



05-09-19

Pickens County Sheriff's Office Charges Two Juveniles with Damage to School Bus

This afternoon, detectives with the Sheriff's Office charged two juveniles, ages 15 and 11, following the investigation into the school bus incident on Bridwell Rd that was reported yesterday in Six Mile.

Detectives identified the two juveniles involved in the incident after interviewing area neighbors close to the location where the damage occurred.

Information collected during the investigation has corroborated initial thoughts that the window was damaged after being shot by an air gun that uses compressed air cartridges as the propellant for shooting small pellets or BB's.

The shots were fired at close range from a wooded area just off the roadway as the bus passed by. No injuries were sustained to the passengers; however, a student was seated next to the window that was struck by the projectiles.

No information has been discovered that would indicate that the incident was directed at any particular student but rather a spontaneous decision to shoot at the bus as it traveled down the road.

Both juveniles have been released to their parents with the following charges to be heard in Family Court:

- **Malicious Damage to Property < \$2,000.00**
SC Code of Law Section: 16-11-0510(A)
- **Assault & Battery 2nd Degree**
SC Code of Law Section: 16-03-600(D)(1)
- **Interfering with the Operation of a School Bus**
SC Code of Law Section: 59-67-0245

This investigation is still on-going and detectives have not ruled out additional charges that may be forthcoming on other parties.

Sheriff Clark stated ...

“Our community is extremely fortunate in that this momentary lack of judgment did not result in someone being seriously injured.

By law, air guns are not considered firearms in the traditional sense but through the years we have occasionally seen serious injuries from pellets and BB’s particularly when someone is struck in the face or head.

I encourage parents to have serious discussions with their children regarding the safe use of air guns and the potential threat of serious injury if they are used to shoot an animal or a person.”

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