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Marpa House

Sale closes; residents felt misled

Developer who made purchase offers free rent for last 90 days

By Madeline St. Amour
Staff Writer

The real estate developer who closed on Marpa House reportedly visited residents and offered to help them try to buy the house so it would remain a

cohousing community.

The Community of Marpa House, a group that tried to save the historic property, in a statement said it "felt misled by the actions of John Kirkland."

Kirkland, along with other

developers, closed on the property Wednesday, buying it for \$4.9 million. The Community of Marpa House group made an offer for \$4.2 million after initially offering \$3 million.

Kirkland said he was "taken aback" by the residents' statements. In an emailed statement, he said he contacted the Shambhala Interim Board's co-chair when he learned of the "magni-

tude" of Shambhala's financial issues.

Shambhala, the Buddhist organization founded in Boulder that owns the house, announced months ago that it was going to sell the property to pay off its debts as it navigates a "difficult period" stemming from accusations of sexual misconduct involving former members.

The organization said it planned to sell the house to the developers,

who put in a higher initial offer. The residents will be able to stay through Nov. 9, with free rent for the last 90 days, which Kirkland proactively offered to accommodate residents, Rob O'Dey, spokesman for the project.

Marpa House was founded in 1973 and houses about 40 people in the University Hill neighborhood. Several neighbors have said the residents of Marpa House are

See MARPA, 4A

Boulder County



Photos by Matthew Jonas / Staff Photographer
Boulder County Parks and Open Space Trails Volunteer Coordinator Michael Rutter works to build an ADA-compliant trail near Altona School in Left Hand Canyon.

Altona Schoolhouse nearly back in session

By Charlie Brennan
Staff Writer

School will be back in session, all too soon for some youngsters' tastes, and the only "new" public school that will open in Boulder County also is among its oldest — by a long shot.

The Altona Schoolhouse, built in about 1880 at what is now 834 Lefthand Canyon Drive, is a one-room, sandstone construction where multiple generations of Boulder County children were drilled on the three R's until about 1949.

That was the year the Heil

family arrived in the area from Sugar City in southeast Colorado and purchased the land on which the Colorado School District 22 schoolhouse stood.

It remains there today, on the 210-acre parcel known as the Heil Valley Ranch 2, bought by Boulder County from the Heil Family in 2012 for \$6 million. That acquisition abuts the pre-existing 3,020-acre Heil Valley Ranch open space, acquired by the county between 1994 and 1996.

But what visitors who will soon be welcomed to the

See ALTONA, 2A



The restored interior of Altona School in Left Hand Canyon. The school was built in 1880 and was operated until around 1949.

CU Boulder

Center: Preventing violence isn't easy

By Madeline St. Amour
Staff writer

Metal detectors. Bulletproof backpacks. School resource officers.

These are technical solutions given to an adaptive challenge: gun violence.

But adaptive challenges need adaptive solutions, not technical fixes, according to William Wood-

ward, director of training at the Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence at the University of Colorado Boulder.

The center has created a model to improve school safety using adaptive leadership and solutions, and it has analyzed programs to discover what would work to reduce violence overall, which also would reduce gun violence. If

those kinds of programs were put in place, violence would decrease by 20% to 30%, according to Beverly Kingston, director of the center.

Still, the violence continues. Just this past weekend, at least 22 people were shot to death Saturday, at a Walmart in El Paso, Texas, and nine people were shot to death Sunday in a nightclub dis-

tract of Dayton, Ohio. There have been 253 mass shootings this year, according to the Gun Violence Archive, an online archive that collects data on gun violence.

Researchers need to bridge the gap between the research itself and putting it into practice to start making progress, Kingston said.

The answer to the problem

See VIGIL, 6A

Boulder broadband

\$20M debt OK'd to build backbone

By Sam Lounsberry
Staff Writer

Boulder is set to start building the backbone of a future high-speed broadband internet service by the end of this year.

City council on Tuesday approved putting up as collateral Boulder's Municipal and Atrium buildings — at 1777 Broadway and 1300 Canyon Boulevard, respectively — to issue \$20 million in certificates of participation to be sold next month to finance the work.

There will be a 5% maximum interest rate on the debt with a repayment term of 20 years, and an expected annual payment of about \$1.4 million, according to city staff. The financial model is a way around restrictions placed on government spending by the Colorado Taxpayer Bill of Rights, a controversial measure that forces public agencies to gain voter permission to increase debt ceilings or tax rates in most cases.

The certificates will go on sale Sept. 10.

Construction of the 65-mile network spine is expected to take two years, and will include work to place laterals off the core of wired infrastructure.

Residents, including a woman legally named You, who have pushed council to consider limiting the establishment of 5G wireless signal technology in the city, support the initial step toward a working public internet service.

"We don't need to have the telecom industry, the wireless industry controlling things in this realm," You said.

Boulder has been considering whether and how to install a city-owned broadband network and internet service for several years. Councilman Bob Yates on Tuesday thanked city staff for working toward what he felt was a milestone with the issuance of debt.

