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See Metro, page 6



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Committed to Cultural Diversity

Disarmed with a Hug



Parkrose Coach Keanon Lowe

Surveillance video from Parkrose High School shows Parkrose coach and security guard Keanon Lowe holding a student in an embrace after disarming him of a shotgun during an incident last May. Lowe handed the gun to another teacher who is seen taking it away from the scene. The video was released last week by the Multnomah County District Attorney.

New video shows humanity of hero coach

BY BEVERLY CORBELL
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Last May, when Parkrose High Coach Keanon Lowe disarmed a student with a shotgun, initial reports rightfully showered him with praise for stopping the 19-year-old and averting a school shooting, but now the full picture of Lowe's heroic actions have come to light in a dramatic way. The release of school sur-

veillance video for the first time shows that Lowe, a member of Portland's African American community, didn't physically bring the student to the ground to avert a disaster, he peacefully was able to take the gun from him and then give him a hug.

The video, first obtained by KOIN-TV shows the dramatic embrace. It was released just a week after Angel Grana-

dos-Diaz was handed three years of probation for bringing the gun to the school, a sentence to include mental health and substance abuse treatment.

Lowe is now getting a second dose of deserved national attention for his compassionate response, including top weekend coverage on ABC's Good Morning America and a long piece on the ESPN website.

While the Parkrose School District Superintendent objected to the video's public release citing student rights under federal law, the Multnomah County District Attorney's office overruled him by releasing the video to local media.

In an interview with ESPN, Lowe described his thoughts in the moment after disarming the student. He said he looked into his eyes and saw humanity, not a picture of evil.

"It wasn't in me to beat him up or hold him down or hurt him, even though it was seconds after this crazy thing happened," Lowe said. "I felt his vibe, I felt how scared he was. I felt it all. I'll never forget the conversation I had with him. I told him I cared about him, that people cared about him. He was really surprised. He said, 'You do?' I said, 'Yep, I just met you and I care about you. It's going to be okay.'"

Multnomah Deputy District Attorney Parakram Singh said it was determined later that Granados-Diaz had only

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10