

Literacy

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to begin the last week of January or first week of February, dependent upon finding a Silverton site manager.

SMART is an Oregon-based nonprofit organization that provides community volunteers to read one-on-one with pre-kindergarten through third-grade students in Head Start and elementary schools and gives up to 14 new books for children to take home and share with their families. The goal is to develop an interest in reading and learning at a young age.

SMART is partnering with the Marion & Polk Early Learning Hub through Pre-School Promise, an Oregon free preschool endeavor, to bring the program to sites like Silverton OCDC in Marion and Polk Counties.

"We've been in Silverton before at the Eugene Field Elementary School," SMART Program Manager Michael Finlay said. "We are very excited to bring the program back to help children develop and be healthy ... We have been looking for opportunities to expand our program into Silverton again and could not be more pleased with the opportunity to partner with OCDC and hopefully only enhance their already great work."

The program was founded 25 years ago with a belief that early literacy and reading is critical, not only for success in school but for success in life, according to Otis.

"Over the years, we've gathered lots of data that supports the value of the program," Otis said. "In fact, overwhelmingly, teachers and principals report that having the SMART program in their schools contributed to positive literacy outcomes and we have individual student data to support this. Equally important, we have stories from readers (volunteers) and students alike that testify to the joy and enjoyment the program has brought them."

"In our 25 years, we've had the pleasure of serving almost 190,000 kids with the help of more than 125,000 volunteers. In true Oregon fashion, individuals and communities around the state have stepped in and stepped up to support our own."

SMART is currently seeking a site coordinator at the Silverton location and volunteer readers in Jefferson, Aumsville and Silverton. Anyone interested in volunteering with the organization can contact the local SMART Office at 503-391-8423 or mfinlay@getsmartoregon.org.

"The emphasis of the program is not on 'teaching' reading but in fostering an interest in, and love of, reading," Otis said. "What we enjoy, we do more; what we do more, we get good at."

For more information about SMART, visit www.getSMARToregon.org, call 971-634-1634 or email SMART@getsmartoregon.org.

annetteutz1@gmail.com or follow at twitter.com/AnnetteUtz

Raise your glass to SMART

Join SMART and Vagabond Brewing for a benefit night. For each pint sold, \$4 will be donated to SMART. As an added bonus, patrons get to keep a commemorative SMART glass.

What: Pints for a Cause night

When: 3-10 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 18

Where: Vagabond Brewing, 2195 Hyacinth St. NE #172, Salem.

Contact: For more information, call SMART at 503-391-8423 or Vagabond Brewing at 503- 512-9007. This event is made possible by SMART Reader and Leadership Council member Carla Glavine and Vagabond Brewing.

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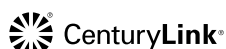
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If you live in a CenturyLink service area, please call 1-855-954-6546 or visit centurylink.com/lifeline with questions or to request an application for the Lifeline program.

***CenturyLink Internet Basics Program** – Residential customers only who qualify based on meeting income level or program participation eligibility requirements, and requires remaining eligible for the entire offer period. First bill will include charges for the first full month of service billed in advance, prorated charges for service from the date of installation to bill date, and one-time charges and fees described above. Qualifying customers may keep this program for a maximum of 60 months after service activation provided customer still qualifies during that time. Listed High-Speed Internet rate of \$9.95/mo. applies for first 12 months of service (after which the rate reverts to \$14.95/mo. for the next 48 months of service), and requires a 12-month term agreement. Customer must either lease a modem/router from CenturyLink for an additional monthly charge or independently purchase a modem/router, and a one-time High-Speed Internet activation fee applies. A one-time professional installation charge (if selected by customer) and a one-time shipping and handling fee applies to customer's modem/router. **General** – Services not available everywhere. Customers must not be currently subscribed to CenturyLink Internet service. CenturyLink may change or cancel services or substitute similar services at its sole discretion without notice. Offer, plans, and stated rates are subject to change and may vary by service area. Deposit may be required. Additional restrictions apply. **Terms and Conditions** – All products and services listed are governed by tariffs, terms of service, or terms and conditions posted at centurylink.com. **Taxes, Fees, and Surcharges** – Applicable taxes, fees, and surcharges include a carrier Universal Service charge, carrier cost recovery surcharges, state and local fees that vary by area and certain in-state surcharges. Cost recovery fees are not taxes or government-required charges for use. Taxes, fees, and surcharges apply based on standard monthly, not promotional, rates.



Principal

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"We've got to do a lot more digging to see if that number represents something to be concerned about," Lieuallen said. "I can take a quick look at the data, but I don't yet have the story behind the data."

Silverton grads could be moving into internships, journeyman work or certification programs that the report card doesn't count, especially considering that the high school has "one of the best CTE (Career and Technical Education) programs in the state," he said. Other grads could be enlisting in the military.

"Where are our kids after they leave us? Are they employed, staying out of trouble and successful? That's what I want to know," he said.

While Lieuallen tries to improve the high school from the top, a place he calls "the 30,000-foot view," he knows the work starts with 1-on-1 interactions between staff students. He can often be found in Silverton High's classrooms, sitting attentively in the back row, observing and evaluating teachers as they do their daily work.

Teaching – and coaching – is what drew Lieuallen away from ranching and other career paths more than two decades ago.

He first considered a career in education when he was coached and taught by Jerry Ewing at McLoughlin High School in the tiny northeastern Oregon town of Milton-Freewater.

From the time he was 12, Lieuallen lived eight miles away from his father with his widowed grandmother, a retired schoolteacher, and helped run the family ranch. He has one sibling, an older brother, who is now a circuit court judge in Umatilla County. At the time, the Lieuallens were raising several thousand acres of wheat while running nearly 500 head of cattle.

