

# Appeal Tribune

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## Silverton trying to improve water quality in Silver Creek

CHRISTENA BROOKS  
SPECIAL TO THE APPEAL TRIBUNE

Silverton is trying to turn an environmental blunder into an opportunity to cultivate the health of Silver Creek.

In 2014 and 2015, the city accidentally released treated wastewater into Silver Creek that was too high in ammonia, nitrogen, bacteria and suspended solids. The municipal wastewater plant's treatment process had been disrupted by high-strength industrial waste from lo-

cal food processors, said the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.

The resulting \$19,400 DEQ fine to Silverton could've been the end of the story. But instead of simply paying, the city is partnering with the Pudding River Watershed Council to put its dollars to work in the creek. Eighty percent of the fine may instead go toward removing invasive plants, planting trees and shoring up the creek bank.

If the DEQ approves the idea, Silverton will still pay 20 percent (\$3,880) to the

state, but the lion's share (\$15,520) will be spent on creek improvement. That's how a Supplemental Environmental Project, a sort of community service for environmental offenders, works.

"To my knowledge, Silverton has never had a civil penalty to deal with before," said Steve Starnier, Silverton's water quality supervisor. "I feel the Supplemental Environmental Project opportunity is a great alternative to putting penalty funds into the general DEQ budget. A Supplemental Environmental Pro-

ject will provide an environmental benefit and lasting improvement, in this case, for the Silver Creek watershed."

Silver Creek runs through downtown Silverton, turning west near the intersection of Water and C streets and flowing out of town. The 3.6-mile stretch of creek between the water treatment plant on Schemmel Lane and its confluence with the Pudding River near Brush Creek Road had environmental prob-

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## County gets body camera funds

Grant will pay for training and maintenance of equipment

LAUREN E HERNANDEZ  
STATESMAN JOURNAL

Marion County sheriff's deputies will soon be wearing body cameras.

The county was recently awarded a \$99,000 grant from the federal Department of Justice, through its Bureau of Justice Assistance.

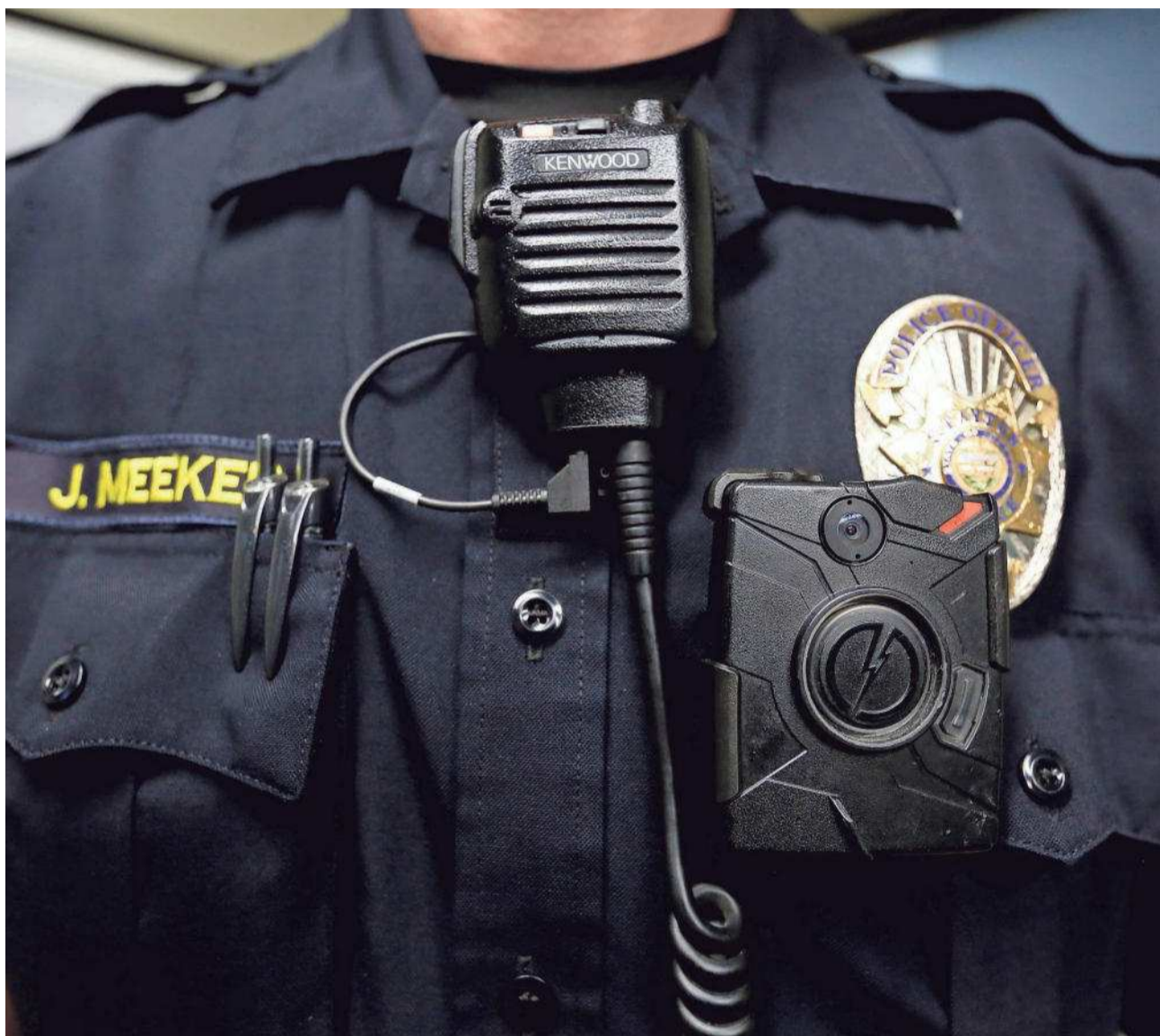
Marion County was one of four law enforcement agencies in Oregon that shared more than \$500,000 for body-worn camera programs, according to the Department of Justice.

