

DOW 10,895.32
68.26 (+0.78%)
S&P 1,561.16
8.25 (+0.68%)
NASDAQ 2,165.19
(+0.45%)
GOLD 423.29
0.50 (-0.11%)

The Midland Star

TODAY
Cloudy, s-storms. High 36
TONIGHT
Partly cloudy. Low 27
TOMORROW
Afternoon ice storm possible.
High 26

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For New Arena, p. 14*

*Farmer's Market Goes
All Organic, p. 2*

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Police Confirm Disappearance of Local Boy, Age 10

*Most Recent in a String of Young Boys
Vanishing in the Area Over the Past Year*

By STEPHANIE MILLER GILLESPIE

Police confirmed yesterday the disappearance of Ashton Allen, age 10. Allen's disappearance is the most recent in a string of young boys vanishing in the area over the past year. Police are not commenting on whether the Allen case could be related to the disappearance last month of Allen's former neighbor, Robby Dennis, age 9, son of actress Jayne Dennis and novelist Bret Easton Ellis.

Recently, Ellis provided police with a series of instant message conversations between the missing boys that he found on his son's computer. Several websites have posted versions of these conversations which imply that the boys were unhappy in their homes, and may have been eager to run away. However, the police continue to say there has been no conclusive evidence derived from the transcripts.

Some naysayers argue that the controversial author should not be a trusted source.

"He is a known user of illegal substances," said Randi Cohen, mother of Maer Cohen who has also gone missing. "How can we trust computer files from a man who writes horrifying scenarios for a living?"

Instead, members of the community have actually speculated about a particularly horrifying scenario. The police continue to receive reports of sightings of a strange man roaming the streets late at night. Cohen says, "A dangerous kidnapper obviously targeted our boys. I won't rest until my son is found, and this man is behind bars." No concrete evidence has been brought forth to suggest that the boys were taken against their will, and reports about this man are sketchy at best.

When asked for his opinion, Mitchell Allen, distraught father of Ashton Allen, said, "Ashton just vanished. I have no idea how this happened."



Ashton Allen, age 10, last seen visiting his grandmother's house.

Country Lane Golf Course is now