

Eddie Cathey

Sheriff of Union County

3344 Presson Road
Monroe, North Carolina 28112



Telephone: (704) 283-3789
FAX: (704) 292-2700

Email: eddiecathey@co.union.nc.us

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Sun Valley High Student Faces Several Felony Charges for Starting Fires at School

Deputies filed charges yesterday against a 17 year old Sun Valley High School student, Jayce Alexander Kear, for starting several small fires within Sun Valley High School last week. Two of the fires occurred in a restroom and one occurred in a trash can. All of the fires extinguished themselves and no students were injured.

Kear faces three felony charges for Burning of Personal Property, and was released into the custody of his parents after being processed into the Union County Jail.

In addition to the fires, School Resource Officers (SROs) at Sun Valley responded to multiple reports of graffiti writings containing threatening language last week. These writings were threatening violence toward other students. Although the messages were threatening in nature, law enforcement did not believe them to be credible. However, under North Carolina law, it is a Class H felony to make a false report concerning mass violence on educational property.

Deputies have identified a juvenile suspect involved with writing the threatening language and felony charges are forthcoming.

Union County Sheriff's Deputies investigated these matters in conjunction with Union County Public Schools officials and the Union County Fire Marshal's Office.

Sheriff Eddie Cathey commented, "We will thoroughly investigate any criminal matters involving our schools and our students. I want to ensure parents and our community that we work closely with school officials every day on our campuses to protect our students. We take these matters seriously and will not tolerate harm coming to our schools or our students. I commend everyone involved in bringing these matters to a successful conclusion."



Jayce Alexander Kear (17)

Point of contact for this press release is PIO Tony Underwood, 704-292-2707.

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Citizens with information concerning criminal activity are encouraged to call:

Union County Sheriff's Office at 704-283-3789

Or

Union County Crimestoppers at 704-283-5600

