

Helping Hands reaches out to Portland

Facility will start with 72 beds

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

Alan Evans and Raven Russell of Helping Hands, a nonprofit serving homeless and other low-income people struggling with housing, are well known for their work in Clatsop County.

But with the Bybee Lakes Hope Center in Portland, Helping Hands moves to a new stage.

Russell, Evans and facility director Jeff Woodward joined the Seaside Chamber of Commerce in an electronic meeting last Wednesday to share the evolution of the former 18-acre, 155,000-square-foot Wapato Jail to a transitional housing facility providing beds for up to 525 people.

Helping Hands hopes to start housing residents in September, opening a portion of the building with 72 beds, Russell said. They plan to provide 300 beds by the end of the year.

In addition to Bybee Lakes, Helping Hands facilities in Astoria, Tillamook and Lincoln City could provide an additional 100 beds by 2021.

“This model is frankly historic for our community,” Woodward said. “Right now trying to get services is like trying to run an obstacle course. Under the best of circumstances it’s difficult. When you’re homeless it exacerbates everything, of course.”

With the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic, he added, homelessness is expected to increase 45% to 65% in the next six months.

Built in 2003 as a minimum security correctional facility and costing \$58 mil-

lion, the jail never opened, Woodward said.

Advocates like Woodward and others worked with property owner Jordan Schnitzer, who purchased the property.

Schnitzer met Evans at a United Way of Clatsop County fundraiser in Seaside. Together, they joined to save the building to provide transitional housing and trauma-informed services in one location.

Schnitzer leased the property to Helping Hands for \$1 per year.

Additional money has come from fundraisers and private donors, Russell said. So far, the project has raised about \$4 million, with a goal of \$7.2 million in January.

Shelter will be provided by referral only. All residents must be clean and sober and cannot be registered as sex offenders.

About 10% of the population is expected to be children, Russell said.

The center will have business and service operations like job-hunting and counseling.

The center is working with Oregon Health & Science University, the University of Portland and nursing schools to offer medical services on-site. “We don’t have a model like this in the Portland area. We have an opportunity to make a really big difference here, but that’s only possible because we’ve proved the concept on the coast.”

Russell is based in Portland, while Evans works in Seaside.

“We’re really grateful for the Seaside, Clatsop County community,” Russell told the Seaside Chamber of Commerce. “You’re our home. This is where we started, and this is where we proved that this collaborative model really works.”



Alan Evans, Ken Francis, owner of Dealers Supply, and Helping Hands crew. Francis helped to deliver a large furniture donation to Bybee Lakes Hope Center.

Evans attributed a data-driven approach to the success of Helping Hands. “Every decision in our organization is made by data given to us,” he said.

The Helping Hands homeless reentry model could work in any community on a scalable level, he said.

“We have a history of what works,” Evans said. “Every decision is based on the information of the people who get sent to us. We’re talking to other cities now about bringing this model to other places. It gives us the opportunity to build a platform and a mapping opportunity to bring resources to people. That’s what’s made us successful.”



LEFT: Alan Evans, executive director of Helping Hands. RIGHT: Raven Russell of Helping Hands in a Zoom meeting with the Seaside Chamber of Commerce.

PUBLIC SAFETY LOG



July 16

8:26 a.m., Avenue G: Sex crimes are reported.

10:29 a.m., 2400 block U.S. Highway 101: A dog bite is reported.

2:30 p.m., Cartwright Park: Dog complaint.

5:45 p.m., 300 block Ninth Avenue: A person is arrested for violating a restraining order.

6:47 p.m., Broadway and Holladay: Two great Danes reported roaming at large are unable to be located.

July 17

4:09 p.m., 11th Avenue: Police retrieve drug paraphernalia left behind at a rental for disposal.

9:51 p.m., Fourth and Prom: Fireworks offense.

11:50 p.m., 200 block S. Roosevelt: A disturbance is reported.

July 18

2:59 a.m., Downtown: Caller says someone is threatening him but hangs up before giving his location. Police search the

area for anyone appearing in distress but find no one.

10:54 a.m., 400 block S. Holladay: A woman calls 911 to say a man is calling her names; because officers are on a priority call, dispatch suggests the caller to move along to another bus stop. Caller agrees this is a good idea.

2:03 p.m., Broadway: A person who set up a tent in front of a person’s business is told to remove it.

3:44 p.m., Avenue U and the Beach: A missing child is found and returned to its parents.

6:57 p.m., Avenue G and S. Edgewood: A man reported passed out in the street says he is fine.

7:36 p.m., Turnaround: A lost child is reunited with their parents.

10:13 p.m., Larch Street: Officers assist with a disturbance reported in Cannon Beach.

July 19

10:00 a.m., Roosevelt and Avenue C: A man sleeping in a van is advised there’s been a complaint.

5:01 p.m., Cooper and Wahanna: The owner of a dog repeatedly wandering at large is

warned of ordinances.

8:32 p.m., McDonald’s: A person reported to have created a disturbance in the drive-through drives away. Police are unable to locate.

10:27 p.m., Prom by the Aquarium: A found ring is turned in to police for safekeeping.

July 20

8:47 a.m., 900 block S. Holladay: Caller reports a man passed out in her yard. Officer speaks to the man who says he will be on his way.

2:50 p.m., Avenue K: Caller reports transient man out of control; says he raging and scaring elderly women in the community garden. Police contact the man and he is trespassing.

