

Threats: ‘Safety of our students and our staff is our No. 1 priority’

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The first incident alluded to during the meeting took place Dec. 6. Seaside High School received information from a student about messages delivered on social media that indicated there might be a threat to the school. Classes at school were canceled the following day. Meanwhile, Seaside Police Department investigated the communication and determined there was “no credible, localized threat,” according to a press release.

In a separate, unrelated incident Dec. 11, a Seaside middle school student reported a potential threat of violence against that school. Roberts applauded the student for having the cognizance to screenshot the message, which came through during an Instagram Live session, and report it to the school the following day.

After investigation, the police department identified the person behind the account. They, along with Roberts, made contact Dec. 12 with the child who made the threat during the Instagram Live session.

The student could face criminal charges and disciplinary action from the school. The student is not allowed on campus pending continued investigation and

could be expelled.

Another public statement from the school district, distributed Dec. 16, warned of a TikTok trend pertaining to nationwide school shootings and bomb threats that were supposedly planned to take place Dec. 17.

The statement, which said there were no known threats against Seaside schools at the time, promised to prosecute any incidents “to the full extent of the law.”

“The safety of our students and our staff is our No. 1 priority, and we take each and every threat seriously,” Superintendent Susan Penrod said during the school board meeting. “Sharing information is the best way for us to find out when a potential threat is being made, and I thank our students for their open communication in making these reports.”

Roberts shared a similar sentiment.

“Our best defense will always be, unequivocally, our students feeling comfortable sharing information with adults that they trust, with their friends that they trust, with parents that they trust, and, in turn, reporting it to us so we can take action,” he said. “It may be intended to be a joke, but the amount of time, the amount of fear it instills in people, is not a joke to anybody.”

‘OUR BEST DEFENSE WILL ALWAYS BE, UNEQUIVOCALLY, OUR STUDENTS FEELING COMFORTABLE SHARING INFORMATION WITH ADULTS THAT THEY TRUST, WITH THEIR FRIENDS THAT THEY TRUST, WITH PARENTS THAT THEY TRUST, AND, IN TURN, REPORTING IT TO US SO WE CAN TAKE ACTION. IT MAY BE INTENDED TO BE A JOKE, BUT THE AMOUNT OF TIME, THE AMOUNT OF FEAR IT INSTILLS IN PEOPLE, IS NOT A JOKE TO ANYBODY!’

Principal Jeff Roberts

‘It’s a Tragedy’

Additionally, Roberts said, the school is taking measures “behind the scenes” to educate students on the gravity of these threats, the seriousness of the consequences, and the safety measures in place, all while empowering them “to be protectors of each other.”

“It’s disappointing that we have to have these ongoing conversations,” he said. “It’s disappointing that we have to consider safety protocols that would involve active shooters. It’s a tragedy that that is what we have to concern ourselves with as an academic institution, but it is today’s reality.”

He reassured the board and the public that the school is doing due diligence to not only respond to the incidents, but be proactive with a coordinated effort to protect students.

“Oftentimes, when things are reported to us, not everyone sees the work that’s going on behind the scenes to triage and solve situations,” he said. “I can assure you that things are always being done about it.”

Jeremy Catt, assistant principal at Pacific Ridge Elementary School, said they also are broaching these topics with elementary students.

“We have to start young about what it looks like to be a bystander versus an upstander,” Catt said. “A bystander is going to stand by and let things happen and an upstander is going to address it and say, ‘No, I’m not doing that,’ ‘I don’t want to see that,’ ‘I don’t want to be a part of that.’ These are conversations we’re having with 9-, 10- and 11-year-olds around digital literacy.”

Families as partners

Students are not the only ones who need help understanding the ever-evolving world of technology. Roberts said they are exploring how to assist parents and guardians and give them resources to have hard conversations with their students and stay aware of what’s going on in their digital lives.

“It extends beyond threats and those types of things,” he said. “We are seeing alarming rates of hateful speech, of kids mistreating each other, pornographic material that is being brought into our doors. We can take some measures,

but we cannot holistically be responsible for those types of things that are happening in our students’ lives and being the sole people that are expected to solve the issue. ... It has to be a partnership.”

Board member Sondra Gomez acknowledged the situation is “a tough one,” and that it can be difficult as a parent to set and enforce rules around technology. She expressed interest in seeing what resources or assistance might be made available to parents.

With the measures in place to prevent and prepare for a threat, Roberts assured the board that Seaside School District is “a safe place,” one where he feels comfortable sending his own daughter.

“I would not put the person I love the most in a situation that was dangerous, and I feel that way for every other student,” he said. “There are tons of people that love your children and care about them desperately, unconditionally, and we’ll continue to work toward a day when that is not a worry of ours.”

Missing: Family is asking the public for help

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Last Monday, the sheriff’s office responded to a request for a welfare check at Goin’s home on Highway 26 near milepost 6, where Goin was last known to be.

His vehicles were not missing, Sheriff Matt Phillips said.

While Goin is known to have firearms, there is no indication he was suicidal, Phillips said, and no indication that he wanted to hurt anyone.

The investigation evolved into a missing person’s case and the sheriff’s office launched search and rescue operations. The search expanded to the adjoining woodlands and neighboring properties.

Last Thursday and Friday, searchers, including sheriff’s office staff, volunteers, firefighters and National Guard members searched for any sign of Goin. They were joined by three trained canine teams.

“We’re still going to be trying to figure out what’s going on, checking any leads that we might get in,” Scott said. “Sightings, things that people call in. We’re still going to continue to check those things out.”

Family members are asking the public for assistance in locating Goin.



U.S. Army Oregon Army National Guardsman Capt. Evan Goin (right) from Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry and the Army National Guard Command Sgt. Maj. Brunk Conley (left) the senior enlisted adviser to the director of the Army National Guard, at North Fort Hood, Texas, on June 29, 2014.

Rhea Goin, who was with Evan Goin for five years, described him as last seen wearing a black T-shirt, pants or shorts and casual shoes. Evan Goin, 44, is 5 feet 7 inches tall and weighs about 170 pounds. The supply specialist at Camp Rilea is an active hiker and is physically fit. He may have a very slight limp due to knee surgery in the spring.

He is the sole surviving parent of two of his children, she said. He has four children, 6, 10, 16 and 20. The mother of the 6-year-old and 10-year-old lives locally. The 16-year-old lives full

time with him and he has shared custody with the younger girls’ mother.

“This isn’t normal,” Rhea Goin said. “This has never ever, ever happened before. He would never leave his children and not come back. His kids are his absolute world. This is so far beyond the norm. It’s just absolutely mind-boggling.”

She said that more than 100 people joined the search last Thursday, including more than 50 National Guard members.

“They told us that they covered just over two days worth of ground in that one

day, between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.,” she said.

More volunteers went out Sunday.

“These are the same volunteers that showed up on their own time that are people that he serves with, or has served with in the National Guard,” she said. “He’s very loved. He’s very respected. Anybody that thinks that they may have seen him, if they know anything, if they heard from him — even if they talked to him in the days leading up to it and they haven’t been contacted — we just want to find him.”

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