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INDEPENDENT RECORD



CITY/STATE

Police say girl admitted sending e-mail threats

LAUREL (AP) — Authorities here say a 15-year-old girl admitted sending an e-mail to about 100 high school students and teachers, warning that they would be “dead before this year is over.”

The message was tracked to the home of the girl, who is a student at the school, authorities said. Three computers were seized, and the girl and her mother voluntarily went to the Laurel police station, where the teen cooperated with investigators, said Stan Langve, a police officer and school resource officer.

“She confessed to writing

the threatening e-mails and stated she never intended to follow through with them,” Langve said.

The girl’s name was not released because of her age. It was not immediately clear what, if any, charges she faced. School officials said the teen could face expulsion as well.

The threatening message was sent to students and faculty members with e-mail accounts issued through the school. The first e-mails appeared Jan. 2 and told recipients they would be dead by the end of the year unless they complied with instructions they

would receive later, Langve said.

A copy of the same e-mail was sent to other recipients the following day. In a third e-mail a day after that, the writer said she was “taking a break” for a while.

Laurel police tracked the source of the e-mails with the help of the FBI’s computer crimes division.

Josh Middleton, superintendent of the Laurel School District, said the threatening e-mails caused major disruptions at the high school. More than a third of the school’s 682 students stayed away from classes on Monday, he said.