

Mail bomb forces evacuation of Belleville stores

By CARYL R. LUCAS

A bomb delivered to a Belleville motorcycle shop yesterday prompted the temporary evacuation of several businesses along the township's main thoroughfare.

Shortly after noon, the owner of Kawasaki Motorcycle Mall at 165 Washington Ave. called police to report that he had received a "suspicious" package in the mail, said Lt. William Adelhelm. Adelhelm identified the dealership owner as John Resciniti.

"What happened is he opened the package and discovered a wooden box with a springlike device," said Adelhelm. "He immediately closed the box and called us."

After examining the box, police notified the Essex County sheriff's bomb unit and evacuated buildings on Washington Avenue between Rutgers Street and Belleville Avenue, Adelhelm said. Traffic was rerouted from the thoroughfare for the more than 3½ hours it took authorities to remove the bomb.

Undersheriff Armando Fontoura said county bomb truck personnel safely removed the device, which was determined to be a pipe bomb.

"It was designed to do an awful lot of damage," he said.

Fontoura said the "homemade pipe bomb" was taken to an undisclosed "safe and secure" area.

"I can't comment by order of the police department," said Steven Kemmlin, reached at the motorcycle store by phone several hours after the drama. Kemmlin, who identified himself as general manag-

er of the dealership, said he and Resciniti expect to be able to discuss the incident "in a few days."

In addition to personnel from the county bomb unit, authorities responding to the scene included members of the Newark office of the FBI, the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, the

Essex County Prosecutor's Office and the U.S. Postal Service.

Adelhelm said postal inspectors are assisting in the investigation because the bomb was sent through the mail. Municipal police last night continued checking out leads on a possible suspect.



A truck from the Essex County sheriff's bomb unit takes an explosive device from the Kawasaki store in Belleville

Photo by Richard Rapa

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Newark girl accused of torching lockers in Orange High

By KEVIN DILWORTH

A 16-year-old Orange High School sophomore yesterday was arrested and charged with deliberately setting three fires in student lockers at the school this week, Police Director Charles Cobbert said.

The girl, whose identity was withheld, was expelled from the school district after it was determined she lives in Newark and had misrepresented her residency to school officials, Cobbert added.

No injuries were reported in the small fires and damage was considered minor.

The fire department responded to the first fires Monday at 1 p.m., and helped teachers extinguish blazes in two lockers on the second floor of the high school at Lincoln Avenue and Clarendon Place.

"On Tuesday, at the same time, about 1 p.m., the fire department received another call and a third fire, also on the second floor and in another locker was discovered," Cobbert continued.

Fire officials suspected arson in each case and the police, along with the arson task force of the Essex County Prosecutor's Office, were notified to investigate, Cobbert said.

"The school's vice principal, Albert Reinoso, came up with an eyewitness who in turn gave information to the police department's juvenile aid bureau," the police director added.

Detective Lt. Dominick Scarola, along with Officers Ronald Rogers and Anthony Bruno, subsequently arrested the 16-year-old, he said.

When police asked the girl why she set the blazes, Cobbert quoted her as responding: "I did it just to do it."

The suspect was charged with three counts of arson, he said.

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