

The Harbor: Nonprofit is still building out its new headquarters

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Schermerhorn said the move was a surprise to the board, which placed Soderberg on leave shortly thereafter. He would not go into detail about why Soderberg is on leave, saying The Harbor is "in the middle of an employee situation" involving Soderberg.

The nonprofit's governing board had Wright and The Harbor's Business Manager Jessica Hinman-Seeley take over Soderberg's duties. Schermerhorn said the nonprofit is looking for another interim director through the Nonprofit Association of Oregon and hopes to hire a new permanent director within three months, working with the association and the Oregon Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence.

Wright said all the services of The Harbor are running as normal.

"I think I've really learned how important our organization is to the community through this process," Wright said. "We have a strong group of advocates, and they are continuing their services the way that they always have."

The Harbor includes six full-time and eight part-time employees. The board includes Schermerhorn, Chris Palmer, Janet Mossman, Stephen Hildreth and Gregg Polidori. Schermerhorn said the nonprofit is

looking for several more board members to help build community partnerships and secure grants.

There are "so many different services and things we provide," Schermerhorn said. "We're trying to have more oversight into the different services."

New home

The Harbor is still building out a new headquarters in the Van Dusen building, gifted to the nonprofit in 2012 by late Pig 'n Pancake owner and co-founder Robert Poole. The Harbor hopes to relocate Deja Vu, whose sales support the nonprofit, by the end of the year.

"Right now, they're putting up Sheetrock, and getting ready and prepping for painting," Wright said.

In its September newsletter, The Harbor announced it needs \$50,000 more to complete the remodel of the building, which includes Deja Vu and the Sexual Assault Peer Center downstairs and domestic violence advocates and The Harbor's administrative offices upstairs.

Wright said the entire project has a budget of \$350,000, not including the \$50,000 to \$90,000 it would cost to fix an elevator in the building.

She said the inside of Deja Vu will include shades of beige and purple, the color of domestic violence awareness.

Crash: The suspect drove over lawns and down walking paths

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Deputy Paul Williams first saw the suspect speed past in Seaside and head northbound on U.S. Highway 101.

"He took the corner and almost hit me," Williams said. "I turned around to pursue the vehicle north on U.S. Highway 101."

Williams, driving his patrol pickup truck, eventually lost sight of the suspect's vehicle. Sanders continued on to the neighborhood around Cullaby Lake. He drove through barricades and went over lawns and down walking paths.

"He was hauling down a walking trail on a county park that gets pretty heavy use. Luckily no one was on it at the time," Williams said.

At one point, Sanders stopped and tried to steal a Clatsop County parks department pickup truck, but the keys were not inside the vehicle. He then got back into his 1995 Nissan Maxima.



Donald A. Sanders

Warrenton Police Chief Matt Workman responded to the Cullaby Lake area and happened to find Sanders driving toward him.

"He ended up coming straight at me and I pursued him for a bit," Workman said.

The suspect lost control, crashed near the deputy sheriff's house and ran on foot. He broke into the house on the 33000 block of Cullaby Lake Lane, according to law enforcement, and allegedly assaulted the deputy's wife. The deputy sheriff grabbed Sanders and Workman arrested him.

College workshop teaches basics of grant-writing

The Daily Astorian

Clatsop Community College is hosting a free workshop on proposal writing from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Oct. 22 in the college's Dora Badollet Library at 1680 Lexington Ave. in Astoria.

The workshop is presented by visiting staff of the Foundation Center's Funding Information Network.

The class provides an overview of how to write a standard project proposal to a foundation, including basic elements of a proposal, "dos" and "don'ts" of writing and submitting a proposal and how to follow up, whether the answer is yes or no.

For more information on

the workshop and to register, visit www.foundation-center.org

Both electronic and print materials in the Funding Information Network collection are available to all grant-seekers in the Dora Badollet Library. The library is open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday to Thursday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday.

The library also welcomes general use by the community. Materials may be used in the library at any time and checked out by those holding a library card from an Oregon Library Passport Program participant, or through a community patron membership. For more information, visit lrc.clatsopcc.edu



Chris Pietsch/The Register-Guard

Candida Miller, left, and Brandon Snyder leave flowers at a site of a growing memorial to victims of the mass shooting at Umpqua Community College in Roseburg on Tuesday.

Mother-son bond over guns links Oregon and Connecticut slayings

By GOSIA WOZNIACKA
and BRIAN MELLEY
Associated Press

PORTLAND — The deadly shooting last week at an Oregon community college has an eerie parallel with the massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary School that killed 20 pupils and six adult staff members in 2012.

Like Adam Lanza, the gunman in the Connecticut massacre, Christopher Harper-Mercer was living a mostly solitary life with a mom who shared his fascination with firearms.

Both stories illustrate the struggles parents face caring for a deeply troubled child, struggles that can inadvertently lead to a volatile outcome made easier by ready access to weaponry.

"When you begin to bring guns into the home environment where you have that dangerous cocktail of behavior, that's pretty unbelievable," said Mary Ellen O'Toole, a former FBI profiler who directs George Mason University's forensic science program.

Harper-Mercer bears similarities to other school shooters: a young male focused on mass lethality and carrying out the killings in a military-like mission destined to end in the killer's own death, O'Toole said.

He was a loner in his 20s like James Holmes, who killed 12 people in a cinema in Aurora, Colorado, in 2012; Jared Loughner, who seriously wounded Rep. Gabby Giffords and killed six in Tucson, Arizona, in 2011; and Elliot Rodger, who killed six people near the University of California, Santa Barbara, campus last year.

Like Rodger, he left behind a note that complained

'When you begin to bring guns into the home environment where you have that dangerous cocktail of behavior, that's pretty unbelievable.'

