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Rep. Gilliam leaves state Legislature

Silverton representative diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's disease

TRACY LOEW
STATESMAN JOURNAL

Two days before the start of the 2017 Legislative session, Silverton Rep. Vic Gilliam has announced his resignation. Gilliam, 63, announced his departure Jan. 30 on Facebook, saying he was led to the decision, "for reasons including fairness to you, my constituents." Gilliam has amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, also known as ALS or Lou Gehrig's disease. ALS is an incurable nervous system disease that weakens the body's muscles.

During the 2016 legislative session, Gilliam walked with a cane and his speech was slightly impaired. Gilliam, a Republican, has served District 18 since 2007. He declined to be interviewed Monday. "Rep. Gilliam would like people to respect his privacy," said Cindy Jones, his chief of staff. In Oregon, replacements for Legislative vacancies are chosen by county commissioners representing the vacant seat. In this case, that is Marion County and Clackamas County. Commissioners must consider at least three candidates provided by the

party that last controlled the seat. They have 30 days to appoint a replacement. The replacement will serve for the remainder of the term, which in this case is until Jan. 13, 2019. "I'll gladly support a smooth transition with whomever is chosen by Oregon's respected appointment process," Gilliam wrote. "Then I intend to turn my primary focus on personal faith and the important path as a follower of Jesus." Preston Mann, communications director for House Republicans, said he was not aware of any likely candidates for the position. But Mike Early, Gilliam's Republican



Gilliam

challenger in the 2016 primary previously said he would pursue the job. Early dropped out of the race in March 2016 and Gilliam went on to win reelection in November. "I will seek appointment to the office when the incumbent withdraws because of his declining health," Early said in his withdrawal statement. That move drew complaints from Clackamas County Democrats who said it was a "bait-and-switch" scam because voters who chose Gilliam over his Democratic opponent in the general election

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CREEKSIDE CHAT



JUSTIN MUCH/APPEAL TRIBUNE

During Creekside Chat, Connie Barkley displays a piece of a handmade quilt. Barkley never regarded herself as artistic in any way whatsoever — until she discovered Hawaiian quilting.

Quilted and wall-worked aesthetics in Silverton



CREEKSIDE CHAT
JUSTIN MUCH

"That was a lot of fun!" Jim Squires remembered a pivotal day for the growth of Silverton's murals back in the early 1990s — he remembered the day so well he thrice repeated: "So much fun!"

The day Jim described spurred a fundraiser to the tune of \$13,000 and sparked funding for the "Four Freedoms" mural, launching Silverton on its journey to be known for its rich, business-district trimming artwork. Silverton exhibits no shortage of ornamentation; apply virtually any standard measure of a small-town's aesthetics and it's bound to gauge positively here, as evidenced by the town's runner-up status in the national Small Business Revolution on Main Street project last year. Still, anyone who enters Silverton, locals and out-of-towners alike, is invariably struck by it's murals — whether the

visitor sees one or two downtown or the entire 31 around town. The murals' eye-catching artistry even arrests eyes amid the town's other scenic features. Those murals are a salient feature to behold and maintain. Their history, future and ongoing care were on Jim's mind, as well as that of his cohort Norm English on Wednesday, Feb. 1, during the Creekside Chat at Silver Creek Coffee House. The Groundhog Day Eve chat churned up even more aesthetics when Dodie Brockamp and Connie Barkley stopped by to discuss new developments and activities with the Silverton Area Seniors — including a Hawaiian quilting element. Jim numbered the current mural tally at 31 with "probably another 6 or 7 on the drawing board." He serves as president of Silverton's Mural Society and Norm is the vice president, charges they hold with reverence as the murals are not only adornments but illustrative pieces of the town's history. Norm, a past president of the local historical society, conveys that by ordi-

Next chat
What: Creekside Chat
Where: Silver Creek Coffee House, 111 Water St., Silverton
When: 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 8 (First and third Wednesdays)
Questions and information: Contact Justin Much, jmuch@StatesmanJournal.com; 503-769-6338, cell 503-508-8157

nance the murals must meet two vital criteria: they must be historical and Silverton oriented. Other conditions include having adequate space, a willing building owner and they can't be painted on a street-front facing façade. His favorite, the Napa Auto building's "Our Twentieth Century" exhibits a Silverton historical timeline. Jim cites "The Gallon House Bridge" as his favorite, and adds a story behind his preference, harking back

See MUCH, Page 2A

Silverton honors its leaders and volunteers

Chamber presents five with First Citizen award

CHRISTENA BROOKS
SPECIAL TO THE APPEAL TRIBUNE

What would this community look like without the group of volunteers who were briefly recognized before a crowd of 200 on Saturday?

Likely there wouldn't be a Fallen Heroes Memorial Plaza downtown, nor a \$1 million scholarship fund for local high school grads, nor the annual cleanup of Silver Creek, nor an upcoming comedy pageant poised to make \$60,000 for overseas medical care.



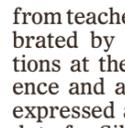
Jones



Mannion



Hinsdale



Branstetter

Because they've shaped the community with their ideas, time and money, five outstanding volunteers were honored by the Silver Falls Chamber of Commerce at the 46th Annual Silverton First Citizen Banquet, held Feb. 4 at the Festhalle in Mt. Angel. Silverton's top volunteers for 2016 are First Citizen Cindy Jones, Future First Citizen Megan Mannion, Distinguished Service honoree Norm English, Business of the Year Harcourts NW Oregon Realty Group, and Judy Schmidt Lifetime Achievement winner Mason Branstetter. Another 21 community members, ranging from teachers to artists, were also celebrated by their respective organizations at the event. Diverse in experience and abilities, many the winners expressed a shared sense of love and duty for Silverton. First Citizen Cindy Jones — dubbed "Silverton's queen" in song by emcee Beth Davisson — closed the evening with the quote, "Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in." Jones is Oregon Rep. Vic Gilliam's chief of staff; when she's not at work,

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YMCA camp counselor accused of rape

WHITNEY M. WOODWORTH
STATESMAN JOURNAL

An elementary school teacher was arrested for allegedly sexually assaulting a 17-year-old girl while working at a summer camp at Silver Falls State Park, officials said. Rohan Cordy, 28, of Monmouth, was arrested Thursday by Marion County detectives on charges of first-degree sodomy, attempted rape, first-degree unlawful sexual penetration, third-degree sexual



Cordy

abuse, supplying alcohol to a minor and using a child in a display of sexually explicit conduct. He is accused of attempting to rape the teen while employed as a counselor at the YMCA camp at Silver Falls State Park between June and August of 2016, Marion County Sheriff's Office spokesman Lt. Chris Baldrige said.

Cordy also works as a second-grade teacher at Holley Elementary School in Sweet Home. The sheriff's office has no information to support that there are any additional victims. Samuel Carroll, CEO of the YMCA of Marion and Polk Counties, said Cordy was a seasonal employee during the summer of 2016. During his time of employment, he allegedly began an "improper rela-

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