

Press Release

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ORPUT ANNOUNCES ATTEMPTED MURDER CHARGES

Washington County Attorney Pete Orput today announced the issuance of charges stemming from the August 2, 2011, standoff in St. Paul Park. Nicholas Kluessendorf, age 22, of St. Paul Park, was charged today with three (3) counts of Attempted First Degree Murder and three (3) counts of Assault in the First Degree. The charges result from Kluessendorf allegedly shooting at two (2) separate sheriff's deputies and one (1) Cottage Grove police officer, all of whom responded to his home after a report of his being despondent and suicidal. The complaint alleges Kluessendorf fired up to 40 rounds of .22 cal rifle and shotgun rounds prior to his being shot by a law enforcement sniper. During the incident, the complaint states that Kluessendorf threatened to kill law enforcement officers and then proceeded to open fire. Orput stated, "Thank God no one was killed in this incident. I commend the courageous efforts of the numerous law enforcement officers who responded from agencies throughout the county. It is a tribute to their level of interdepartmental cooperation."