Mary Ellen O'Toole

a former FBI profiler who directs George Mason University's forensic science program

about not having a girlfriend.

But the comparison to Lanza extends to the relationships both shooters had with their mothers and guns.

Both women were longtime gun enthusiasts, not uncommon in many parts of America where gun ownership is prevalent and encouraged. The two mothers amassed weapons and took their sons to shooting ranges, according to the investigation into the Sandy Hook shooting and the Daily Breeze newspaper in Torrance, California, where Harper lived for years with her son.

It's easy to judge them in hindsight, but deeply strained and complicated relationships often lead to bad or desperate parental decisions with tragic consequences, said psychologist Peter Langman, author of two books on school shooters. Many troubled young people are so impaired they're incapable of living on their own.

"In some cases, (parents) don't recognize there's a problem," Langman said. "In other cases, they're aware of their child's mental health issues, but they don't see any evidence of violence, so they don't see any reason not to take their kid target shooting."

Parents may also use guns to bond with a mentally troubled, isolated child who is obsessed with weapons and

violence, he said.

Laurel Harper's online postings don't indicate she knew her son had violent tendencies, but it is clear she relished her weapons.

Investigators found eight guns in the apartment she shared with her son near the North Umpqua River and another six at the school where he killed eight students and a professor before killing himself last week.

She wrote enthusiastically about assault rifles and pistols and derided gun-control efforts in "lame states," in a three-year-old posting on Yahoo! Answers that is linked to an email address associated with her.

"I keep two full mags in my Glock case," she wrote. "No one will be 'dropping' by my house uninvited."

Harper could not be located for comment and has not returned messages left by The Associated Press at her home.

The nurse, who moved to rural Oregon with her son from the Los Angeles area two years ago, speaks frankly in the postings about her son's Asperger's syndrome, a mild form of autism. Investigators said she told them he had mental health issues.

Social profiles linked to her son suggested he tracked other mass shootings and was fascinated by the Irish Repub-

lican Army. Neighbors in the Los Angeles-area suburb of Torrance, where the mother and son lived before moving to Oregon, recalled him as uncommunicative, having child-like tantrums and loud fights with his mother, who was overprotective of him.

Adam Lanza's mother Nancy Lanza also struggled with her son, who had developmental issues from early childhood, according to a report released last November by the Connecticut Office of the Child Advocate.

The report said Lanza's mother, like Harper-Mercer's, was doting. She attempted to eliminate disruptions to Adam Lanza's life "entirely through hypervigilance and management of his symptoms." In emails to her son, she wrote she loved him and wanted him to be happy, according to the report.

But Nancy Lanza isolated her son from the world. And while she sought some treatment for him, she rejected other help and was in denial about her son's illness. The teen became increasingly preoccupied with mass murder and engaged in a cyber-community of mass murder enthusiasts. Before the shooting, he lived in virtual social isolation, spent months in his bedroom with the windows blacked out, and communicated with his mother only through email.

The report says access to assault weapons with high capacity magazines "did play a major role" in the Sandy Hook massacre, alongside inadequate and uncoordinated mental health services and Adam Lanza's extreme preoccupation with violence. His mother, it notes, "seemed unaware of any potential detrimental impact of providing unfettered access to firearms."

Clamming: Activity draws thousands

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Levels in Twin Harbors, however, dropped from 68 ppm to 44 ppm, still above the threshold. Twin Harbors is the coastline between the mouths of Willapa Bay and Grays Harbor.

In Washington, only one beach currently has clams that are safe to eat — Copalis, the coast immediately north of the mouth of Grays Harbor. Ayres said this puts the department in a bit of a quandary.

If a second round of testing comes back clean, "Do we open just one beach?" he said.

"From a fisheries management standpoint, we'd think real hard about that," he had said earlier. "We don't want to jam up one beach ... it just turns into a train wreck."

Favorable ocean tides will occur at the end of October and again in mid-November. With levels still high everywhere else, Ayres says Fish and Wildlife probably won't schedule any October digs.

In Oregon, levels remain high and the Clatsop County



EO Media Group/File Photo

Razor clamming days can bring long lines of vehicles to local beach approaches, along with many dollars for coastal businesses. After the latest marine-toxin test results, it will be at least another month before clamming will resume in Oregon and Washington.

beaches will likely remain closed to clamming at least until November, too. In Coos Bay, samples came back with domoic acid levels at 99 parts per million.

Down and up

It is not uncommon for levels to jump back up just as they seem to be inching down, state fishery managers say.

Razor clam digging is a

popular activity in Pacific and Clatsop counties, drawing thousands of people when the tides are favorable. In Long Beach, diggers will line the beaches for miles. In Washington last year, Fish and Wildlife was able to open 104 days for digging — the most it has ever allowed in more than 30 years.

But the season came to an abrupt end this spring in both

states with the arrival of massive algal blooms and domoic acid.

These blooms — perhaps the largest ever recorded on the West Coast, say state and federal scientists — later led to the closure of commercial and recreational Dungeness crab fisheries along 90 miles of Washington's coast. Razor clams are a major component of the crabs' diets, and levels in sampled crabs' guts (viscera) eventually hit above the 30 ppm allowed by the Department of Health. Though domoic acid levels in razor clams remained high in Oregon, crabbing remained open.

Though beneficial to ocean ecosystems under normal circumstances, domoic acid can be deadly to humans. If consumed in sufficient quantities, it can cause permanent brain damage and even death. Other mammals such as sea lions can slowly accumulate too much and suffer similar nerve impairment that leads to death. Cooking and freezing will not get rid of it in food.