

Plummer leads write-in council race

JUSTIN MUCH
STAYTON MAIL

Barring any late surprises or a freakish blitz of ballots sent from a county outside of Marion, Matt Plummer stands to be on the Silverton City Council next year.

Plummer was among a foursome of non-filed Silverton residents who stated that if written-in on the Nov. 8 election ballot, they would be willing to serve on the council.

Two incumbent candidates filed, Jason Freilinger and Laurie Carter, while incumbent Ken Hector declined to seek another term. Consequently, the Silverton panel had two vying for three vacancies – sort of a reverse-musical-chairs scenario.

Former Mayor Stu Rasmussen men-


Matt Plummer

tioned at an October Creekside Chat that folks had asked him if he would accept a write-in candidacy. He acquiesced. Plummer also visited Creekside Chat to make a case for his own write-in campaign.

A couple of others threw their hats into the write-in ring and by the final week of October the once-tepid council race morphed into a highly competitive hot seat with six interested candidates, counting the two who originally filed.

By Wednesday Marion County Clerk Bill Burgess and his crew were busy – a common symptom for county clerk's offices during Election Day week – tending to counts and noting some of the nuances emanating from the day before. One that

had Burgess scratching his head was a comparatively large number of write-in votes coming out of Silverton.

“It’s normal to see a few write-in ballots,” he said. But they were processing hundreds from Silverton; a task that is, of course, a bit more labor intensive than the more streamlined counting of filed candidates.

By Wednesday afternoon, the unofficial count showed Freilinger (2,826) and Carter (2,308) garnering their anticipated share of the overall vote. Plummer led the write-in hopefuls with 314, followed by Rasmussen 281, Ken Tobin 133 and Jim Squires 88. Despite his declination, Hector still fetched 30 votes, while Hillary Hess notched another 10.

It’s important to stress, at this juncture the count is unofficial. Burgess said the ballots are sent to the Secretary of

State’s Office for certification 20 days following the election, and certification at the state level normally ensues 10 days following that.

The SOS also issues a “quality check” in each county on even-numbered election years, in which three precincts within that county recount ballots just to check for consistency.

Burgess said other factors can potentially change close outcomes as crews sort through ballots sent via other counties or verify ballots that appear to have a discrepancy with the signature.

Mayor Rick Lewis ran alone on the ticket for mayor, and was reelected to a two-year term.

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Local men share Cubs connections


FORWARD THIS
CAPI LYNN

Rick Bladt doubted the Chicago Cubs would ever win a World Series championship in his lifetime. If anyone had reason for skepticism, it was him.

He had a short stint with the Cubs in 1969, a season still mourned by fans, although perhaps a bit less now. That was the year a team with four future Hall of Famers blew a nine-game lead to the Miracle Mets in one of the most infamous pennant collapses in baseball history.

“We’ve had hopes before,” said Bladt, who lives near Mt. Angel.

Vincent Dunn knows that all too well. He grew up in the Chicago area and was a longtime Illinois state employee before taking a similar job in Oregon.

“I’m sort of stunned,” said Dunn, who proudly wore his Cubs jacket in downtown Salem the day after the franchise ended a 108-year-old drought between World Series championships. “It’s like a bucket list gets checked off, but now what? I’m so used to being a loser, I might have to rethink my identity.”

Like Bladt and Dunn, Al Geddes never thought it would happen. A couple of years ago, his wife bought him a “Just One Before I Die” T-shirt, which he wore often.

Geddes, a 1957 graduate of South Salem High School and current Molalla resident, has been a northwest area scout for the Cubs for 22 years. The organization flew him and more than 30 other scouts, plus their spouses, to Chicago for Games 3 and 4, all expenses paid.

They sat as a group in the left field bleachers, and Geddes said the face value of his ticket was \$250.

“The guy sitting next to us paid \$2,500,” he said.

While the view from the seats wasn’t ideal, the experience more than made up for it.

