

La Pine Man Brandishes Gun at Girls, Prompts School Lockdown

by Richard Burton

A La Pine man who allegedly pointed a gun at four teenage girls in Bend Thursday afternoon, then later prompted a lockdown at Mountain View High School when it was reported he was enroute to the school, will likely face multiple felony charges, according to a news release from Bend Police.

Officers were dispatched to an area near Juniper Park shortly before 2 p.m. October 5, to investigate a report of a subject driving a grey passenger car who pointed a gun at several teenage girls, said Sgt. Todd Fletcher. According to the report, the man was accompanied by a younger female passenger. Officers searched the area but were unable to locate the vehicle.

The reporting person then provided additional information that the vehicle was near a 7-11 convenience store at Northeast Greenwood Avenue and Northeast 8th Street. Further information was developed suggesting the suspect was enroute to Mountain View High School (MVHS). Police officers notified school authorities and the school was placed in "lockdown" during the incident, said Sgt. Fletcher.

Officers arriving at MVHS located the vehicle in a parking lot east of the football field. The driver, Robert Arthur Edmondson III, a 22-year old La Pine resident, was taken into custody without incident. A loaded handgun was allegedly found inside the car.

Edmondson and his passenger, a current student at MVHS, were reportedly on their way to meet friends who were not involved in the incident.

According to the news release, the female teenage passenger in the suspect's vehicle was an acquaintance of the victims, and she had allegedly been in a verbal dispute with the victims at Juniper Park when Edmondson pointed the handgun at them.

Officers later searched Edmondson's residence for evidence relating to this incident.

"There is no evidence or reason to believe that Edmondson intended to enter Mountain View High School with the weapon. It appears Edmondson's actions were directed solely at the four juvenile female victims in response to the argument at Juniper Park," said Sgt. Fletcher.

Edmondson was transported to the Deschutes County Jail and will face a single count of unlawful possession of a firearm; four counts each for unlawful use of a weapon, pointing a firearm at another, menacing, and

reckless endangering; and one count of possession of a firearm or dangerous weapon in a public building.

The charge for possession of a firearm in a public building includes school property adjacent to the actual buildings, explained Fletcher.

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