

Threat: No immediate safety concerns

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“We would like to thank the student who brought this to our immediate attention, and we continue to encourage others to speak up when they see something out of the ordinary or of immediate concern,” police said in a statement.

Seaside school facilities will have an increased police presence over the next few days as a precaution.

Schools across the country are on edge after a mass shooting at a high school in Oxford, Michigan, in late November left four students dead and several others injured. A 15-year-old student has been charged as an adult with murder and terrorism in the shooting. His parents, who bought their son the gun involved in the crimes as a gift, have

MESSAGE FROM SEASIDE POLICE DEPARTMENT

- If you see or hear someone talking about weapons, the use of weapons, drawings or pictures of weapons and violence, social media posts; even if you notice changes in behavior with friends or other students, you should report it.

- Report issues and threats that come up in conversations in any form.

- Tell a parent/guardian, tell an adult at school, or contact the Seaside Police Department.

- Don't worry about students getting in trouble.

The goal is to provide help, try to solve problems before they happen and keep school safe for students. Students are often the best sources of information.

Information shared will always be kept confidential to the greatest extent possible. If you report something that may be dangerous or a student that you're worried about, the goal is to try to help that student and keep all students and staff safe.

been accused of involuntary manslaughter.

Across the Columbia River in Washington state,

a message sent out via the Ilwaco High School Facebook page cited the tragedy in Oxford, as well as a

“recent escalation of student violence and misbehavior locally,” and said staff would spend Wednesday “focusing on some needed changes to ensure staff and student safety at the high school.”

Ocean Beach School District Superintendent Amy Huntley stressed that there are no immediate safety concerns facing the high school or other schools in the district.

“We're just seeing an escalation of some of the things we're seeing in society — uncivil behavior, lack of empathy for others — and it's leading to, I'd say, more egregious bullying,” Huntley said, adding that some of these issues are also being witnessed at other schools but that it's the most prevalent and concerning at Ilwaco High School.

Council: Roads, business district on the goals list

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Water meter replacement is about 75% complete, Sweet said, with home water meters expected to be replaced by the city within the next two years.

If the fire station plan moves forward, the city would need a water main extension through Pine Ridge Drive into the Highlands.

System development charges — fees paid by builders for infrastructure — could prove a deterrent to new construction, but may be required in order for the city to start doing more to help fund the city's water treatment facility and water rights, Sweet said.

In November, the council heard plans for a three-lane roadway, access to public transit, sidewalks, safer crossings and a possible roundabout at Gearhart Lane are among the options being considered by the Oregon Department of

Transportation to improve U.S. Highway 101. The multiyear process will culminate with delivery of a final facility plan at the end of 2022.

In 2017, with the adoption of its Transportation System Plan, Gearhart identified 11 projects to improve roadway segments and intersections that could cost an estimated \$23 million to \$25 million to complete. Consultants prioritized investments with four tiers, from the \$1.2 million likely to be available through existing funding sources to a more than \$20 million wish list that exceeds the likely level of city and state funding through 2040.

Gearhart is in the pipeline for projects such as this, Sweet said, with the aim of funding from the State Transportation Infrastructure Program.

“Will it be 100% of the funds?” Sweet said. “Probably not. But it could be a good part of the funds.”

Additional project money could come from grants or city funds.

Councilors discussed down-zoning city properties with the goal of creating smaller space or affordable housing, as well as a more vibrant downtown.

A possible key to that could be a potential shared septic system for the downtown commercial zoning area, Councilor Brent Warren said.

“Because of the configuration of the lots, the highest and best use for many of the properties in downtown can be enhanced if we had a shared septic system and development could include workforce housing, on the second floor with retail office space on the first floor,” Warren said. “But it's really impractical without a shared septic system.”

Councilors gave unanimous consensus to the goals list at Wednesday's regular City Council meeting.

Gearhart would be very

expensive for the private market to solve the issue of affordable housing, Warren said. “But there are multiple sources of subsidy out there federal state block grant money. The philanthropic community is out there subsidizing portable housing all over the place. It really takes a nonprofit developer who has a mission to accomplish it.”

The discussion and the list reviewed indicated significant progress and completion of many of the goals of the council over the past few years,” Cockrum said after the meeting. “The big goal that has still proven to be elusive is the securing of the fire station project. I believe the council remains laser focused on making progress on that goal next year, and will hopefully act soon after the New Year on moving forward on a citizen vote for the building, while we navigate the steps to secure the property off Highlands Lane.”

Como: ‘Volunteers are our most important asset’

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\$75,000 and \$85,000 per year.

Como's first experiences with the fire department came when he was 6. There was a period of time when there were four Comos serving with the fire department, Josh, Randy Sr., Randy Jr. and younger brother, Tony.

“I was always under their eye, making sure I don't mess up,” Como said. “You often see them in sports. The coach's son is often benched and his performance must be much better.”

