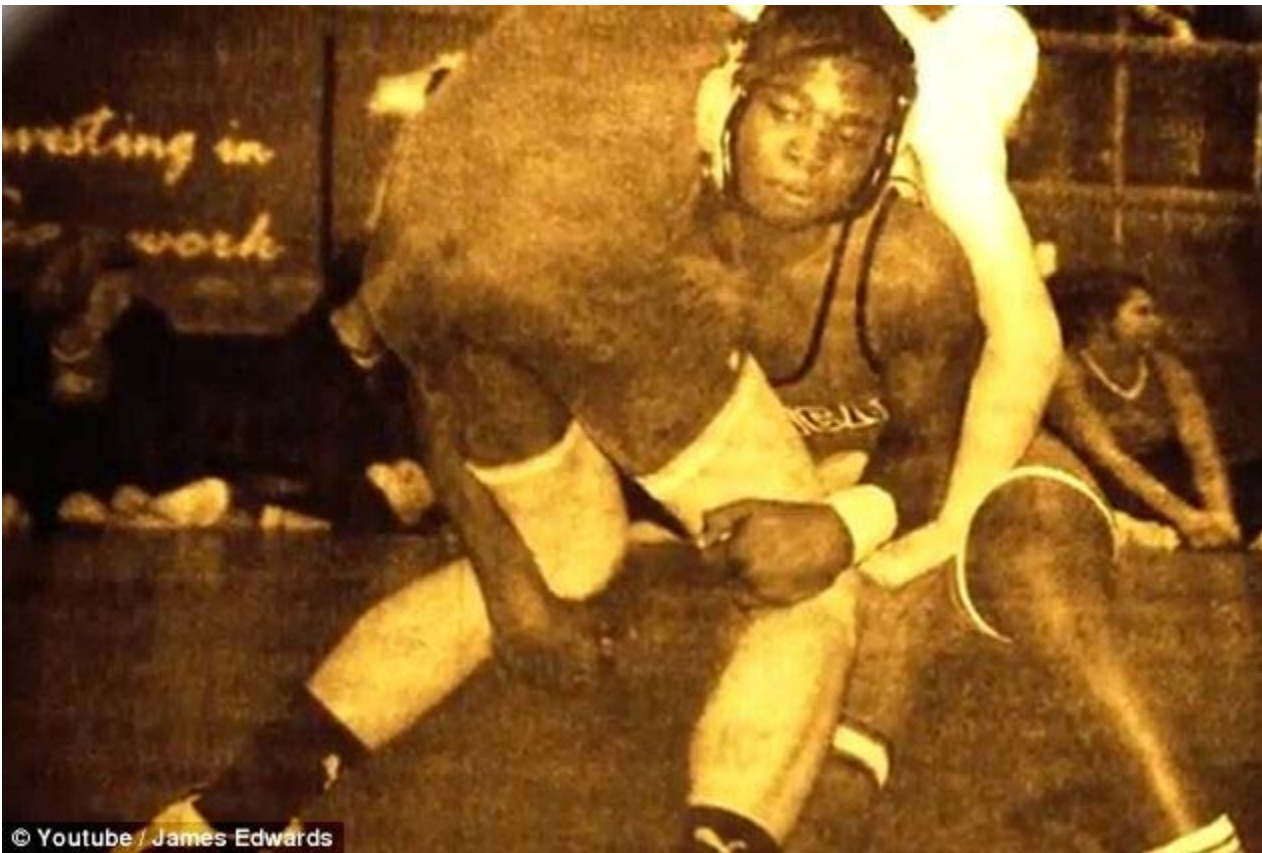


Charged: Chancey Luna (left) and James Edwards Jr (right) both face first degree murder charges and though they are younger than 18-years-old, they will be tried as adults

