

PRESS RELEASE UPDATE

Tuesday, January 24, 2012

The man taken into custody Tuesday morning on a Police Officer Hold in Mt. Angel is identified as JOSEPH P. CONKLIN, age 29, from Veneta.

Mt. Angel police confirmed CONKLIN is currently employed as an Oregon State Police (OSP) trooper who has been on leave since December 2011 pending their department's personnel investigation. OSP will be releasing a statement shortly related to this incident.

CONKLIN has not been arrested or charged at this time.

MAPD Case# 12-0335

Further Contact: Michael D. Healy, Chief of Police
503.845.9294

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At 0347 hours on January 24, 2012, the Mt. Angel Police Department responded to a call of suspicious disturbance where a man was reported to be screaming and yelling in the street in the area of City Hall located at 5 Garfield St. in Mt. Angel.

Mt. Angel Police personnel took the reported suspect into custody on a Police Officer Hold for a mental health assessment. As a result of the investigation into the incident it was learned that a suspicious package had been left abandoned near the gazebo at Berchtold Memorial Park directly east of City Hall, 5 Garfield St.

The suspect that was held indicated there was an explosive device in the suspect package. The suspect was taken to Salem Memorial Hospital for a mental health assessment. The area around Berchtold Memorial Park was evacuated and cordoned off. Two houses in the vicinity were evacuated.

The Mt. Angel School District was advised of the events at the time and the Superintendent made the decision to delay the start of all schools for two hours.

At 0548 hrs. Oregon State Police Explosives Unit responded at Mt. Angel Police Department's request. The OSP personnel performed a render-safe procedure on the suspicious package. Their investigation revealed there were no explosives contained in the suspect package.

Additional information was developed that indicated a second explosive device may have been left in the area of St. Mary's Church at 575 E. College St. in Mt. Angel. The area was thoroughly searched and no other packages were located. The area of St. Mary's Church, Berchtold Park and City Hall

have been determined to be clear and safe and reopened to traffic at 0658 hrs. No persons were injured during the event.

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