

Aloha teen takes loaded handgun to high school

by Cheryl McDermott

A 17-year-old boy who had been banned from being on school grounds since late 2006 for assaulting the vice principal was arrested Wednesday afternoon at Aloha High School for carrying a loaded and concealed handgun inside the school, deputies reported.

According to a Washington County Sheriff's Office news release issued by public information officer Sgt. David Thompson, Jorge Louis Cortes claimed to have been carrying the weapon for protection against other violent students, and told deputies he had been shot at last week although there was no record of a police report on file.

A deputy assigned to Aloha High School at 18550 SW Kinniman Road via the Enhanced Sheriff's Patrol District was alerted to the boy's presence on school grounds about 12:20 p.m., June 6. According to the news release, the deputy was aware that Cortes had previously been trespassing from the school.

When arrested inside the school, Cortes was allegedly carrying a .22 caliber Sterling semi-automatic handgun, fully loaded, with a round in the chamber.

Sgt. Thomspson said the investigation is continuing, and that the school was not placed in a "lock-down".
"It has not yet been determined where Mr. Cortes got the gun," the Sergeant said.

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