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Parkrose Coach a True Hero

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

"I was just really shocked. I'm still shocked. I never expected that to happen here. I don't think anyone did," Clayton Espenel, a junior at the school who was in one building over when the gun scare took place, told the Portland Observer.

When asked what his reaction to the fact that Parkrose Football Coach Keanon Lowe disarmed the gunman, Espenel said: "I'm just really thankful, I'm sure everyone here at the school is."

The school held its regularly scheduled prom Saturday and this week seniors will pick up their cap and gowns from the main lobby as the regular school year is quickly coming to an end.

That the incident didn't escalate to something much more horrific is thanks to two students who informed a staff member of concerning behavior from one of their classmates. Lowe, also the school's track coach and a security guard, then located 19-year-old Angel Granados-Diaz and was able to wrestle Granados-Diaz to the ground and remove the shot-

gun he was carrying.

Granados-Diaz was charged Monday in Multnomah County Circuit Court with two counts of possessing a firearm or dangerous weapon inside a public building, one count of being in possession of a loaded firearm in public and one count of recklessly endangering.

A former college football star at University of Oregon, Lowe has since received nationwide praise for his actions. He received a complimentary basketball game ticket from Portland Trail Blazer guard Damian Lillard, who called Lowe's intervention "a real hero move." Lillard supports Parkrose as one of three local schools for his RESPECT program.

"I stopped a full-on school shooting. And when I say that, it's unbelievable. Unbelievable," Lowe told The Athletic reporter Jason Quick at Saturday's Game 3 of the Western Conference Finals at the Moda Center. Steve Kerr, head coach for the Blazers opponents in that game, the Golden State Warriors, had also thanked Lowe for his "remarkable act of courage."

Lowe recounted that the incident started with what seemed to be "just a routine call to go grab a student."

Within 10-15 seconds of when Lowe entered a classroom in the fine arts building of the school, "the door opens and there's a student with a gun," he said in an interview with Good Morning America.

In what he described as "the longest fraction of a second of my life," Lowe lunged for the weapon, wrestled the gunman to the ground, and eventually separated the shotgun from him, as students ran for cover during what became a lock-down situation.

"When confronted with the test the universe presented me with, I didn't see any other choice but to act. Thank God, I passed," Lowe recalled on Twitter.

"Everyone should know that Keanon is a hero because of the way he shows up to support these kids every day, not just today," a fellow track coach at Parkrose, Olivia Katbi Smith, Tweeted Friday.

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Crowell Center Opens

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

single African American woman in Oregon to adopt children, and the first African American president of the Portland YWCA. She also served a term on the Portland Public Schools Board, and lent financial support to a number of local grade-school and college students. Crowell, who passed away

in 2017, has an endowed scholarship at the PCC Foundation dedicated to assisting African American students at the college.

"It's an honor for us to host this tribute to Evie and the community she loved so much," Edwards said. "We hope that, as the years go by, the Center will grow and evolve to reflect the continuing history of African Americans in Portland."

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