

Teens admit to senior prank

Written by George Browning

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Two Salem High School students face charges for causing Salem Community Schools to go on a two-hour delay on Tuesday, May 11.

Seniors Blaine Humphrey and Kyle Hall will likely be charged with criminal mischief for what turned out to be a senior prank, according to Salem Police Chief Scott Ratts.

Humphrey and Hall allegedly let the air out of the front tire on each of the school corporation's 26 buses.

Ratts said the fact that Salem is a small town made the investigation easier.

"It was only a matter of time until we found out from other kids," he said. "We actually received a tip from the school administrators that they had heard who did it."

Salem Superintendent Dr. Lynn Reed said she is glad the investigation ended quickly and gives the students credit.

"Part of the reason it went as smoothly as it did was because the boys were truthful and didn't deny anything," she said.

Ratts said the students both made good grades and until this incident had not had any other disciplinary in their high school careers, which is why they face criminal mischief charges and not a charge of malicious vandalism.

"They thought at face value that it would be funny, but they didn't think about the financial repercussions," Ratts said.

Some of the costs associated, according to Ratts was having Hughes Tire and C'burg Supply to come in and re-air the tires.

Ratts also said there were probably a number of parents who missed work because they didn't have arrangements made for childcare.

"I don't think they intended to cause all of these repercussions," he said. "It was just a prank that they didn't think through very well."

Reed said while the students are 18, they still fall under the schools confidentiality rules and because of that she can't speak to specific discipline.

She did say vandalism is addressed in the student handbooks and the high school administrators have applied the appropriate discipline.