

Student arrested in elementary school burglary

by Cheryl McDermott

BEND, Ore. -- Police say that hours after a male elementary school student reported a break-in at the school Sunday morning, he was later arrested and charged with five crimes in connection with the burglary.

Highland Elementary Magnet School, Bend-La Pine Schools photo Deschutes County 911 received a call on a non-emergency line about 7:37 a.m., March 1, and were told that a window at Highland Elementary Magnet School at 701 Northwest Newport Avenue was open far enough for a person to gain entry to the building, Bend Police Sgt. Tom Pine stated in a news release.

Responding officers found an open door and observed student lockers had been rummaged through. A police dog, K-9 officer Zlatan, searched the building but found it to be unoccupied, Pine said.

Seven hours later, a teacher who arrived at the school to work on assignments confronted a boy who was found inside the school. "After a brief conversation, the juvenile male fled the area," the sergeant said.

A subsequent investigation determined that the original reporting party was also the suspect and he was identified, located, arrested and lodged in the Deschutes County Juvenile Detention Center. Sgt. Pine said that evidence was seized and booked into evidence.

The boy was charged with two counts each of second-degree burglary and second-degree criminal mischief, and a single count of third-degree theft.

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