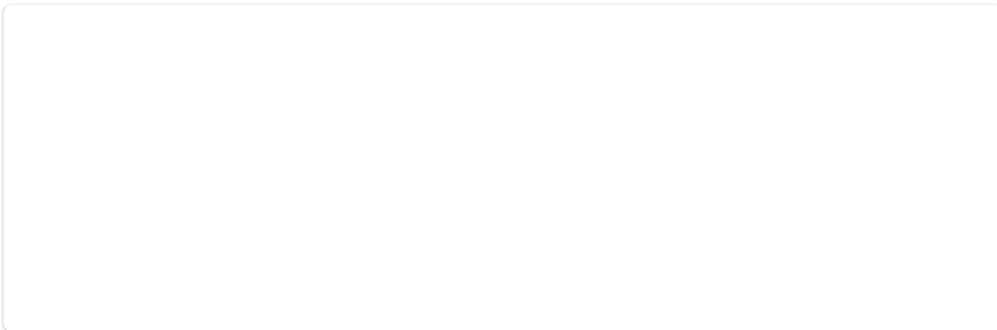
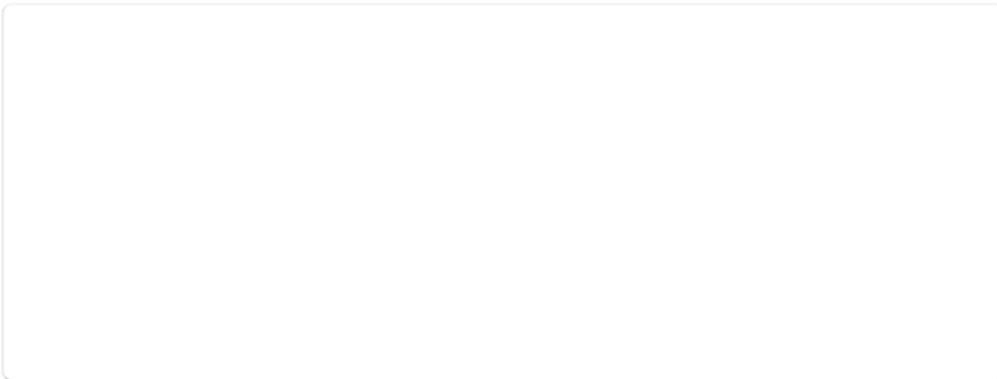




Dreams: James Edwards Sr (left) said that his son (right) was training to be an Olympic wrestler but he didn't seem aware of his 15-year-old's frequent online postings with guns



Bigger dreams: James Edwards Sr said that his son (pictured) wanted to be an Olympic wrestler



On Twitter, he boasted of killing white people, using the derogatory term 'woods', following the controversial George Zimmerman verdict, and making racist comments in earlier messages.

'Ayeee I knocked out 5 woods since Zimmerman court!:) lol sh*t ima keep sleepin sh*t! #ayeeee,' he wrote.

In another, he said: '90% of white ppl are nasty. #HATE THEM'.

One theory- that the boys' parents deny- is that the random killing was an effort to attract attention of local gang members, and their supposed threat to another student at their school shows that they were planning to bring their alleged death count up.

The man who spotted the three suspects and called 911 said that he was tipped off to their possible criminal leanings because they also threatened his son.

Oklahoma native James Johnson's son is an acquaintance of the suspects and that led to the tip-off.

'My son called me and said, "They're saying they're coming to kill me," so I called the police and they got here within about three minutes,' he told the paper.



Devastated: Jennifer Luna (right), the mother of 16-year-old murder suspect Chancey Luna, said that her son was just getting his life on track after a devastating year where his stepfather and brother died





Grappling with the news: Ms Luna said that she doesn't believe that her son was involved but if he was then he deserves to be punished



Small community: Jennifer Luna (right) comforts Rachel Padilla (left), the sister of suspect James Edwards Jr.





Gathering strength: James Edwards' father, James Edwards Sr (left) said that he considered Chancey Luna 'like a son' following the death of the boy's stepfather last year



Tragic: Manuel died in December in a motorcycle accident

SHUTDOWN AT BOYS' SCHOOL AFTER ANONYMOUS THREATS

The repercussions of the murder are still being felt throughout the area, as the boys' high school was put on lockdown following threats.

'This evening, we were informed by the Duncan Police Department of anonymous threats involving Duncan High School,' district superintendent Sherry Labyer wrote in a letter to parents posted on [the school website](#).

'The credibility of the person or persons communicating the threats is very difficult to ascertain. However, we want to be proactive in taking reasonable precautions.'

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On Thursday morning, the threat level was reassessed and the police ruled it safe to open the schools for the first day of the academic year.

Additional security and patrol cars will be on hand through the rest of the week.

'They threatened to kill my son because they are in a gang, the Crips, and were trying to get my son in it and I wouldn't let him do it.'

'These kids can be good kids- they are good kids- they just don't have any male figures in their lives,' he told [The Sydney Morning Herald](#).

'I don't think it was for fun. I don't think it was random. I think it was initiation.'

Mr Johnson also made claims that there is a list of four names of potential targets, including his son.

That comes in contrast to the police findings, who believe that the boys were bored and chose Lane as their random target.

'They approached him from behind. They targeted him and they shot him in the back,' police chief Ford told The Herald Sun.

'He was just in the wrong place at the wrong time. It could have been anyone.'

