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NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Deputies Disrupt Potential Drug Related Robbery

Two Union County teenagers were arrested Monday afternoon after Sheriff's Deputies found them outside an Indian Trail residence, armed with a handgun and a stolen AR-15 rifle.

Deputies were dispatched to a home in the 5100 block of Chelsey Lane located in the Sandalwood neighborhood shortly after noon Monday. Concerned citizens alerted police to suspicious activity involving two males wearing "skull" masks seen walking around outside a residence. After a short period of time, the two males left the residence in a dark colored vehicle but returned a short while later. Deputies arrived to investigate and found one of the males armed with a loaded handgun. In addition, deputies located a stolen AR-15 rifle, a ballistic vest and a quantity of marijuana inside the vehicle the two teens were operating.

Deputies, detectives and crime scene investigators responded to the Chelsey Lane residence. Detectives developed probable cause for the issuance of a search warrant for the residence. Once inside, found the home unoccupied but detectives located a stolen handgun, baggies of marijuana, THC extract, and drug paraphernalia. While at the residence, a priority mail package arrived from California addressed to an occupant of the home. The package contained nearly 450 grams of THC extract.

Investigators believe the two teen suspects went to the home prepared to commit a robbery but deputies interrupted their plans thanks to alert citizens.

The two teenage suspects, identified as **Josue Diego Martinez, age 18**, of Marshville and **Kevin Manuel Arant-Melchor, age 17**, of Monroe face the following charges:

Martinez - Carrying a Concealed Weapon
 Breaking and Entering
 Possession of Stolen Goods
 Simple Possession of Schedule VI

Arant-Melchor - Breaking and Entering
 Simple Possession of Schedule VI



MARTINEZ



ARANT-MELCHOR

The next court appearance for Martinez and Arant-Melchor is scheduled for March 13, 2018.

The investigation concerning the contraband seized from the Chelsey Lane residence resulted in the arrest of **21 year old Zackery Keith Phifer**. Phifer faces the below charges:

Possession with Intent to Manufacture, Sale or Deliver a Controlled Substance
Possession with Intent to Sale and Deliver Marijuana
Simple Possession of Marijuana
Possession of Drug Paraphernalia
Possession of Stolen Goods

Phifer's next court date is March 6, 2018.



PHIFER



Items Seized from Phifer's residence

Point of contact for this press release is Chief Communications Officer Tony Underwood, 704-292-2707.

Citizens with information concerning criminal activity are encouraged to call:

Union County Sheriff's Office at 704-283-3789

Or

Union County Crimestoppers at 704-283-5600
