BAKER CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

PRESS RELEASE

Incident: Potential School Threat (Update #1)

News Release Date: January 24, 2018

On January 24, 2018, shortly before 1:00 pm Baker County Dispatch received a second hand report about a potential threat to a school. The reporting person said that the suspect lived in Baker City. Based on the information provided, law enforcement was able to determine the suspect was in Baker City within the last week, but that his whereabouts are unknown.

In an effort to take every precaution to protect the students and staff at our schools, law enforcement recommended that all schools go into a lockout, preventing entry or exit from the schools. In addition, law enforcement personnel from the Baker City Police Department, Baker County Sheriff’s Office and Oregon State Police have responded to all schools in Baker City/County to aid in security efforts throughout the release of students.

At about 5:20 pm law enforcement investigators were able to confirm that the person who made the threat was NOT currently in Baker City, but in Graham, Washington. The subject has been identified as 21 year old Ian Michael Cooper. The initial report came to law enforcement from an individual who was playing an online game with Cooper. Cooper’s comment was:

“2 days without dark souls, I might go shoot up a school xo”

Cooper also told his gaming community that he was currently living in Baker City, Oregon. Based on the gaming information, law enforcement showed Cooper’s picture to employees at a local gaming business. One of the employees stated they had seen Cooper in their business within the last week. Another citizen stated they had seen Cooper in the Bowling Alley several times recently.

Investigators were able to find Cooper’s Facebook page, which showed references to “666” and a picture of a person pointing a handgun at another person. It was based in part off this information that law enforcement officials agreed to recommend a county wide school lockout, to include the North Powder School. Law Enforcement personnel also responded to all of the schools for an extra layer of security.
Law Enforcement in Washington has interviewed Cooper, who admitted that he made the threat, claiming it was a stupid comment. The Baker County District Attorney will be reviewing reports for possible charges. In addition, reports will be sent to the FBI for review.

This investigation and operation was a coordinated effort between the Baker City Police Department, Baker County Sheriff’s Office, Oregon State Police and Baker 5J School District. It took a tremendous amount of resources to accomplish our mission of ensuring the safety of our community’s students and school staff. Without everyone’s assistance the speed with which a safety plan was put in place and the threat being resolved would not have occurred.

Law Enforcement and School District Officials would also like to thank parents, family members and everyone involved for their patience and understanding while picking up their children today in very trying circumstances.

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For more information, contact:

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