

UPDATE: Gang Charges Filed in Arrest of WHS Students

Written by Steve Frank
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Three arrests—Watauga High students—with gang related counts filed against two—made by Boone Police in connection with threats of violence at Watauga High School. Enrique Rivera Alvarez, 17, was arrested Wednesday, then Noe Hernandez Lopez, age 19, was arrested—both charged with one felony count of soliciting gang activity in violation of the North Carolina Gang Suppression Act. Alvarez and Lopez are alleged to have recruited students to participate in a gang related fight. Lopez was taken into custody with the assistance of Blowing Rock Police Officers while on a school field trip and transported to the Watauga County Magistrate's Office. Boone police saying that both are suspected of recruiting students to participate in a gang related fight. They was taken before a Watauga County Magistrate then booked into the Watauga County Detention Center under a \$10,000 secured bonds with a May 17th court date.

As officers were on campus for increased security in response to that possible fight, Humberto Ascencio-Estrada was detained by police and charged with misdemeanor disorderly conduct after he got into an altercation with another student.

The Boone Police Department said in their release that they are committed to fighting criminal gang activity, and that the investigation into this incident continues.

A text message from an unknown source Tuesday lead to a greatly increased police presence at the Watauga High campus yesterday, that presence continuing today.