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Teen shot to death at Tacoma's Foss High School

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a high school hallway as classes were about to resume after winter break. Police arrested a fellow student found wandering nearby, but were still trying to determine a motive.

TACOMA, Wash. (AP) - A teenage boy was shot to death Wednesday in

The Pierce County medical examiner's office identified the dead boy as Samnang Kok, 17. A relative said he is the father of a two-year-old boy.

(/news/local/5071291.html? tab=video&c=v)

Shooting victim Samnang Kok is shown in this updated photo provided by his family.

The arrested student was Douglas Chanthabouly, 18. According to Pierce County Jail booking records, he was booked for investigation of firstdegree murder shortly before 1 p.m. Sheriff's Detective Ed Troyer said the teen is on suicide watch, which is common in high-profile cases, and the Tacoma Police Department said he has no known criminal record.

"It's not a very fun situation, especially when I was right there," Foss High School Principal Don Herbert said Wednesday. "What can you say? What can you do about it? I was 20 feet away. The only thing I could have done was taken the shot instead. But it happened very fast."

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The shooter and victim knew each other but detectives did not immediately know a motive, Police Chief Donald Ramsdell said. He said the arrested boy was cooperative, and the shooting does not appear to be gang-related or

It was not immediately known if Chanthabouly had obtained a lawyer.

No one else was hurt in the 7:30 a.m. shooting. About two hours later, a neighbor a few blocks from the school called police to say that someone matching the suspect's description was in the area; officers arrested the youth without incident, Ramsdell said.

"Today we lost a nice young person in a Tacoma public school in an act of senseless violence," Ramsdell said. "We'll be working with the school district ... so we can prevent this type of situation in the future."

An armed school resource officer was on the scene within seconds and radioed police for help as teachers herded students into classrooms and the gymnasium, said Detective Chris Taylor. Three teams of about six officers, each armed with rifles, swept the school to ensure the gunman had left.

Two 15-year-old sophomores, Malcolm Clark and Josh Wilber, said they witnessed the shooting and were questioned by police afterward.

Clark and Wilber said three shots were fired. The shooter was about five feet from the victim, and didn't appear to target anyone else, the boys said.

"He got shot - bang - and he just fell," Clark said. "He just froze and he fell backwards into the lockers."

"He didn't scream or nothing. He didn't move when he hit the ground," Wilber said.

The gunman fled through nearby double doors, Clark and Wilber said.

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(http://www.komonews.com/news/local/Fan of-man-who-died-in-jail-add-deputyOne student who called the KOMO newsroom said he was herded into the gym with fellow students where they were placed in lockdown. He said the principal came in to inform them that a student had been shot.

Freshman Sam Sao, 14, said she was in the lunchroom, waiting for the bell to ring, when the shots were

"Everyone was yelling, 'Get in the gym! Get in the gym!" she said. "At first we thought it was a fight. Then the teachers started getting on the tables and screaming."

Jackie Phongsavath is a junior at the school and said the shooting happened around the corner from where he was standing.

"I thought it was fireworks, but it was probably three shots," he said. "I looked around the corner and saw someone laying on the ground and blood on the lockers."

The school was locked down after the shooting. By about 8:30 a.m., police had secured the building and students were being sent home, Tacoma School District spokeswoman Pam Thompson said. Classes were canceled for the rest of the day.

Angela Millette was among the parents who flocked to the area to pick up their children from a nearby grocery store parking lot.

Millette, who was still wearing pajamas after leaving home so quickly, threw her arms around her daughter Ashley, 16, as the sophomore stepped off a bus near the school.

"I was looking for her and finally, by the grace of God ... the person opened up the school bus, and there's my daughter," Millette said. "I was so glad to see that she was OK."

A vigil was to be held at 5 p.m. on the school campus. All evening classes and sporting events were canceled, but school was scheduled to resume at 10 a.m. Thursday.

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