



Chris Pietsch/The Register-Guard

Amanda Calvert, a former student at Umpqua Community College, helps to spell the initials of the school with candles during a vigil at Stewart Park in Roseburg, after a fatal shooting at the school Thursday.

Shooting: Sheriff Hanlin chose not to say shooter's name

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"I know the folks there," said Hamilton, the former president of Klamath Community College. "I know the administration there. I worked with them on some projects. I was with a group of presidents and board members at a meeting (during the shooting), and it was very emotional."

The killer was identified as Chris Harper Mercer, according to a government official who was not authorized to speak publicly and provided the name on condition of anonymity. The gunman died following a shootout with police. Police were not saying whether they knew of any motive.

Mercer lived in an apartment complex in nearby Winchester, where investigators found a number of firearms, Douglas County Sheriff John Hanlin said Friday. Details about the number and type of guns would be released later, he said.

A neighbor, Bronte Harte, told The Associated Press that Mercer "seemed really unfriendly" and would "sit by himself in the dark in the balcony with this little light."

Harte said a woman she believed to be Mercer's mother also lived upstairs and was "crying her eyes out" Thursday.

Social profiles linked to Mercer suggested he was fascinated by the IRA, frustrated by traditional organized religion and tracked other mass shootings.

There didn't seem to be many recent connections on the social media sites linked to Mercer, with his MySpace page just showing two friends.

In addition to the MySpace page, Mercer appeared to have at least one online dating profile, a torrents streaming account and a blog.

On a torrents streaming site and blog that appeared to belong to Mercer, posts referenced multiple shootings and downloads included several horror films and a documentary on a mass shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut. A blog post urged readers to watch the online footage of Vester Flanagan shooting two former colleagues on live TV in Virginia, while another lamented materialism as preventing spiritual development.

A MySpace page that appeared to belong to Mercer included several photos and graphics of the Irish Republican Army as well as a picture of Mercer holding a rifle.

Mercer previously lived in the Los Angeles-area suburb of Torrance with his mother. Neighbors there recalled him as uncommunicative.

His father, Ian Mercer, said late Thursday that it's been a "devastating day" for him and his family, and he has been talking to police and the FBI about the shooting. He spoke to KABC-TV and several other media outlets gathered outside his house in Tarzana, California.

Step-sister Carmen Nesnick said the shooting didn't make sense.

"All he ever did was put everyone before himself, he wanted everyone to be happy," she told KCBS-TV.

Hanlin, the sheriff, said Thursday that he was not going to say the shooter's name because that's what he would have wanted.

"I will not name the shooter. I will not give him the credit he probably sought prior to this horrific and cowardly act," said a visibly angry Hanlin.

Hundreds went to a candlelight vigil Thursday night, with many raising candles as the hymn "Amazing Grace" was played.

Sam Sherman, a former student, said the school helped broaden his opportunities.

"That's all I could think about today. There's 10, 9 kids who won't get those doors opened," he said.

Roseburg is in Douglas County, a politically conservative region west of the Cascade Range where people like to hunt and fish. But it's no stranger to school gun violence. A freshman at the local high school shot and wounded a fellow student in 2006.

After Thursday's shooting, a n g u i s h e d parents and other relatives rushed to surviving students.

Jessica Chandler was desperately seeking information about her 18-year-old daughter, Rebecka Carnes.

"I don't know where she is. I don't know if she's wounded," Chandler said.

Carnes' best friend told Chandler that her daughter had been flown by helicopter to a hospital.

Students described utter fear and panic after hearing the shots.

Sarah Cobb, 17, was in a next-door classroom. She heard a shot. A teacher said they needed to get out, and the class ran out the door as she heard two more shots.

"I was freaking out. I didn't know what to think, what to do," she said.

Before the Roseburg shooting, a posting on the message-board site 4chan included a photo of a crudely drawn frog used regularly in Internet memes with a gun and warned other users not to go to school Thursday in the Northwest.

The messages that followed spoke of mass shootings, with some egging on and even offering tips to the original poster. It was unclear if the messages were tied to the shooting because of the largely anonymous nature of the site.

Investigators went door to door in the neighborhoods near the college and the shooter's apartment seeking clues, Hanlin said Friday.

The sheriff has been vocal in opposing state and federal gun-control legislation. In 2013, Hanlin sent a letter to Vice President Joe Biden after the shooting at a Newtown, Connecticut, elementary school, declaring that he and his deputies would refuse to enforce new gun-control restrictions "offending the constitutional rights of my citizens."

The Daily Astorian contributed to this report.

Wildlife: Volunteers still needed

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Drawn to birds

"Sharnelle told me 'they're all attitude and no gratitude,'" said Laurel Berblinger, a volunteer with the center for more than six years, noting the nicks and cuts she's received handling birds. "And they should be. They're wildlife, not pets."

Berblinger and Saranpaa organize morning shifts of volunteers who make their way down the row of cages, feeding, medicating and transferring seabirds to receive time in the water to exercise and condition their waterproof plumage for floating on the high seas.

By all accounts, the center has been a success. It grew over the years to take in between 2,000 and 3,000 birds a year, and last year, Saranpaa said, managed to release 65 percent of them back into the wild.

"The gulls are rewarding to release, because we almost never get to release them," Saranpaa said. "They get hit by cars, and their bones shatter like crazy."

