

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

May 20, 2009

Assault on Henagar Principal

Sheriff Jimmy Harris states as follows:

Around noon on May 20, School Resource Officer Scott Tarrant received information that an assault had taken place at Henagar Junior High School involving Principal Steve Green and a parent. When Deputy Tarrant arrived on scene, Joseph Wayne Kittle, Sr. was in the custody of Henagar Police Chief Randall Smith. Kittle had reportedly come to the school and gotten into an argument with Mr. Green over his child's grades and an academic award. The argument led to Kittle striking Mr. Green in the jaw.

Kittle, 43, of Henagar, was charged with Assault 2nd Degree. Deputy Tarrant took Kittle from Chief Smith's custody and transported him to the DeKalb County Detention Center where he remains awaiting bond at this time.

Alabama law provides that one who, with intent to cause physical injury to a teacher or employee of a public educational institution during the performance of his duties, does cause such physical injury to such person, will be charged with assault 2nd degree, a class C felony.

Sheriff Harris said, "This is a really unfortunate incident to happen any time, but especially here at the end of the school year. The quick response of Chief Randall Smith kept this incident from escalating any further, and we are thankful for that."

