

Update: Charter school employee arrested for sexual abuse of a minor

January 26, 2020



Update as of 4 p.m., Jan 27:

The Triplicate received an anonymous tip that the victim was a previous student at Uncharted Shores Academy, and that the defendant, Daniel Smithson, and the victim had met while the victim was a student.

Uncharted Shores Academy Principal Margie Rouge could not confirm this since the victim's identity is unknown.

However, she did comment saying that none of the current students from this school year are involved.

Previously reported by the Triplicate at 11 a.m. Jan. 27:

The Del Norte Sheriff's Office (DNSO) arrested an Uncharted Shores Academy staff member, Daniel Aiken Smithson, 41, on Sunday, Jan 26, for child sex abuse allegations.

Smithson worked as a custodian for the academy, but taught elective classes in art, chess and Dungeons and Dragons. He has now been placed on administrative leave, according to Uncharted Shores Academy principal Margie Rouge.

"The charges in no way involve the school or any of the students attending school here. We have somebody taking over for him as custodian... and his elective classes have been canceled," Rouge told the Triplicate.

Smithson is charged with oral copulation, contacting a minor with intent to commit a sex crime, arranging a meeting with a minor for sexual purposes, continuous sexual abuse of a child, sexual penetration with a foreign object: victim under 14 years old and molesting a child under 18 years old, according to the DNSO's online information system.

His bail is set at \$500,000, and he is expected for arraignment at 1:10 p.m. tomorrow, Jan 28.