

## Deputies investigate bomb threat at La Pine Middle School

by Cheryl McDermott

La Pine Middle School was not placed in a lock-down Thursday morning after a teacher found a written bomb threat, but students were moved to different portions of the school grounds to accommodate a thorough search by law enforcement personnel who turned up no sign of destructive devices or explosives.

According to Deschutes County Sheriff's Office Sgt. Chad Davis, school administrators were informed of the threat by a teacher just before 10 a.m., February 21. Law enforcement was called immediately and upon arriving at 16360 1st Street, took over the investigation.

Lockers were searched and classrooms were evacuated and searched, as were all other areas of the school, a letter sent to students' parents from the school district stated.

After deputies determined that there was no imminent threat, the remainder of school day proceeded as normal.

All such situations are taken very seriously and thoroughly investigated to ensure student and staff safety, school officials said.

Sgt. Davis said the Sheriff's Office is continuing a criminal investigation into the incident. Anyone with information is asked to call 541.693.6911, or to contact the School Resource Officer, Deputy Neemann at 541.536.5967.

According to the school district's web site, La Pine Middle School has a student population of more than 500, and includes grades 5-8.

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