'We are talking about people here who will kill you quick, no matter who you are, they have no value for your life.'

Officials now believe that Lane was not their first target, though he was their first human victim.

Police chief Ford said that during their investigation they found a dead donkey that had been killed with a shotgun just a block away from where Lane was murdered.





Questionable ties: School friends claimed that Edwards (center) and Luna (right) were trying to join the local chapter of the notorious Crips gang, and they posted pictures to their Facebook where they are holding gang signs





Tough image: Edwards posted videos of him tossing around guns and looking threatening

[Suspects in the killing of Australian student appear in Vine](#)



While the selection of the human victim was random, the alleged killers clearly had a plan in place to evade suspicion.

'They took off in time for one of them to appear at the juvenile charges hearing he had at the court house. He made sure he was right on time,' the police chief said.

Mr Ford, who is running the investigation into the shooting in Duncan, Oklahoma on Friday, said that the execution-style killings that he had seen in the past- which he called 'pretty brutal stuff'- were nothing compared to Lane's murder.

'There's no connection between the victim and the killers,' Duncan police chief Ford told The Herald Sun.

'They are evil, yeah I'll go with evil. They have no feelings for anyone, could not care less,' he said of the accused killers.

'One thing's for sure, someone was going to die that day, whether it was a kid riding a bicycle or someone mowing their lawn. We are so sorry it happened to Christopher Lane.'

Because of Lane's nationality, the case has gained national attention, but some have criticized the White House for not reacting strongly enough.

A State Department spokeswoman put out a statement earlier this week saying that the federal government is 'deeply saddened' by Lane's death but she did not comment on any specific action.

'This is clearly a tragic death, and we extend our condolences to the family and the loved ones. We understand that local authorities are focused on bringing those responsible to justice. Clearly, we would support that,' she said at a briefing on Tuesday.





Distressing: Sarah Harper, the girlfriend of slain Australian baseball player Chris Lane, speaks with Anderson Cooper on CNN in this video grab made on August 21, 2013



Emotional Interview: Sarah Harper, the girlfriend of slain Australian baseball player Chris Lane, speaks with Anderson Cooper on CNN

[The Daily Caller](#) reports that the **White House** did not have the same reaction, as **deputy press secretary Josh Earnest** said that **he was not familiar with the case** when asked about it during a briefing on Wednesday.

'This sounds like a pretty tragic case. I wouldn't want to get ahead of the legal process here and it's clear that law enforcement officials are involved and are investigating,' Earnest said.

Australia's former Deputy Prime Minister Tim Fischer called for his fellow countrymen to think of this shooting when they are planning a trip to the United States.

The victim's stunned girlfriend is struggling to comprehend why three teenage boys allegedly gunned him down in the middle of the day because they were 'bored'.

Sarah Harper, 22, appeared on [CNN](#) Wednesday night describing her boyfriend's death as 'surreal', Harper said that she had no idea why anyone could do this to the 'most genuine and kind-hearted person' she knew, who 'made everyone feel special'.

She said that she 'can't make sense' of the killing in the small, quiet town of Duncan, Oklahoma, as he jogged on Friday afternoon.





Victim: Chris Lane (left) was shot when he was jogging during a visit to his girlfriend Sarah Harper's (right) family home in Duncan, Oklahoma on Friday

Telling CNN's Anderson Cooper that her boyfriend 'loved the adventure' of living away from his native Australia, she said, 'there's no way to describe what's happened. It's the hardest thing to describe what's happening.'

This kind of crime is extremely rare for the small town of Duncan, which is about 100 miles south west of Oklahoma City.

'We don't have anything like this happen here. We have a pretty boring town here,' said on CNN.

'Everyone runs on that street...in the middle of the road.'

Harper confirmed that she would be traveling to Lane's hometown of Melbourne, Australia for his funeral.

One of Lane's teammates in Oklahoma started [raising money](#) to pay for the cost of flying the victim's family to Oklahoma to retrieve his body. The initial goal was \$15,000, but they have massively surpassed it and so far has collected almost \$100,000. Lane's father said that the remaining money will be used to establish a foundation in Christopher's name.

[Teens' parents say sons didn't kill Chris Lane](#)



[Chris Lane killer holding a shot gun and bragging on Vine](#)



Chris Lane killer holding a shot gun and bragging on Vine



Read more:

- [Police chief: 'We're so sorry it happened to Christopher Lane'](#)
- [Chris Lane shooting a gang initiation, says father who called police](#)
- ["He made everyone feel special" Christopher Lane's girlfriend remembers](#)
- [Christopher Lane Memorial Fund](#)