

Appeal Tribune

50 CENTS • VOL. 135, No. 51

SILVERTONAPPEAL.COM

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2016

Schools try to reduce bullying

Principal says ‘discriminatory, racist, intimidating words are not acceptable’

CHRISTENA BROOKS
SPECIAL TO THE APPEAL TRIBUNE

“Moving forward ... together,” was the message Silverton High School staff wore on their matching T-shirts when classes resumed after Thanksgiving break, three weeks after Election Day sparked cases of bullying among students.

The message was simple enough, but news that a handful of students made threatening statements such as “Pack your bags, you’re leaving tomorrow,”

and “Tell your family goodbye,” to Latino students at election time has provoked community outcry and a multi-layered response at the school.

“Discriminatory, racist and intimidating words are not acceptable and will be dealt with very seriously,” said Principal Justin Lieuallen.

A total of 10 students received referrals, he told the school board on Nov. 28, and the pair that initially came to administrators’ attention for comments made near a pro-Trump rally in the parking lot on Nov. 8 was suspended.

That discipline was a start – but only a start – said the group of parents who packed the school board’s earlier meeting on Nov. 14. Several urged the board and administrators to crack down harder on racism and commit to long-term change.

“People turned free speech into racism,” said student Gabriella Rodriguez, explaining some students asked whether she was “ready to go back to Mexico.”

“It’s not a one-and-done. It’s not an assembly and then everyone’s fine,” testified Elizabeth Neves, a resident who works as a mental health specialist.

At the meeting, board members and administrators quickly agreed, saying they’re committed to taking an in-depth look at the high school to make sure stu-

dents feel safe.

“This is distinctly not a one-and-done situation,” Supt. Andy Bellando replied. “Discrimination of any sort is not acceptable in any of our schools.”

Silverton High’s immediate response to the bullying that occurred at election time was intercom announcements encouraging respect, an automated call to all parents of high-schoolers, and four emergency assemblies, Lieuallen said.

The next weeks saw the beginning of support and training for employees, starting with a session led by Rodney Dean, a member of Willamette Education Service District’s school safety team. Staff then met with John Lensen,

See BULLYING, Page 2A

Salem man arrested after fatal hit-and-run

LAUREN E HERNANDEZ
STATESMAN JOURNAL

A North Salem man was arrested after a fatal hit-and-run crash near Silverton High School on Friday morning.

Dillon Van Diviner, 22, was driving on the 400 block of Grant Street when he hit a construction worker who was working on a driveway project of a new home, according to a statement released by Silverton Police Chief Jeff Fossholm. Van Diviner continued driving after hitting the construction worker, identified as Bradley Goad, 45, of West Salem. Goad was pronounced dead at the scene.

Van Diviner abandoned his vehicle at the dead end section of Grant Street and ran into a nearby large farm field, Fossholm said.

Silverton and Mt. Angel police officers set up a perimeter and found him running down Hobart Road near North James Street. Van Diviner was arrested without incident.

Van Diviner faces one charge of failure to perform the duties of a driver.

Fossholm said there is an active and ongoing criminal investigation into the incident.

The Marion County Crash Team, comprised of Marion County and Keizer personnel, responded to the reconstruction of the crash scene.



PHOTOS BY SHELDON TRAVER/SPECIAL TO THE STATESMAN JOURNAL

Marion County sheriff’s deputies investigate the scene of a fatal hit and run outside Silverton High School on Friday Dec. 2.



The Marion County Sheriff’s Department says there is an active and ongoing criminal investigation into the hit-and-run incident.



A medical examiner inspects a car allegedly used in the hit and run death of a man in Silverton on Dec. 2.

School official in social media flap

CHRISTENA BROOKS
SPECIAL TO THE APPEAL TRIBUNE

What one Facebook user says is “a difference of opinion,” another calls “cyber-bullying,” and now the debate’s gone public because one of them is an elected official.

Silver Falls School Board member Todd White has come under fire from members of the public and several fellow board members for the Facebook posts he made on Silverton Community Rejects, a

3,200-person closed group dedicated to freewheeling local discourse.

“Mr. White has been long known among Silverton area Facebook users to be a cyber-bully, calling people names and using threatening language when he does not agree with a person’s point of view,” said Silverton resident Shelly Nealon, who proposed White resign from his volunteer position on the school board.

“People are emotional about the results of the election and don’t

like my opinions on stuff,” White countered. “How I voted has nothing to do with me being on the school board. It’s my own private Facebook page. I’m not posting as Todd White, board member.”

One of the posts in question was White’s response to news that protesters were blocking traffic and smashing windows in Portland following the election of Donald Trump as president. He wrote,

See FLAP, Page 2A

Online at SilvertonAppeal.com

NEWS UPDATES

- » Breaking news
- » Get updates from the Silverton area

PHOTOS

- » Photo galleries

INSIDE

- Briefs3B
- Classifieds.....3B
- Life.....4A
- Obituaries.....2A
- Police logs3A



©2016
Printed on recycled paper

Harcourts NW Oregon Realty Group
Top 3 Listing Agents for November

<p>1</p> <p>\$1,200,000</p>	<p>Expansive Farmstead! Organic, excellent soils! Two home sites! 2bd/1ba ~ 960 SqFt ~ 93.16 ac MLS#711843 Lebanon Mike Gerig 503-510-5041</p>
<p>2</p> <p>\$445,000</p>	<p>Impressive Spaces! Open and Inviting, Custom Accessibility! 4bd/2.5ba ~ 3129 SqFt ~ 46 ac MLS#706406 Scott Mills Valerie Boen 503-871-1667</p>
<p>3</p> <p>\$825,000</p>	<p>Room to Roam! Home site w/ view, ponds, timber, pasture! 3bd/2ba ~ 1440 SqFt ~ 200 Acres MLS#708163 Mt Angel Joe & Dana Giegerich 503-931-7824</p>

119 N. Water St. Silverton, OR 97381 • 503.873.8600 • www.nworg.com
OR-000032239