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Debate over annexation engulfs city

CHRISTENA BROOKS
SPECIAL TO THE STATESMAN JOURNAL

SILVERTON - Three property owners capitalized on a five-month window of opportunity to come into the city limits before the window essentially closed again at this month's city council meeting on Sept. 12.

Two properties — 4.87 and 9.5 acres — have been annexed by the city council in the past three months, and a third 24-acre parcel is partway through the application process. All three have used a streamlined mechanism resulting from a

new state law requiring that a city's council, rather than its voting public, decide annexations.

In Silverton, where voters have denied all annexation requests during the past decade by a 2-to-1 margin, outlying property owners had a poor chance of coming into the city if they wished to.

That was until March, when the Oregon State Legislature passed Senate Bill 1573. Locally, putting the annexation question back into the city council's lap resulted in a flurry of action.

"Voters aren't required to

"I think the market does a better job of deciding these kinds of things than a governmental agency."

GENE OSTER
DEVELOPER

have criteria or policies to determine whether they will approve an annexation," City Manager Bob Willoughby said. "Since an annexation decision by councilors is a land use decision, they are required to have criteria upon which they must

make their decision."

So, Silverton's councilors annexed two properties in July and September, respectively, when their landowners satisfied 12 criteria, including being inside the urban growth boundary, having access to utilities,

and fitting into the city's comprehensive plan.

In discussion at the September meeting, Councilors Laurie Carter and Kyle Palmer chafing at the limitations imposed upon them by existing development code.

Regarding the 9.5-acre property belonging to developer Gene Oster, there was a lengthy debate over the poor condition of the surrounding streets as the pair floated the idea of denying his application based on transportation concerns. The

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PHOTOS BY DANIELLE PETERSON/STATESMAN JOURNAL

Festivalgoers brave the rain during the 51st Mount Angel Oktoberfest on Saturday. The annual four-day festival celebrates the harvest with live music, Bavarian-style food and beer.

OKTOBERFEST DRAWS CROWDS

LAUREN E HERNANDEZ
STATESMAN JOURNAL

Heavy rain showers didn't stop hundreds of visitors from flocking Saturday to Mount Angel's 51st annual Oktoberfest.

Men and women dressed in dirndls and lederhosen to ring in the harvest season in traditional Bavarian style.

Portland resident Petra Bardon, who came dressed in a dirndl straight from her visit to Salzburg, Austria, said she's attended Oktoberfest events in Portland, but the Mount Angel celebration is more authentic.

"It's much more authentic and nicer because it's less crowded," Bardon said.

More than 52 organizations of-

See **OKTOBERFEST, Page 3A**



Men and women dressed in dirndls and lederhosen to ring in the harvest season in traditional Bavarian style at Oktoberfest, which continues Sunday.

Body found of Sublimity teen

**ZACH URNESS AND
WHITNEY M
WOODWORTH**
STATESMAN JOURNAL



Trevor Mitchell
Lane County Sheriff's Office Search and

A Marion County teen who had been missing since Sept. 11 was found dead Thursday evening in the Three Sisters Wilderness, according to the Lane County Sheriff's Office.

Trevor Mitchell, 18, of Sublimity was discovered by hikers near Separation Lake, in the wilderness backcountry south of McKenzie Pass.

The death will be investigated by the Lane County Medical Examiner's Office, but the initial investigation indicates apparent suicide, the Sheriff's Office said.

Mitchell was last seen at noon Sunday, Sept. 11, in Stayton. He was reported missing later that evening. His black, four-door Toyota Corolla was found Sept. 13 at the Sep-

aration Lake Trailhead east of Eugene. Lane County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue personnel began searching the surrounding wilderness and trails on foot and horseback starting Tuesday, said Jason Bowman, assistant search and rescue coordinator. A K-9 team joined the search Sept. 14, and crews continued their efforts Thursday.

Family members said his sudden disappearance was "extremely uncharacteristic" of Mitchell, an international baccalaureate honors student at South Salem High School.

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John Gooley gets SEDCOR award

John Gooley of Mt. Angel, the vice president of sales at Silverton's Withers Lumber, was honored as Strategic Economic Development Corporation's (SEDCOR) "Construction Alliance Member," the economic development group announced recently.

SEDCOR's award winners were announced during its "Annual Honors Luncheon," held at Salem Convention Center with more than 300 SEDCOR members, civic and government officials were in attendance.

Other awardees included: Key Bank, Community Service; Sherman, Sherman, Johnnie & Hoyt, Business Partner of the Year; Make it in the Willamette Valley project, Outstanding Public/Private Partnership; Boshart Trucking, Agri-Business of the Year Award; CabDoor of Salem, Manufacturer of the Year.

Private Partnership; Boshart Trucking, Agri-Business of the Year Award; CabDoor of Salem, Manufacturer of the Year.

"These awards honor local businesses and organizations who create new jobs or economic opportunities," said SEDCOR President Chad Freeman. "The event gives us an opportunity to step back and recognize the importance of vision, creativity and strategic partnerships in growing healthy businesses and communities."

Freeman also acknowledged SEDCOR's board of directors, staff, and members for their collective role in stimulating \$60 million of new investment this past year that added or retained nearly 400 new jobs in the region, Oregon's Mid-Willamette Valley.

— Justin Much

Harcourts NW Oregon Realty Group

Market Stats Comparison
Silverton, OR
Through August 31st, 2015-2016

Residential	2015	2016	% Change
All Listings	381	296	▼22%
Residential Sold	297	231	▼22%
Average Sold Price	\$280,361	\$280,814	▲.009%
Average Days on Market	131	104	▼20.62%
Average List Price to Sold Price Ratio	97.71%	98.60%	▲.89%

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