



ANNA REED/STATESMAN JOURNAL

Jeanne Bridges retired in 1993 after 29 years as a fourth-grade teacher at Cummings Elementary in Keizer. She has been volunteering for office work with the school ever since.

After more than 50 years, Silverton native Jeanne Bridges still devoted to Cummings

PETE MARTINI
STATESMAN JOURNAL

KEIZER — Jeanne Bridges likes to keep things the same.

"In my whole life, I'm that way, I like things to be just the way they are," Bridges said.

So it should be no surprise that she has stayed at Cummings Elementary School for more than 50 years.

"I never wanted to go anywhere else," said Bridges, who grew up in Silverton. "And then after a while, you've been there so long, then you really wouldn't want to go anywhere else."

Bridges started teaching at Cummings in 1962, mostly fourth-graders. She retired in 1993, but she still shows up each week as a volunteer to help teachers with preparation.

"I love this building, and I love the people that work here," she said. "I do a lot of laminating. Just about anything that they want to have done, I try to help."

The faculty and staff at Cummings appreciate the help Bridges provides each week.

"Jeanne does everything that I could possibly need done," teacher Pat Ozenna said. "Everything from making photocopies, collating pages, cutting out things that I need, laminating things, getting them all organized. She saves me countless of hours every week."

Judy Olson, an instructional assistant, agreed.

"She's a very good teacher. Really cares about her work, cares about the kids, the well-rounded part of the child, not just the education of the child," Ol-

son said. "She will do anything you need her to do."

Bridges went to Oregon College of Education, now Western Oregon University, and was recruited by the school district and placed in Cummings.

"I did not ever have to go through a real big job search or anything, and they put me into Cummings almost right away," said Bridges, who was recognized as Volunteer of the Month at the school board meeting in October.

Bridges said she enjoyed her time as a teacher.

"Looking at education now, I realize that we had it easy. They have so much more expected of them," said Bridges, who grew up in Silverton. "Everything really went well. You had the kids that maybe didn't behave like you would want them to, but somehow that got fixed too."

Throughout her career, Bridges wanted to stick to teaching elementary students, preferably fourth-graders.

"I really did. I like that age. They're funny and they tell jokes," she said. "They don't need so much help as when you get into kindergarten."

Bridges volunteers once a week at Cummings, and when she's not in the school, she enjoys traveling.

"My husband and I have a motor home that we just got last year, and so we're trying to travel some," she said.

Bridges said she isn't sure how much longer she will continue volunteering.

"Every year I think, 'OK, I'm going to go again,'" she said. "If something happens, if I feel it's too much, then I'll quit. But I haven't quit yet."

December features activity flurry for seniors

CHRISTENA BROOKS
SPECIAL TO THE APPEAL TRIBUNE

For local seniors, Silverton Senior Center is offering a flurry of classes and events in December.

The month kicks off with a \$55 computer and smart phone class on the morning of Thursday, Dec. 1, followed by pictures with Santa on the morning of Saturday, Dec. 3 and community bingo that evening.

Stay Fit exercise and yoga classes run Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings, while Zumba and Tai Chi classes are Tuesday and Thursday mornings. The first class is free for new participants. Every Wednesday, seniors can also do free needle crafts, participate in a make-and-take holiday crafts, and play afternoon bingo.

The center's monthly board meeting is 1 p.m. Monday, Dec. 5., and it's fol-

lowed by a ukulele jam session.

Tuesday, Dec. 6, features free blood pressure checks in the morning and a Compassionate Friends Meeting, a free support group for people who have lost a child or sibling, in the evening.

Thursday, Dec. 8 is a Facebook Q&A class. A week later, Thursday, Dec. 15, is a cable coat-making class and free legal advice with attorney Phil Kelley; both are in the morning.

Seniors are invited to an ugly sweater party Friday, Dec. 16. Later that day, at 2 p.m., there's a support group meeting for spouses of those with Alzheimers.

Lastly, on Dec. 30, seniors can ring in 2017 at a noontime New Year's party.

The senior center is at 115 Westfield Street in Silverton. For more information about times, costs and other details, call 503-873-3093. Activities range from free to \$55.

Catalog of Giving begins

NATALIE PATE
STATESMAN JOURNAL

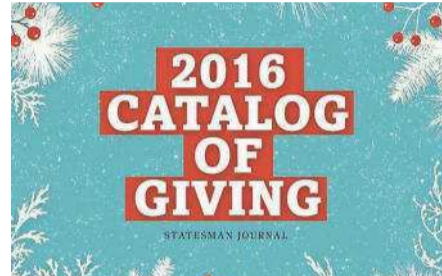
For the fourth year, the Statesman Journal is doing its part to connect you with area nonprofits to make a positive impact on our community.

At StatesmanJournal.com/Giving, you'll find the Catalog of Giving, a compilation of tangible items needed by more than 100 non-profit institutions throughout the Mid-Willamette Valley.

These wishlist items range from some of the biggest needs of these organizations — like park benches, vans and iPad's — to some of the smallest creature comforts — like socks, coffee makers and diapers.

Each year, the Statesman Journal asks local non-profits to provide us with a wishlist, of up to three asks, that could be purchased by individuals, families, neighbors and other community members, groups and businesses. We insist these items be something the donors could deliver directly to the nonprofit.

While donations by check or credit card are always welcomed by organizations, the Catalog of Giving is meant to inspire a more personal and direct expe-



rience of giving.

By doing this, we celebrate the work of these nonprofits and get to exchange a moment of joy together.

In years past, members of the community granted thousands of dollars worth of wishes — and it has grown each year.

It's easy to take part. Each listing in the catalog includes a direct daytime phone number to call.

As each request is filled, the Statesman Journal will record the success and post updates on our wish-list honor roll at StatesmanJournal.com/Giving.

It is our hope that you'll enjoy browsing through the catalog and be inspired to grant a wish.

Grants

Continued from Page 1B

that athletic trainers do on the sidelines and in training facilities nationwide. We look forward to testing this pilot program as part of our effort to increase access to athletic trainers in local communities and improve sports safety for many more young athletes."

The Corey Stringer Institute is named after the former NFL player who died in August 2001 from complications brought on by heat stroke during the Minnesota Vikings' training camp.

"The massive responsibility of keeping many hundreds of athletes safe at a particular high school should never be the responsibility of a sport coach or the athletic director, they have no training to properly handle this task," Corey Stringer Institute CEO Douglas Casa said in a released statement. "We are very proud to partner with this grant program that has a primary goal of increasing the number of schools serviced by an athletic trainer and to enhance the amount of medical care for those that already have some."

Schools can apply from now through Dec. 16, and they can do so at www.athletictrainergrant.com.

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