At 23, Como moved to the family farm community in Wallowa County, where he joined the fire department. While there, he gained knowledge and experience from much larger departments.

He became a youth pastor and received a master's in leadership and administration through George Fox University.

In Montana, he met his wife, Trissa. They have four children, Tanner, Jayden, Brighton and Elianna.

Returning to Gearhart, Como became a paid member of the fire department, serving as training officer and captain.

“I always strive for professional goals, whether it is getting into another degree program, taking some more classes or becoming a better leader,” Como said during an interview with the selection committee in November. “I feel that if you're not taking

classes, if you're not learning, you're standing still. Not just for yourself — but for the volunteers who serve.”

He has served on a volunteer recruiting committee, seeking ways to recruit and retain volunteers. “Volunteers are our most important asset,” Como said. “Volunteers choose to do this.”

He hopes to be able to motivate people and share the department's vision to serve the community.

Along with fulfilling the duties of the job, Como said he hopes to provide a vision to the future and to make the fire station “the heart of the community.”

“I know it may sound kind of cheesy,” he said. “In old movies, the fire station may not be in the center of town,

but it's the core of the community. It's what the community revolves around, and it's my hope to continue that effort.”

City Councilor Brent Warren asked Como how he would deal with morale with firefighters if a bond for a new firehouse does not pass.

“Making sure I'm there for the firefighters is very important,” Como said. “It's a family, the second part of a personal family. At the end of the day, we still have a job to do, and they're still here to do that.”

“These volunteers aren't here because they're going to get a new station, they're here to serve the community as best they can. A new station would be great, but that's not what they're here for.”

PUBLIC SAFETY LOGS



Nov. 26

1:41 a.m., 10th and Necanicum: Caller reports someone tried to open their car door.

12:30 p.m., Avenue G: Caller reports male subject hollering at passersby.

2:12 p.m., S. Holladay: Caller reports child shocked by an exposed electrical wire.

10:18 p.m., 10th and Necanicum: Caller reports subject stole something of hers and was inside his trailer painting it.

11:18 p.m., 10th and Necanicum: Caller reports suspicious activity.

Nov. 27

10:14 a.m., 400 block S. Roosevelt: Caller reports female transient they wish trespassed.

12:35 p.m., Avenue G: Caller reports subject banging on apartment walls; subject is cited for criminal mischief.

Nov. 28

9:08 a.m., Seaside: Responding to a 911 call, the caller said there was no emergency and that their dog had just stepped on the phone.

7:29 p.m., Holladay and Fifth: A person is arrested on a warrant.

8:16 p.m., 300 block S. Roosevelt: Police respond to a woman inside Domino's Pizza with a bloody mouth who reported violence inside a vehicle.

10:42 p.m., Circle Creek: A person is arrested on a warrant.

Nov. 29

12:34 p.m., 800 block Necanicum: Caller reports her husband's clothes were stolen after washing them.

1:27 p.m., 800 block Necanicum: A disturbance is reported.

3:39 p.m., 3700 block Sunset Boulevard: Caller reports an unknown party vandalized his motor home and ripped the power box out to the house.

4:51 p.m., 1100 block N. Wahanna: Caller says someone entered his residence while he was away and he wants police

so he can confront them.

5:34 p.m., 300 block Broadway: A person says their car was illegally entered.

Nov. 30

7:05 p.m., 10th and Necanicum Place: A subject is arrested on a warrant.

7:27 p.m., A subject was cited and released on a felony warrant out of Clatsop County Circuit Court.

7:35 p.m., 1100 block Broadway: A subject is trespassed.

Dec. 1

12:06 a.m., 1100 block N. Roosevelt: A subject reported yelling and screaming in the area is warned of disorderly conduct. Police receive another call at 12:48 a.m., he is still yelling in the area.

10:36 a.m., 300 block S. Prom: Caller says she stayed in a hotel and they overcharged her by \$200. She wants to report it as theft.

11:45 a.m., 2600 block Millcreek Lane: Caller says someone put something in her mailbox and she wants to

report mail fraud.

12:32 p.m., 500 block S. Roosevelt: Caller reports what they believe was an illegal drug transaction behind Beach Burrito. Officer was out of area with a priority call; when they returned to the area, they saw nothing suspicious.

12:47 p.m., 2400 block U.S. Highway 101: Caller reports her husband is at the residence and there is a warrant for his arrest.

2:18 p.m., 1100 block N. Roosevelt: Caller reports car in the bank parking lot is disturbing neighbors. On arrival, police see the car has vulgar words keyed into it.

7:39 p.m., 1000 block 24th Avenue: Caller reports someone ran over a water spigot in the park and now it is gushing water.

Dec. 2

5:27 a.m., 10th and Marion, Gearhart: A dog found by Gearhart police is temporarily lodged in the Seaside police kennel.

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