"Thanks to all the hard work to you and your team to getting this in a place to where we're finally installing fiber," Yates said. "I know it's not exactly all the way to where we'd like to be, but it's a

See BROADBAND, 4A

Weather

High: 83 | Low: 60

A shower or t-storm

Complete details on Page 8C



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Complete index, Page 2A

6A THURSDAY, AUGUST 8, 2019

DAILY CAMERA

VIGIL from Page 1A

doesn't rely on a "silver bullet," she said. While better mental health services, gun control and things like metal detectors could be part of the solution, larger cultural and climate changes need to happen to effectively address violence, she said.

Leadership failures

Woodward trains schools on how to use the center's model, Safe Communities Safe Schools, to change their climates to prevent and reduce violence.

This model is being used in 44 schools across the state as part of a study on its effectiveness. The study will end in the next school year, and so far the data shows it improves schools' motivation and capacity to address safety issues, Kingston said. They'll know whether it reduced violence when the study is complete.

The model uses data and research-backed programs to change school climates. The staff on the safety team individually answer a questionnaire to find gaps in peoples' knowledge. The students take a climate survey so school leaders can see what the real issues are, including bullying, substance abuse and mental health. Using the information, schools can implement programs that address those issues and are proven to work.

The center wrote the Colorado Safety Guide for the Attorney General's Office and found out of 2,000 school programs, about 80 were proved to be effective.

Some of the programs include LifeSkills Training, Olweus Bullying Prevention and Sources of Strength for Suicide Prevention.

The center's model also uses a threat assessment test from Dewey Cornell, which has been validated by the federal government's National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices. After the threat is evaluated as either transient, meaning an empty threat like a teenager saying he's going to get someone back for winning a game, or substantive, meaning a threat that should be addressed, the school can decide to use one of three management options for the student.

The assessment was used on 7,400 students, Woodward said,



An elderly couple hold hands at a makeshift memorial for shooting victims at the Cielo Vista Mall Walmart in El Paso, Texas, on Monday. Mark Ralston / AFP

and found only 1% were expelled and arrested, suspensions decreased, racial disparities decreased and counseling was utilized more, among other things.

The three types of shooters are considered to be: traumatized people, who score high on the adverse childhood experiences test and account for about 40% of shooters; psychotic people, who suffer from delusions or paranoid schizophrenia and account for about 30% of shooters; and psychopathic people, who can manage their impressions to hide their true nature and feelings and account for the last 30% of shooters.

Each type requires different management or treatment. Those who are traumatized may need therapy or extra supports; those who are psychotic probably need medication; and those who are psychopathic can only be managed externally, through monitoring, check-ins and limiting of movements throughout the school.

When children or people are showing red flags for any of these types, it's up to leadership to act to prevent the issues from worsen-

ing, Woodward said. In Parkland, Florida, for example, the sheriff's office had received dozens of calls for service related to the boy who would eventually kill 17 students at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School.

"For kids that have that many red flags, it's a failure of community leadership," he said.

'A comprehensive approach'

The two sides of the political spectrum often call for increased gun control or blame these events on a person's mental health issues.

But focusing on these two factors alone won't solve the crisis, Kingston said.

"We focus on taking a comprehensive approach to safety," she said. "Gun control and mental health would be components."

Research supports ensuring there are systems in place to prevent people from getting weapons for criminal reasons, she said, but there is not yet enough research to confidently say which systems are best. And while mental health is important, it is better to take a broader view of the issue. Sup-

porting people's mental health before they get to a point of crisis would be more effective in stymieing violence, she said.

What the center does know is what programs and strategies can reduce the motivation for violence, which could help more than any one thing alone, Kingston said.

"There's a lot of focus on the gun itself rather than, why would someone want a gun?" she said.

While some gun control legislation needs to happen, Woodward said it's a technical part of the solution and not enough to stop the violence.

Woodward also said it's a "non-sequitur" to say that mental illness makes people hurt others, because studies show mental illness does not cause criminality. Generalized mental health treatment also wouldn't treat those who suffer from psychosis or psychopathy.

"It's (expletive) to think that mental illness is causing this," he said.

'The world that we most want to see'

Kingston said there are proven

ways to prevent violence or decrease motivation for violence, but there's a desire from the public to have one easy solution.

In reality, it would take funding, cultural shifts and a willingness to do complicated things.

"If we invested billions of dollars, at least equal to what we invest in prisons, to prevention, eventually it would flip," she said.

But it would take at least 50 to 100 years.

To prevent violence, society would have to work with populations throughout their lifetimes. Nurse-family partnerships for high risk mothers have been shown to result in less dangerous children; the Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies program helps students and staff manage emotions; LifeSkills Training provides support for middle school students during that difficult transition; and Safe Dating helps high school students learn what healthy relationships are.

The goal would be to not only throw people life preservers at the earliest point they are acting out, but also give them life vests to help them be resilient and teach them to swim to prevent issues from arising, Kingston said.

Funding could also go toward programs for local needs and infrastructure for children.

"A lot of times, kids aren't bonded to anything healthy, or their bonds are to toxic and harmful things," she said. "You can counter that by tapping into kids' passions."

Kingston realizes this strategy would be a big lift, but it would benefit everyone in society.

The center is working to create a "standardized violence prevention protocol" that would explain things everyone could do to prevent violence. It would likely start in schools and then be brought to communities. Kingston said they are looking for a grant for the project right now.

While the idea of changing societal culture and how people approach these problems is difficult, Kingston said it will be worth it.

"It's going to create the world that we most want to see," she said.