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Mt. Angel city manager moving on

CHRISTENA BROOKS
SPECIAL TO THE APPEAL TRIBUNE

MT. ANGEL – Oregon’s Oktoberfest town is saying “Prost!” to departing City Manager Eileen Stein.

After three years on the job, Stein has been hired away by West Linn. Her last day is May 20. Then she’ll start as city manager of West Linn, population 26,000, located 45 minutes north of Mt. Angel near Oregon City. She was among 32 applicants for the job.

“West Linn is getting an amazing city manager,” said Mt. Angel City Council President Kelly Grassman. “They’re getting someone who is going to get them wherever where they want to go. She is really good at looking at the whole picture, hearing everyone’s viewpoints, saying, ‘OK, this is what I’m hearing you say,’ and then fine-tuning it until she gets

it right.”

Mt. Angel Police Chief Mike Healy will be interim city manager until the position can be permanently filled. Healy has been chief in Mt. Angel for five years. Before that, he was chief in Lebanon and Stayton, the latter of which he similarly served as interim city manager in the 1990s.

In coming months, Healy said he aims “to help the elected officials in any way I can with the recruitment process, to keep all staff going forward accomplishing the day-to-day operations of the City, and do my normal duties as the chief.”

Councilors intend to hire a new city manager sometime before Oktoberfest in mid-September, according to the contract they approved on May 2 with the Mid-Willamette Valley Council of Governments. For \$5,500, the organization will facilitate the hiring process, seeking



Eileen Stein Mike Healy

and sorting applicants. Its services include running background checking on at least five finalists.

Decisions will be the council’s.

Stein came to Mt. Angel in 2013 with more than 20 years experience in government administration. She was Sisters’ city manager for 11 years, and, before that, she held a variety of administrative positions for Springfield, including senior management analyst.

She holds undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of California at Irvine.

She’s also on the League of Oregon Cities board of directors.

“If she wasn’t working in local government, she’d be the CEO of a Fortune 500 company,” business blogger Dan England wrote.

In her three years in Mt. Angel, Stein helped the council accomplish “a long list” of its goals, Grassman said. “There was stuff on there we’d been trying to get done for a long time.”

A few of the city’s accomplishments over the last three years: a city charter update, SDC rate changes, development code overhaul, personnel manual rewrites, fiscal policy fixes, downtown façade improvements, and an in-depth utility system analysis.

Her attention to detail is second to none, said Justin Hogue, assistant city manager.

“She’s very knowledgeable. While she was here, what she did was lay the foundation for us to keep building on.”

Wait begins for Silverton



PHOTOS COURTESY OF SMALL BUSINESS REVOLUTION

Small Business Revolution put together a short film on Silverton, among two finalists for its national Main Street project grant award.

Downtown is national finalist for \$500K grant

JUSTIN MUCH
STAYTON MAIL

Silverton makes it a point to highlight a charming downtown with appealing waterfront features and the down-home, Main Street Americana feel within the shadows of its historical buildings.

That point was well taken by the nationally recognized Small Business Revolution on Main Street project, which announced this week that Silverton is one of two finalists for its makeover project. That puts the city in the running to receive \$500,000 for a downtown makeover from Deluxe Corporation.

The voting period has closed, and area residents are eagerly awaiting the results.

The Small Business Revolution project is eliciting voters who support the two finalists: Silverton and Wabash, Ind. People could vote before May 10 and the winner is anticipated to be announced



Silverton boasts waterfront features and the down-home, Main Street Americana feel within the shadows of its historical buildings.

May 12 or 13.

The website www.smallbusinessrevolution.org includes short films of each finalist community.

Silverton and Wabash were pared down from 94,000 communities nationwide that applied for the grant through

the contest, according to Silverton City Manager Bob Willoughby.

Willoughby nominated his city after officials from the regional Land Conservation and Development office pointed the contest out to him. Understanding the

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Horse riders scar new bike trail

ZACH URNESS
STATESMAN JOURNAL

Just days after the grand opening of a trail specially designed for mountain bikers at Silver Falls State Park, a group of horseback riders reportedly inflicted damage on a pathway they are prohibited from traveling.

The Catamount Trail, a 4.5-mile route in the park’s backcountry, was created in part to ease tensions between mountain bikers and equestrians in a place where the two groups are sometimes at odds.

However, on May 2, a group of seven equestrians rode the length of the trail in what Salem Area Trail Alliance coordinator Beth Dayton called “an act of intentional vandalism, carefully timed to follow the very public opening of the trail.”

The Catamount Trail was constructed and financed by volunteers of the biking group SATA. It has specially designed bike features, such as banked turns, and is only open to mountain bikes and hikers.

Three signs — at the trail’s west, east and main trailhead — clearly indicate horses are not allowed.

The horse riders left deep footprints and did “considerable damage” to the trail, SATA said in a Facebook post. Volunteer work will be needed to repair the damage and there is discussion of adding an offset fence to keep horses off the trail, Dayton said.

“The worst thing about this action is not so much the physical damage to the trail surface, which can be repaired in time, but the effect this might have on polarizing opinion and inflaming passions when in reality, the majority of both mountain bikers and equestrians understand that there is room on the trails for all of us,” Dayton said. “It is sad to think of the very few individuals

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Join the ‘Creekside Chat’ conversation

SILVERTON APPEAL TRIBUNE

A shout out to Silverton-Mount Angel area residents: Do you have news, an event or a cause you would like to see publicized?

If so, stop by Silver Creek Coffee House in downtown Silverton around midday Wednesday, May 18, where Statesman Journal Executive Editor Michael Davis and East Willamette Valley reporter Justin Much will be having a cup on Silver Creek and visiting with lo-



Michael Davis

Justin Much

cal residents in the inaugural “Creekside Chat.”

With Creekside Chat, similar to the “Holding Court” in Salem (<http://www.statesmanjournal.com/search/Hold>-

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Online at SilvertonAppeal.com

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