



VALLEJO POLICE DEPARTMENT

Press Release

(707) 651-7147

July 12, 2007 3:58PM

Lieutenant Rick Nichelman

Case# 07-13460

www.vallejopd.com

ARREST OF JUVENILE SUSPECTS IN ARSON/BURGLARY SERIES

On July 07, 2007, Vallejo Police Department Officers arrested three juveniles who were initially detained in the area of an arson fire that had been set at a portable classroom located at Cave Elementary School at 770 Tregaskis Avenue. Witnesses saw the three teenage boys running from the area. Officer Peppino Messina located the three subjects on a nearby street, and they were subsequently identified as the responsables.

The suspects – two 15 year-olds and a 16 year-old, all Vallejo residents, were interviewed by Corporal Richard Wanzie and confessed to being responsible for setting the fire at Cave Elementary, as well as at Springstowne Middle School, where Vallejo firefighters had responded minutes earlier to handle an additional suspected arson fire of similar cause and origin.

As a result of this arrest, the suspects were re-interviewed by Youth Services Bureau Officer Lloyd Douglas while in custody at Solano County Juvenile Hall, at which time they confessed to an additional burglary and arson fire that occurred at Cave Elementary School on June 30, 2007. This information lead to Detective Joe McCarthy questioning the juveniles about an unsolved arson series from August of 2006, which occurred at the same locations and involved a similar method of operation.

Ultimately, Detective McCarthy obtained confessions to the below listed Arsons and Burglaries, all of which occurred in August of 2006:

Cases Cleared

06-15881, Arson, 08/04/06, Springstowne Middle School
06-15871, Arson, 08/04/06, Cave Elementary School
06-16839, Burglary, 08/17/06, Springstowne Middle School
06-16850, Burglary, 08/17/06, Reignard School
06-17051, Arson, 08/20/06, Springstowne Middle School
06-17503, Arson, 08/20/06, Reignard School
06-17057, Arson, 08/20/06, Pennycook Elementary School

The cooperative effort of the involved officers is recognized as exceptional, removing a network of criminal offenders from the community.