



Ukiah Police Department

Safety, Professionalism, Community Service

Chris Dewey

Chief of Police

Press Release: Assault / Edler abuse arrest UPD case # 16-2299

On August 7th at about 7:35 pm, UPD officers were dispatched to St. Mary's Church in the 900 block of South Oak Street, regarding a male subject that had assaulted two people. UPD dispatch advised responding officers that the suspect was last seen running toward St. Mary's School and provided them with a description of the suspect. While an officer spoke with victims, other officers located the suspect hiding underneath a travel trailer in the 1000 block of Alice Avenue. The suspect was found to be intoxicated, was detained and identified as a 16 year old male who resides in the Ukiah area.

A Catholic Priest reported that upon finishing Mass, he was made aware of some satanic graffiti written in black marker on a church breezeway that had not been there prior to Mass. The Priest walked to the prayer plaza, located behind the church, where he located a 69 year old woman. The Priest and woman began praying together, when two male subjects came into the plaza, one being the 16 year old male we later detained. One of the two subjects began smoking marijuana and the Priest told the subject that this was not allowed at the church. The 16 year old pushed the Priest and both subjects left. The 16 year old soon returned and confronted the Priest and began yelling satanic slurs at him. The 69 year old woman attempted to intervene and was hit in the face by the 16 year old male, causing her to fall to the ground. As the Priest was assisting the woman, he was struck in the face by the 16 year old.

The 16 year old male was placed under arrest for public intoxication, battery and elder abuse then booked into juvenile hall. The charge of vandalism and violation of a hate crime will be reviewed by the District Attorney's Office.

Neither the Priest or the 69 year old woman required medical attention and sustained only minor injuries.

As always, our mission at UPD is simple: to make Ukiah as safe as possible. If you would like to know more about crime in your neighborhood, you can sign up for telephone, cell phone and email notifications by clicking the Nixle button on our website: www.ukiahpolice.com.