

Authorities: Mom shot disabled son

By Gillian Flaccus
Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — A single mother fatally shot her severely disabled 7-year-old son and then attempted suicide after years spent caring for her child, authorities and family friends in Oregon said Wednesday.

A relative found Tashina Aleine Jordan, 28, unconscious Monday at the Bend home she shared with her son and mother. Authorities found the boy, named Mason, and pronounced him dead. Notes at the scene indicated Jordan was the shooter, police spokesman Lt. Clint Burleigh told KTVZ-TV.

Jordan remained hospitalized Wednesday and clinging to life after taking a combination of pills, said Deschutes County District Attorney John Hummel.

The woman was the primary caretaker of her son, who suffered brain bleeds as an infant and lapsed into a coma before reawakening. He was unable to feed, bathe or dress himself and used a wheelchair, said Dianna Hansen, a close family friend. Mason's father left after his diagnosis and Jordan lived with her mother to make ends meet, said Hansen, the

executive director of the Central Oregon Disability Support Network.

Jordan was on the network's board of directors and volunteered as much as she could to help other families with disabled children, Hansen said. She also homeschooled Mason after deciding that public elementary school wasn't right for him and came up with elaborate lesson plans tailored to his abilities, she said.

"She was just an amazing, amazing mother who dedicated her whole life to him. Everything that she could possibly do for him, she did," Hansen said.

Mason had cerebral palsy and hydrocephalus and required multiple surgeries, including two or three so far this year, but always seemed happy, Hansen said.

His mother showed no signs of depression or of feeling overwhelmed.

"None of us saw it coming at all. It's a total shock. It's not something that's uncommon for caregivers to talk about and try to work through and share that they've had thoughts of that, but generally by the time they're talking about it, then they're less likely to do it," said Hansen, who also has a disabled child.

FRIENDS: New facility opens program possibilities

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a permanent and larger clubhouse."

Before retiring to Sisters, Silvey had served as executive director of Friends of the Children-Portland. She was an educator, administrator and "turn-around" consultant for nonprofits.

Silvey noted that Circle of Friends needs to raise the proceeds to "buy" the building, and one of their main goals now is to get the clubhouse paid off as quickly as possible.

The new clubhouse will serve as a safe-haven that is easily accessible to the youth after school with their mentors. Circle of Friends will be creating areas for learning art, cooking and a teen "hang-out." The adults now have the chance to be more efficient when working with the youth on academics, reading, Lego-Robotics and STEM (science, technology, engineering, math).

"There is also lots of

ways to interact and be involved with the kids without being a full-time mentor," Gabrielson noted. "We are looking for volunteers to help with an activity at the clubhouse with the children. We are looking for people to share their hobby as a volunteer, like jewelry-making or woodworking."

was founded by Duncan Campbell in 2011 with seven youth, and now the organization is mentoring 42 kids with a waiting list. The mentors spend quality one-on-one time with each of their children to build nurturing relationships that help them thrive, starting as early as kindergarten and first grade and continuing with them through high school. Their overall goal is to reach out to even more children and help change their lives — one-child at a time-over time, with adult caring volunteer mentors.

"I think the new clubhouse a great opportunity for the children," said Campbell. "It's a place for them to do homework, art, and just spend time with their mentors."

For more information about volunteering for Circle of Friends: www.circleoffriendsoregon.org.

“...the new clubhouse is a great opportunity for the children... — Duncan Campbell”

Silvey added, "We now have a permanent space that's large enough to do all of our activities."

Circle of Friends in Sisters

Cougar fatally shot near Bend

BEND, Ore. (AP) — A farmer near Bend shot and killed a cougar after it killed two Shetland sheep and a turkey on his property.

The *Bulletin* reported Thursday that Mark Davidson found the dead sheep Monday hidden under sticks and pine needles in a pasture close to his house. He spotted the dead turkey near a barn.

Later Monday, Candy Davidson let their dog outside and checked on the sheep. Her flashlight caught glowing eyes and she ran inside to tell her husband, who shot the cougar with a .22 rifle. The couple contacted the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Assistant district wildlife biologist Randy Lewis responded and determined the cougar was a healthy 3-year-old male.

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