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The Skanner's Weekly Poll
In the early morning of Sept. 16, Hope Glenn called 9-1-1 because she was unable to calm down her 18-year-old son, Lukus. Instead of calming him down, Washington County sheriff's deputies shot him – first with bean bag round,

De La Salle North Heading to New Digs

The pioneering high school will move into former Kenton school

By Abe Proctor Of The Skanner



De La Salle North Catholic High School — a North Portland institution that trends with a rigorous academic program and a demanding on-the-job requirement – is seeing its perseverance pay off. The school reached an arrangement with Portland Public Schools to relocate to the empty Kenton Elementary Building.

"It's been about a year that we've been negotiating (for the building)," said De La Salle President Matt Powell. "So we're really excited to have closed the deal."

Powell said the school's new campus will offer a number of distinct advantages over its original location, a Catholic church complex on North Delaware Avenue that is currently being leased from Holy Cross Parish.

"We've outgrown our facility," Powell said. "We were going to mount a campaign to expand our campus, but we weren't able to do that. With the Portland Archdiocese's bankruptcy, it prevented us from making long-term changes to that property. The deal with Portland Public Schools really came at the right time."

The Kenton site, at 7528 N. Fenwick Ave., offers all the amenities associated with a typical school: a gym, library, athletic fields, laboratory space — at about half the cost of the planned expansion of the school's current site, Powell said. He is especially excited about the site's auditorium and theatre facilities, which will help De La Salle expand its popular drama and choral programs.

The school plans to make several improvements to the Kenton site, he added. "The space is there; we just need to do some remodeling," he said.

Among the planned improvements is the construction of a new "high school theater." Powell said. He added that HSBC Corp., an international banking company, awarded the school a grant that it will use to renovate the Kenton library and to add a computer lab and media center.

On Aug. 23, he said, the HSBC Corp is sending 200 employees to the Kenton site to provide free manual labor, from painting and demolition to cleanup.

HSBC is also a new member of the growing pool of De La Salle North's corporate sponsors, which form half of the corporate internship program that distinguishes the school.

then with bullets -- when he refused to drop the knife he had been holding. He died outside his Garden Home house. The shooting has again raised questions about the readiness of officers to deal with distraught subjects, and about their willingness to resort to gunfire before other tactics have been tried. "I wish I just wouldn't have called (9-1-1)," Hope Glenn said after her son's death. What do you think? As servants of the public, are law enforcement officers adequately trained to "talk down" agitated subjects? Would you call them to calm down a distraught family member?

school. Each De La Salle North student spends a significant chunk of the school work in the offices of one of the school's corporate or nonprofit partners.

In exchange for tuition help, the students learn workplace etiquette, dedication and all the other facets of professional life. Four students — one high school year — team up to share each full-time position. The school extended school year to ensure that students get enough classroom time to make time spent on the job.

"It made me want to work harder at school because of the successful people around me," said Datriona Spears, a member of De La Salle North's 2005 graduating class, the school's first.

"I met the CEO and the president of my company and one was a woman. I wanted to be like her — I wanted to own my own company," Spears said. "It motivates me to strive more and have more motivation when I see people I want to be like. And your resume look awesome."

Powell said the relocation has already generated increased interest in the program among local business and nonprofit organizations.

"We're going to really be able to do some true community partnerships, advocacy organizations, neighborhood groups and the like," he said.

But perhaps the biggest advantage to the new building is the space it provides for increased enrollment. The school opened in 2001 with 71 ninth-graders and a total student population of around 200. Demand has so far outstripped available space, something that will be remedied by the relocation, Powell said.

"Our goal is 300 students, and we can accommodate all of them there," he said. Kenton offers us great flexibility in terms of location — it's right on the light rail line. Most of our kids come to school by way of public transportation.

"It's really a great place for us to grow into and extend our program," Powell said. For more information, visit www.delasallenorth.org.

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Yes. Officers have all the tools they need. I would absolutely call 9-1-1 in such a situation.

No. Officers need much more psychological training. I would not trust them in such a situation.

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