Yuma County Sheriff's Office

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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Dateland School Threat

Location of Incident: 1300 S. Avenue 64E, Dateland, AZ

On Thursday, September 29, 2022, the Yuma County Sheriff's Office (YCSO) received a report of a student posting threats of violence via social media after being suspended for having a BB gun at school.

Dateland Elementary School students reported images on social media to their parents of the suspect carrying what they believed was a gun on the bus. The parents notified school staff. After being notified by the school, the suspect's parent discovered a BB gun in the suspect's backpack.

Following notification he would be suspended from school, the suspect posted threats on social media targeting the school and students who he believed to have reported him.

YCSO Deputies responded to take the report and speak to parties involved. The suspect, a 12-year old male of Dateland, AZ, was arrested and booked into the Yuma County Juvenile Justice Center for Interfering or Disrupting a School, Carrying a Weapon into School Grounds, and three Counts of Threats.

Investigation revealed the suspect did not have access to firearms and was in possession of a single BB gun.

The Yuma County Sheriff's Office would like to commend all the students who reported this important information by telling a trusted adult what they knew.

It is important to speak to children to be observant and let an adult know if they see or hear something that makes them feel uncomfortable, nervous or frightened. See something, say something.

Anyone with information regarding this case, please contact the Yuma County Sheriff's Office at 928-783-4427 or 78-CRIME to remain anonymous. You can also visit our website at www.yumacountysheriff.org to submit an anonymous tip.

Information Released By: Tania Pavlak, Public Affairs Specialist