4:26 p.m., Beach: Caller reports couple fighting on the beach; police locate the couple who deny causing a disturbance. Officer notes they are intoxicated.

11:00 p.m., Shilo Inn: A disturbance is reported.

July 21

9:43 a.m., 1100 block S. Downing: Property crimes are reported.

1:14 p.m., Beach, Ebb Tide: Keys found on the beach in the vicinity of the Ebb Tide are turned into police for safekeeping.

3:55 p.m., High School: Keys found on high school property are turned into police for safekeeping.

5:47 p.m., Riverwalk: People reported drinking alcohol and smoking marijuana are reported; police are unable to locate.

July 22

12:12 a.m., Broadway: A person is arrested and charged with DUII.

1:17 a.m., Broadway: A guest in town who is lost is given a courtesy ride back to their hotel.

7:26 a.m., Dairy Queen: A man reported behaving in an aberrant manner in front of Dairy Queen is advised of the complaint and agrees to move away from the area.

3:45 p.m., Starbucks, U.S. Highway 101: A man yelling on the patio is trespassed.

4:46 p.m., Broadway: A man reported sleeping in the alleyway behind a business tells police he’s just taking a nap. He is advised this is an inappropriate location.

July 23

1:18 p.m., 1100 block S. Holladay: A woman reported throwing her garbage in the street agrees to pick it up and move along.

1:22 p.m., Broadway: A customer dining at The Crabby Oyster caused a scene, yelling and throwing her shrimp cocktail. Police arrived and trespassed the woman at the staff’s request.

5:58 p.m., 2400 block Oregon Street: A door-to-door salesman selling siding became aggressive with a homeowner. Police searched the area but were unable to locate.

7:40 p.m., 1100 block S. Holladay: A person is advised of trespass at the request of restaurant staff.

11:36 p.m., Sixth and Necanicum: Suspicious circumstances are reported.



July 17

9:28 a.m., 2300 block Ocean Vista: Emergency medical response.

6:21 p.m., Avenue A: Emergency medical response.

7:32 p.m., 2000 block N. Holladay: Brush fire.

July 18

6:56 p.m., Cove: Fire investigation.

8:36 p.m., Ocean Shore: Multiple fires too close to dune grass are ordered moved.

July 20

11:43 a.m., Avenue A: Fire alarm.

7:39 p.m., Beach and Semaphore K: Fire investigation.

July 21

3:29 p.m., Turnaround: Emergency medical response for sand in eyes.

July 22

3:38 p.m., Shiloh Inn: Emergency medical response.

July 23

4:30 a.m., 500 block Broadway: Fire alarm.

3:16 p.m., 600 block N. Franklin: Emergency medical response. Police assist.



Car break-in Hug Point

A visitor to Hug Point State Park July 17 reported at 5:28 p.m., while walking on the beach, she received multiple alerts from her financial institutions regarding fraudulent use of her credit cards. She returned to where she parked her car in the parking area on U.S. Highway 101 in the park’s parking area where she found her rear side passenger window broken and her purse gone. The victims sent several pictures of the damage. An investigation is ongoing.

Hit-and-run

A hit-and-run accident occurred July 17, at 6:57 p.m., at Arcadia Beach State Park when a man said he parked and was walking towards the beach when he heard another car striking his vehicle. The driver stopped and apologized. Paint was chipped from the struck car and the bumper dislocated. The driver who hit the parked car said he had insurance trouble and left without exchanging insurance information. Police have the names of both parties.

Rear-end accident

A rear end crash was reported on U.S. Highway 101 and U.S. Highway 26 on July 19 at 5:24 p.m., when traffic slowed due to congestion. One car was traveling northbound behind another car and did not slow down in time to prevent collision.

Gary’s Towing removed the first car from the scene. Scovel Towing was contacted to remove the second car. The driver of the second car was taken to Providence Seaside Hospital to be treated for minor injuries

Domestic assault

State police responded to a report of a domestic assault in the Sunset Beach access area July 20 at 5:06 p.m. A man was detained pending further investigation. It was determined there was no crime and all parties were released from the scene. No injuries were reported.

No hit-and-run

A driver lost control of their car July 20 at 6:36 p.m., on U.S. Highway 26 by milepost 1. The car left the roadway, collided with mailboxes on the side of the road, but continued driving.

OBITUARY

Lenora ‘Le’ Janett Horning
Seaside
Oct. 30, 1945 — July 23, 2020

Lenora “Le” Janett Horning, 74, of Seaside, Oregon, passed peacefully, with her family by her side, on July 23, 2020, in Portland, Oregon.

Le was born on Oct. 30, 1945, in Roseburg, Oregon, the daughter of Leonard and Goldie Kinsel. Le graduated from Roseburg High School in 1963.

After high school, Le attended business school in Portland and later moved to Seaside, where she had previously spent her summers as a child.

Le worked as a bookkeeper and in the restaurant industry around the Seaside



area for many years, until she retired in 2009.

In her spare time, Le enjoyed tinkering in her garden, especially growing her famous dahlias.

Le is survived by her husband of 35 years, John Horning, and her four children, Jerri, Jodi, Eric and Wade. Le could not wait to have her house full of grandchildren; she is survived by six beautiful, energetic granddaughters and one grandson. Le is also survived by her brother and sister, Bill and Linda.

A celebration of life will be planned for later this summer.

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