Money from the program, initially launched on a recommendation by the President's Task Force on 21st century Policing, will allow Marion County to purchase cameras, maintain equipment, train officers and create policy regarding the use of body cameras.

Marion County started the grant process earlier this year and reached out to community partners to draft letters of support for the program, including Marion County District Attorney Walt Beglau, Mano a Mano Family Center, Marion County Sheriff's Office Community Advisory Committee and the Marion County Public Safety Coordinating Council.

The grant was awarded to 106 police agencies nationally.

Baldrige said Marion County will add \$80,000 to the grant money.



ANNA REED/STATESMAN JOURNAL

Senior Officer Jason Meeker wears a Stayton Police Department camera. Marion County received a \$99,000 grant for cameras.

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APPEAL TRIBUNE FILE

The Eugene Field School closed in August.

## Eugene Field School loses and gains potential buyer

CHRISTENA BROOKS  
SPECIAL TO THE APPEAL TRIBUNE

One buyer's offer has been replaced by another's in the school district's ongoing effort to sell the empty Eugene Field School building and property in downtown Silverton.

Listed for \$1.45 million, the property landed its first offer within days of hitting the market in May. That potential buyer completed a contractual 60-day "due diligence," period of investigation into the 35,000-square-foot building and surrounding property's condition and development options. After being grant-

ed an additional month to investigate, he rescinded his offer Sept. 30.

"The reasoning that we received was that the purchase didn't pencil out for this buyer," said Andy Bellando, Silver Falls School District superintendent.

Now a second offer, made in September, has moved into first position. Under contract, this second buyer has begun a new 60-day due diligence period.

The old school building is at 410 Water Street. A total of 3.46 acres is for sale; the land upon which the building sits and three tax lots across A Street to the north. SVN Commercial Real Estate Advisors has the listing.

## Four names ready for council write-in

CHRISTENA BROOKS  
SPECIAL TO THE APPEAL TRIBUNE

Four residents have launched write-in campaigns for the city council seat soon to be vacated by retiring Councilor Ken Hector.

Faced with the possibility of an empty seat on the council in January because no one signed up to run for election, four candidates



Ken Hector

are now asking voters to consider writing in their names on their ballots in the Nov. 8 general election.

Running as write-ins are Matt Plummer, a Marion County health and wellness coordinator; Stu Rasmussen, former mayor and owner of

the Palace Theatre; Jim Squires, a retired general contractor; and Ken Tobin, a semi-retired volunteer fire fighter and public safety software worker.

Plummer and Tobin announced their candidacy and posted resumes on Facebook. Rasmussen announced his intent to theater audiences. Squires confirmed he's a candidate by phone.

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