

State task force recommends student threat assessment system

By **PARIS ACHEN**
Capital Bureau

The Oregon Task Force on School Safety agreed Thursday to recommend development of a statewide student threat assessment system aimed at preventing shootings and other violence at public schools.

The project would be modeled after a student threat assessment system in Marion, Polk and Yamhill counties, said task force member Dave Novotney,

superintendent of Willamette Education Service District. In that system, when schools receive an indication of threatening or destructive behavior, the system deploys a team of law enforcement, educators and counselors to respond. The team may help connect the student with resources such as mental health counseling or provide the student with more supervision.

"The idea is to intervene with hope we can nudge them off their trajectory and help

them make decisions that are positive," said John Van Dreal, director of school and risk management services at Salem-Keizer School District.

The system started taking shape in 1999 in Salem-Keizer schools and later expanded to all of the schools in the Willamette district.

Measuring the effectiveness of the system has been challenging. "You can't measure events that don't happen," Van Dreal said.

Surveys of school administrators and counselors indicate the system has helped to enhance a sense of safety on campuses, Van Dreal said. Schools in several other states, including California and Idaho, have adopted the protocols, he said.

Recommendation by the state task force calls for establishing response teams in eight regions in the state and providing training to employees.

Threat assessment capabil-

ities across the state are spotty, said Novotney, who also is a task force member. Threat assessment protocols in some school districts are refined while in other places, the plans are nonexistent, he said. Expanding the system statewide would cost about \$1.1 million, Novotney said.

The task force voted unanimously Thursday to recommend the plan to the Legislature in February and named it as one of its top priorities for the legis-

lative session. "It is much better to prevent these things than to respond to them," said Beaverton Police Chief Geoff Spalding, a task force member.

The task force also continues to pursue plans to resurrect a tip line for information on threats to educational institutions and start a statewide database of school floor plans and safety protocols.

The Capital Bureau is a collaboration between EO Media Group and Pamplin Media Group.

As need grows, Helping Hands, city partner to fight homelessness

Grant would help provide housing for organization's re-entry program

By **KATHERINE LACAZE**
EO Media Group

SEASIDE — Helping Hands Reentry Outreach Centers and the city of Seaside will collaborate on a federal grant application to help the nonprofit organization build or purchase a new facility for the homeless in Seaside.

"We're outgrowing our facility we've had for the past 14 years," said Alan Evans, the executive director of Helping Hands. "We're at full capacity with waiting lists, and it's going to get worse before it gets better."

The Seaside City Council voted unanimously this month to be the sponsoring agency for Helping Hands on a community development block grant, a program run by the U.S. Department of Housing

and Urban Development.

The block grant program provides annual grants on a formula basis to local governments and states. Nonprofit agencies cannot host the grants themselves and must be backed by a government entity, which is why Helping Hands asked for the city's support, Evans said.

"Homelessness is an issue that should be dealt with on a level that our city is involved in it, our county is involved in it," he said. "The resources need to be provided by nonprofits and local government together because the responsibility is ours as a community."

Helping Hands is seeking to either purchase or build a new facility to use for housing individuals in the organization's re-entry program.

In the first three quarters of this year, the organization served more than 400 individual clients in Clatsop, Yamhill and Lincoln counties, with a majority of service taking place in Seaside because of the emergency shelter.

The grant process

During the City Council



R.J. Marx/The Daily Astorian

Helping Hands and the city of Seaside are teaming to seek a grant for a new facility.

meeting, Seaside Mayor Don Larson said he believes the grant will be successful, but urged participating parties to exercise patience. "You just have to understand you're not going to get it tomorrow, or by the end of the year," he said.

Helping Hands currently is eyeing two options for the new site. The first is undeveloped Northwest Oregon Housing

Authority property on the south end of Seaside near Avamere at Necanicum Village. The second option is a former Coldwell Banker building on South Roosevelt Drive.

"What we have to weigh out right now is, what is the best bang for the buck?" Evans said.

To help answer that question, Helping Hands is forming a team of individuals from differ-

ent entities with a vested interest in the project — such as Clatsop County, Seaside, law enforcement agencies, the housing authority and others. The team will determine what direction the organization wants to go, craft plans for the new facility, organize a budget and then present the information to the city and share what "will best serve the need," Evans said. The information will be used for the grant application.

"It's going to be a lot of work, and the city has to pull off the grant," he added.

If the grant is successful and property is acquired, the city will own the facility and then lease it to Helping Hands at a rate to be determined.

Expanding to new territory

Helping Hands is also taking its services to Tillamook County. The organization recently acquired a facility in Tillamook to convert into a

homeless relief center.

The group is finishing the process to get a conditional-use permit, with the hope "to have the doors open" in Tillamook as an emergency shelter by Dec. 1, Evans said.

Helping Hands registered the building, which used to be a naval command center during World War II, as a historical structure. The organization is working with the Pioneer Museum to build a memorial for military members stationed there during the war. The goal is to bring the building "back to life" and celebrate its historical aspect, Evans said.

"We are going to make sure the exterior piece of the building tells that story and the hallways in the building tell that story of what it was there for and the importance of history in a community," he said. "It's all about forming partnerships and making sure communities understand homelessness."

Chase begins in Seaside, ends with death of fugitive

Associated Press

Authorities say a man wanted on attempted murder charges fired at pursuing officers before he was shot and killed by police to end a 40-mile chase on Highway 26 in the Coast Range.

The Washington County Sheriff's Office says 36-year-old Andrew Dehart was taken to a hospital late Wednesday and was pronounced dead.

The highway east of Oregon 47 was closed through the night.

The sheriff's office said Dehart was wanted for attempted murder, kidnapping and assault charges in Clark County, Washington.

U.S. Marshals found him at a



Andrew Garrette Dehart

friend's home in Seaside, but he fled as the marshals waited for backup to arrive.

Authorities say Dehart shot at police cars, disabling one of them, and continued shooting until he reached a tunnel.

Sheriff's Sgt. Bob Ray says

three officers got out of their at the east end of the tunnel. They fired at Dehart and his truck came to a stop.

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Kathern Leslie Burks
Licensed Beautician, 71
It is with great sorrow that we report the passing of our incredible mother, Kathy Burks.
Kathy Burks, 71, of Gearhart, Oregon, passed away Saturday, October 24, 2015.
Kathy was born to John Leslie Burks and Mary Ruth Burks (Triller) in Grants Pass, Oregon on April 16, 1944. She graduated from Blackford High School in San Jose California and later graduated from Beauty school. Kathy enjoyed her work as a beautician, going on cruises, watching her humming birds, sewing, gardening and Coors Light in a bottle.
She was preceded in death by both of her parents. Kathy is survived by her five sons Dan Keranen, Keith Keranen, Dean Keranen, J.P. Lannigan and Rick Lannigan, her grandchildren Daniel Hamilton, James Hamilton, Colby Lupfer and Kylie Keranen and her great grandchild Rayna Jo June Hamilton.
There will be a celebration of life potluck being held at the Seaside American Legion on Friday, November 6th at 5:00 pm.
In lieu of flowers donations may be made in her name to Providence Cancer Center in Portland, Oregon.

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