"It helped us grow up quickly," he said. "Ranching is a good way to learn responsibility and to acquire some grit."

Even though he was young for his grade – just 16 at the start of his senior year – he was a proficient student and a standout wrestler. He broke his father's three-time district championship record to become the high school's first four-time district champion, and he won state his senior year. His



CHRISTENA BROOKS/SPECIAL TO THE APPEAL TRIBUNE
Justin Lieuallen said an important part of his job is evaluating teachers and supporting them in their daily work. He listens to Ben Hynes-Stone as the teacher leads a discussion about the value of letter grades.

best memory was beating now-Olympic coach Matt Lindland, 2-0 in a match that year.

Oregon voters' passage of Measure 5 in 1990, which limited property tax collection, dampened Lieuallen's dreams of becoming a teacher. Not only did hiring prospects disappear, but existing teachers also lost their jobs in the wake of budget cuts. Lieuallen's mentors – his father, teachers and a local eye doctor – urged him to pursue a career in science or medicine instead.

He turned down multiple scholarships and took a break from wrestling, attended Central Oregon Community College, and, two years later, enrolled at Pacific University to study biology. There he picked wrestling back up and was named an All-American.

After graduation, Lieuallen worked briefly as a salesman and for his dad, but was quickly drawn into assistant coaching at Glencoe High School in Hillsboro, where he also worked as an instructional assistant for special education students. He obtained his master's degree and moved on to teaching science and coaching wrestling at Westview High School in Beaverton.

Soon he set his sights on administration because of "the large impact you can have on a school," and earned licenses from Lewis & Clark College as

he transitioned into his most recent job as assistant principal at McNary High School. He worked there 13 years before being hired away by the Silver Falls School District in 2016.

"He's gone from being an instructional assistant up to being a principal and all the steps in-between," said Jespersen, who once taught under Lieuallen and remains a close friend. "He has real-life experience. That's going to serve him very well; it's a great fit where he's at."

At home in Amity, where he and his wife, Debbie, own 5 acres, Lieuallen is trying to instill in his trio of children the work ethic he learned on his family's ranch. He's also stepfather to two young adults and the step-grandfather of two toddlers.

In addition to their own acreage, he and his wife lease land and operate a 40 cow/calf operation. Lately, he's been up by 5 a.m. most mornings, feeding and dealing with frozen water and pipes.

His kids help too. If they can't load hay, they can at least "roll the bales" so they're ready to be picked up, he said. His oldest son will start 4H this year, but, like his father before him, Lieuallen is already coaching the youngster to consider raising meat in the "real world." Prices at the auction certainly won't match the 4H fair, but that's reality.

He's experienced life's harsh realities too. You can't ranch or farm without a hefty share of defeat – and learning how to deal with it. Years ago, tough financial times

put his dad out of the ranching businesses, and he rebounded into property management.

And Lieuallen? That snowmobile he bought 33 years ago with his hard-earned hog cash was only his for a short time. An accidental barn fire burned it up just one year after he brought it home.

When he tells the story now, his face creases into a grin. The irony is so thick he can't help but laugh, for that, too, is the real world, full of quirks.

At Silverton High, he doesn't have to look far to consider life's quirkiness. Hanging over his desk on the south wing is a black-and-white photo of former principal Dick Kromminga. He put it there because, a lifetime ago, Kromminga was his own principal in Milton-Freewater, a man he greatly respected but never expected to follow into administration or to Silverton.

"It feels like life has come full circle," he said. "I'm enjoying Silverton High School, the supportive staff and the Silverton community as a whole. I truly appreciate the opportunity to lead Silverton High with the help of the leadership team at the high school and district office."

Babies

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"All her choices," Mark said with a laugh.

While the couple and their baby boy rest in the hospital and watch movies, their daughter Willow, 15 months, is spending time with her grandmother.

"Even though I didn't get to go party or celebrate with friends and family as much, I think this was an excellent way to bring in the new year," Swanson said. "I think of all the New Year's I've had, this will be the most memorable."

Micah is 7 pounds, 8 ounces and 20 3/4 inches long.

At Salem Hospital, a local couple welcomed a baby girl at 1:33 a.m. after a whirlwind labor of about an hour.

Sadie McKenzie and her husband Tim, of Salem, rolled past women who were in labor for hours and settled into their delivery room. Tim barely had time to unpack a bag filled with speakers and phone chargers before the labor process was well under way.

"I got like five measurements on my contraction calculator and I thought 'It doesn't even matter now,'" Tim said. "We didn't realize we were in a race, but we won."

While the couple has

mulled over prospective baby names for the duration of Sadie's pregnancy, they have yet to come to an agreement.

They created a spreadsheet and have ranked prospective names from 1 to 5 and average the two numbers. Tim, a software engineer and data analyst, said the ranking system is helping the couple decide on a name.

For example, Sadie ranked the name "Fern" a 4, Tim ranked it a 3 – averaging the name at 3.5.

Sadie said the couple is also considering names that are thematic of the new year and representative of the joyful holiday.

"The names that we're considering are like Joyce, and Una, which means 'first' in Latin. So some of those things you can attach to her now because she happened to come along on this occasion," Sadie said.

She said her baby's birthday also brings some events to look forward to as she grows older including joint parties celebrating the new year and her daughter's birthday, and slumber parties for the next 15 years.

"I've been telling everyone for months, 'Wouldn't New Year's Eve be the best birthday? There would be a party built into your birthday, and everyone is hugging and kissing,'" Sadie said.

The McKenzie's baby girl is 7 pounds, five ounces and 20 inches long.

Appeal Tribune

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