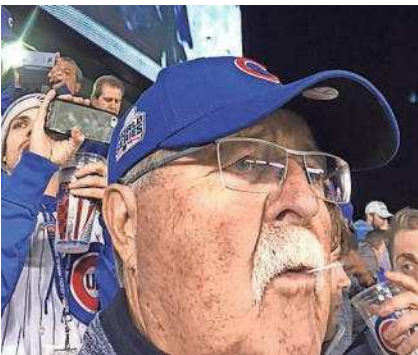
“Just the atmosphere of being there for the games was the biggest thrill,” Geddes said, “because we never thought we’d get there.”

It may not fully sink in until sometime in the spring, when he gets a championship ring. Most organizations issue rings not just to players and



CAPI LYNN/STATESMAN JOURNAL

Rick Bladt played briefly for the Chicago Cubs in 1969, the year a team loaded with four future Hall of Famers blew a nine-game lead.



SPECIAL TO THE STATESMAN JOURNAL

Al Geddes is a Northwest-area scout for the Chicago Cubs.



CAPI LYNN/STATESMAN JOURNAL

Vincent Dunn, who grew up in the Chicago area, sports his Cubs gear.



COURTESY PHOTO

Dozens of students at Silverton High School held a pro-Trump demonstration Tuesday.

Students accused of threats suspended

NATALIE PATE
STATESMAN JOURNAL

Two students from Silverton High School have been suspended, accused of intimidating and threatening behavior at a pro-Trump demonstration at the school on Tuesday.

Before classes and during both the school’s lunches, 30 to 40 students gathered on and around their trucks, waving Trump signs and American flags.

At least one student was waving a Confederate flag, but took it down after the school’s principal, Justin Lieuallen, spoke to him.

Lieuallen said the students were expressing their own views, but there were a couple of incidents where students overstepped their bounds.

Witnesses reported phrases such as “Pack your bags, you’re leaving tomorrow” and “Tell your family good-bye” being shouted at Hispanic students. Others reported keeping their children home from school Wednesday.

Lieuallen said the school is required by law to look into any incidents reported to them.

He said there weren’t any other demonstrations leading up to election day.

Cole Sandlin, a senior at the high school, was one of the students who organized the demonstration.

He said the students involved with the flag waving demonstration were not the ones saying racial slurs; that they came from two people who “were very clearly away from our event near the sidewalk or in the school.”

“We were very peaceful,” Sandlin said. “All we did was park our vehicles in the front of the parking lot, set up flags and have group of friends hang out in the parking lot.”

He said there were some who did not

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Cities react to outcomes of pot votes

CHRISTENA BROOKS
SPECIAL TO THE APPEAL TRIBUNE

Verl Holden can grow just about anything. The 84-year-old nurseryman and farmer has a lifetime of experience in the plant business and a bachelor’s degree in floriculture from Oregon State University.

“In school, carnations were my favorite flower to grow,” he said, although his business, Holden

Wholesale Growers, on Hazelgreen Road, mostly produces hazelnut trees, as well as hardy Northwest groundcovers.

Since he was a young man he’s been curious about growing marijuana, as much for its novelty as anything. But his fascination intensified when his wife, Florence Hardesty, was diagnosed with Alzheimer’s. As she’s slipped into the advanced stages of the disease,

Holden has heard marijuana may help remove the proteins that destroy Alzheimer patients’ brains.

“Marijuana is a plant that’s been around for thousands and thousands of years as a medical treatment,” he said.

With the passage of Measure 91 in 2014, knowing turned to growing, although Holden is focusing

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Top 3 Listings Agents for October

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\$320,000

Secluded Creek Front!
Wrap-around deck, lovely wooded setting!
4bd/2ba ~ 1732 SF ~ 2 Acres
MLS#705281 Silverton
Joe & Dana Giegerich
503-931-7824

2

\$445,000

Expansive Custom Home!
A Personal Oasis in the City!
4bd/2.5ba ~ 3129 SqFt ~ .46 ac
MLS#708163 Mt Angel
Valerie Boen
503-871-1667

3

\$239,000

Dual Living in the Countryside!
Two homes, shops, garden & fruit trees
3bd/2ba ~ 1120 SqFt ~ 3 Acres
\$399,000 MLS#711334 Molalla
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