

SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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PRESS RELEASE

April 7, 2023

On the morning April 4th 2023, the Wasco County Sheriff's Office was advised of a potential security threat to the Mosier School. This threat indicated he was frustrated with events of the past at the school and that a staff member was potentially to blame for his feelings. As many of you know, the Sheriff's Office takes all school threats very serious and in this case we dispatched three deputies, two investigators as well as three Oregon State Police Troopers and one investigator from the Hood River Police Department.

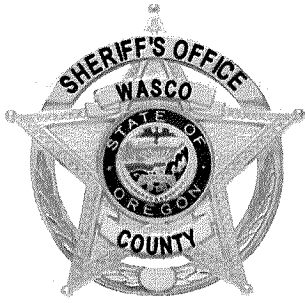
As it relates to this incident, the Wasco County Sheriff's Office works collaboratively with all our schools in the county, including Mosier School. We train with our schools, to include Mosier School District regularly throughout the school year. During these school trainings, the Sheriff's Office directly engages with students as well as staff in school assemblies or other staff trainings. This training provides the students and staff the opportunity to ask important questions about how they can be safe and what law enforcement is doing to protect them while at school. As a speaker to your students, I have advocated for the "See Something, Say Something" mindset.

When talking about See Something, Say Something, all statements that are concerning by students and staff are taken seriously, and this incident was no different. As a matter of fact this incident is a great example of Principal Janet Carter utilizing the above mindset. Janet immediately upon learning of a potential threat to the school called our 911 center and reported her concerns.

Upon the arrival of local law enforcement we began an investigation and learned the potential suspect lived next door to the school. Law enforcement immediately contacted the resident and began an intensive investigation. In addition, other law enforcement representatives interviewed Janet and other staff members to gain a clear picture of the events and how to best proceed, ensuring the safety of all individuals involved.

This collaborative investigation, led law enforcement and school staff to determine a course of action, and safety precautions were implemented to keep everyone safe. One of these safety actions was to evaluate the suspect's intentions and determine if any crime had occurred. These efforts determined the individual had committed no crime but was suffering from some sort of emotional disturbance related to events from the past. Also law enforcement investigators determined there was no indication of weapons at the residence.

Law enforcement worked with this individual, his family, and the Mid-Columbia Center for Living Crisis Response Team. During this process the individual expressed a desire to speak further with professional doctors and was **voluntarily** transported to Unity Hospital in Portland Oregon by a family member.



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While most may assume the above actions by Mosier staff and law enforcement would end with the investigation, it must be noted we continue to follow up and make sure certain safety measures are in place for the safety of the school and staff. We have or are currently conducting the following:

- During this time and for the last several days the Sheriff's Office has conducted additional patrols in and around the school property.
- The Sheriff's office has also provided additional patrols around the staff member's residence.
- Investigators are working directly with Mid-Columbia Center for Living to make sure the investigation is complete.
- The suspect has been trespassed from all school property and an individual staff members property.
- An immediate family member to the suspect had a key to the gymnasium related to a signed agreement. This key was returned to Mosier School staff.

Mosier School has taken the following action(s):

- All school rentals regarding school property/buildings has been temporarily suspended.
- Mosier School changed (or is in process) the locks on the property.

On a final action note a Threat Assessment will be conducted by the Threat Assessment Team.

It should be noted the individual was released from Unity and returned home and then contacted Mid-Columbia Center For Living staff for follow up appointments. As of April 6th 2023 the individual is actively following a plan put into place by mental health practitioners.

In conclusion I would like to thank everyone involved with this incident, including the Mosier School staff for their professionalism and genuine care for safety and security at the Mosier School.

Sheriff Lane Magill