

All Clear: Watauga Schools Back Open

Written by Steve Frank

Tuesday, 27 August 2013 09:54

All schools in Watauga County are back open, and students have been returned to class, according to the Watauga Schools Office. Students were evacuated after a bomb threat indicated that there were explosive devices in a non-specific Watauga school. The 911 hang-up came in about 7:40 this morning, a gruff voice making the threat on the schools, prompting an evacuation order for each school, each using its own preset plan. The timing was such that many students were just arriving by bus and car, and some parents took their children to the designated evacuation point while other parents came back to pick up their students. School Information officer Marshal Ashcraft said at the time that there were hopes to resume classes on a school-by school-basis. The evacuation was orderly with no reports of injuries or severe complications, Watauga High students waited in the bleachers of the football stadium, Hardin Park at Boone United Methodist Church. All county fire departments were activated for stand-by, and law enforcement backup was brought in to help in the emergency. Investigators are working to determine the origin of the call, with hopes of prosecution of the person or persons responsible. The recorded call from Watauga Schools said that student who were picked up by their parents should see the principal for an excused absence.