

Bomb squad investigates suspicious box in downtown Bend

by Cheryl McDermott

Vehicle and pedestrian traffic in downtown Bend was closed for over four hours Wednesday evening while a bomb squad was called in to investigate a suspicious box covered in threatening written messages that was found on the sidewalk close to the Deschutes County Library.

According to Bend Police Lt. Ken Stenkamp, officers responded to the sidewalk in front of the library at 601 NW Wall St. about 7:05 p.m., June 13, after a library patron noticed the small cardboard box about 8-inches square. Officers, unable to determine the contents, closed the library and isolated the area as a precautionary measure.

NW Wall Street from Franklin Ave. to Kansas Ave., and NW Louisiana Ave. from Bond St. to Broadway St. were shut down for hours with police and fire personnel standing by until the Oregon State Police (OSP) bomb disposal unit arrived about 11:15 p.m.

An ex-ray of the box revealed it was empty, Stenkamp said, adding that the investigation to find the person or persons responsible for the box is continuing.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Bend Police at 541.322.2960 or 541.693.6911.

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