

Bizarre behavior near Salem school leads to arrest

by Cheryl McDermott

Suspicious and bizarre behavior by an 18-year-old man near a Salem, Oregon elementary school led to a physical altercation where police say the suspect tried to grab an officer's gun while grappling with the police, a janitor, and a school principal before he was ultimately taken into custody.

Hiram Rezantes - MCSO photo According to the Marion County Sheriff's Office, a man described as "suspicious" entered Adam Stephens Middle School and asked to use the telephone. When he was told there were no public telephones available, he left, but because of his behavior school officials notified School Resource Officer (SRO) Chris Bangs.

Bangs, the Marion County Sheriff's Deputy SRO for both Adam Stephens and nearby Yoshikai Elementary School, contacted the man who became agitated and began jumping in front of passing cars.

SRO Bangs attempted to arrest the suspect, later identified as 18-year-old Hiram Rezantes of Monmouth, for disorderly conduct, but Rezantes lunged at the officer and tried to grab the deputy's holstered firearm.

Rezantes broke free and ran toward the front doors of Yoshikai Elementary, but was detained by the SRO who was assisted by David Moes, the school janitor, and Neil Anderson, principal of Adam Stephens.

Rezantes had a 4-20 shaved into the hair on the back of his head, but declined to explain to police what meaning, if any, that held.

Deputies report that during the incident, which lasted an estimated seven minutes, the school was placed in lockdown, and communication between deputies and school officials was described as outstanding.

Rezantes was taken into custody and lodged in the Marion County Jail. He is charged with disorderly conduct, resisting arrest, second-degree escape, fourth-degree assault, and attempted first-degree theft (associated with trying to grab the SRO's gun). Standard bail for those offenses is \$32,500.

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