Coralie Crayne, a volunteer for the past year at the center, said she originally came on a tour to appease Beck, a friend of hers. Crayne said she originally expected volunteering to be like housekeeping. But like other volunteers, she was surprised to find herself immediately handling and feeding a sometimes exotic cross section of more than 100 bird species alongside

"I didn't know anything about birds," said Ami Kreider, a part-time librarian and forest firefighter who read about the center in an article. "I guess I've always been concerned about humans' impact on the environment. It just felt like something concrete I could do."



Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian

Josh Saranpaa, the new director of the Wildlife Center of the North Coast, watches a red-shouldered hawk fly by. Saranpaa said it is only the second such hawk he has seen in nearly eight years of working with the center.



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

Common murrens stretch their wings after being released by Laurel Berblinger near the maritime memorial Monday.



Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian
A surf scoter, a type of sea duck, rehabilitates at the Wildlife Center of the North Coast, one of the only centers specializing in seabirds.



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian
A common murre swims away into the Columbia River after being released.

CELEBRATION FOR FEE

There will be a celebration of Sharnelle Fee from 3 to 5 p.m. Oct. 10 at the Warrenton Community Center, at 170 S.W. Third St.

In transition, in need

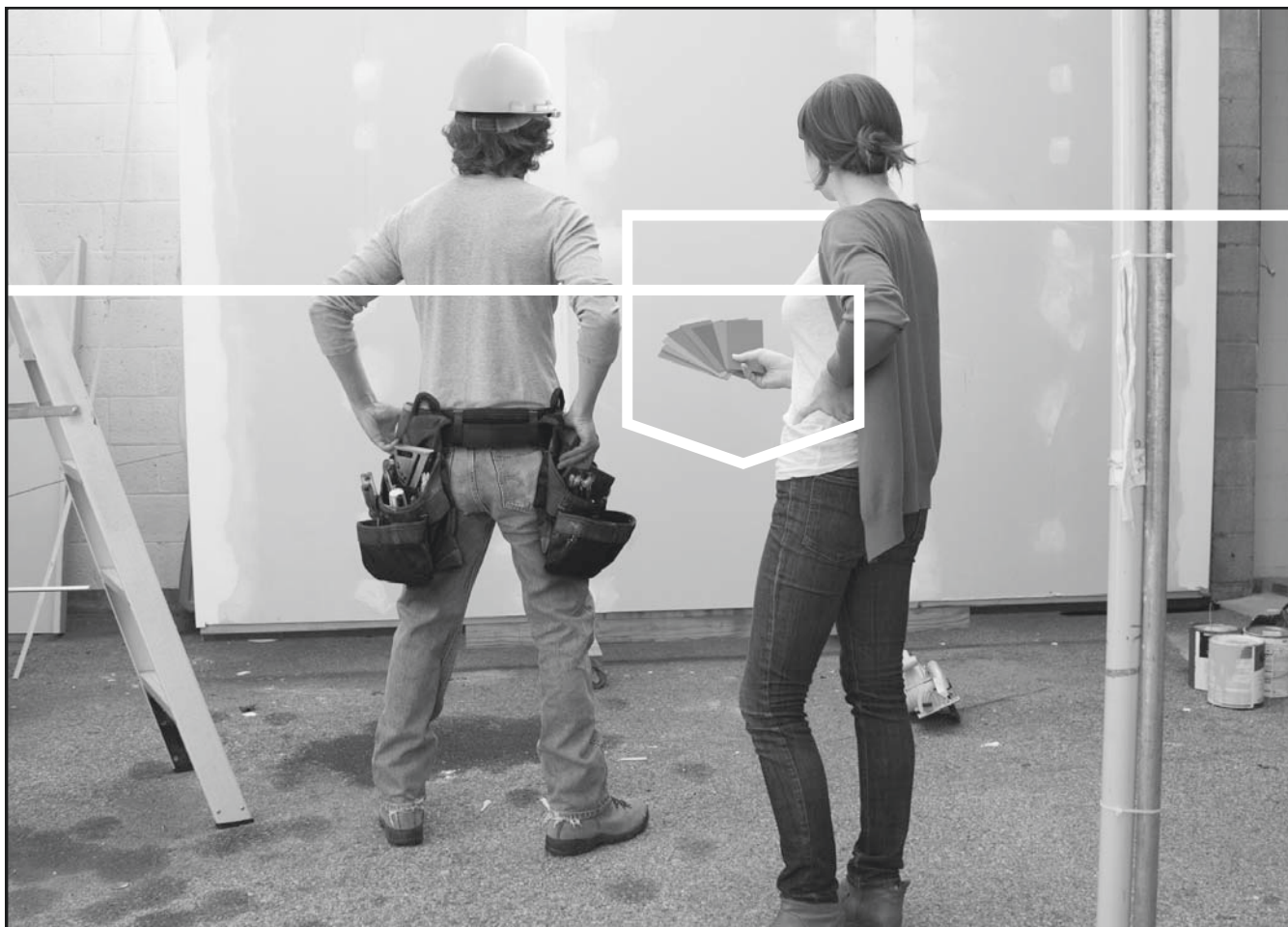
"We have enough volunteers for transport (to the center), but we need more volunteers to come work with wildlife," Saranpaa said. "We're trying to have an afternoon shift, so we can get every cage clean. It takes a special person will-

ing to cut fish, get bit, feed birds."

The center also needs donations to help fix the water filtration system in its enclosures that hasn't worked in seven years. Saranpaa said the stagnant water with bird feces is hurting the birds' ability

to develop waterproofing, which can be deadly on the ocean.

Fee's will is being handled by her only surviving relative, a brother, who could not be reached for comment. But Saranpaa said he is confident the property will stay a center honoring Fee's legacy.



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