

Appeal Tribune

50 CENTS • VOL. 136, No. 12

SILVERTONAPPEAL.COM

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8, 2017

CREEKSIDE CHAT

Rich offerings from local grange



JUSTIN MUCH

A lot of activity surfaced last week around the Creekside Chat hour. Mixed into the fold were grange-hosted gardening tips, history, after-school planning, and even some athletes trotting from school to school, geared for intrastate travel.

Among the visitors to the Silver Creek Coffee House on Wednesday, March 1, were **Jan McCorkle**, secretary at Silver-ton Grange #748, a busy **Josh Burgeson** and his After School Activities Program cohort **Emalie Radocchia**.

The local grange has some rich offerings on the March calendar, including a presentation from Silverton historian

Gus Frederick, who will have the perfect backdrop to deliver his talk on "The History and Future of the Grange in Transition."

That presentation is coming up 5 to 7 p.m. Sunday, March 12, and we'll hear more about it below. The following weekend "Seedy Saturday" from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., March 18, presents a great opportunity for green thumbs, semi-green thumbs and/or aspiring green thumbs.

While grange activities primarily cater to a grown-up set, Silverton's After School Activities Program continues to provide ample undertakings for 7th and 8th graders during the core hours of the week. With spring break coming up soon, volunteers are refreshing programs through the break and into the spring. The biggest kid in the group (a.k.a.

Josh) knows a bit about precious spring-break activity as he's working toward finishing his degree at Oregon State University this year, on track to do that summer term.

Josh advised us that the ASAP program's original Tuesday and Thursday schedule has been augmented by a new partnership. ASAP now has Wednesday hours, but at a different location. So currently there are nine after-school hours for kids to partake each week: 3 to 6 p.m. Tuesday and Thursdays at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 303 N. Church St.; 3 to 6 p.m. Wednesday at Assembly of God, 427 N. James St.

"We can never say thank you enough to the individuals and community who

See **MUCH**, Page 2A



JUSTIN MUCH/APPEAL TRIBUNE
Jan McCorkle at the Silver Creek Coffee House for a Creekside Chat.

Palmer appointed Silverton mayor



Silverton Mayor Kyle Palmer takes the oath of office after his appointment to the position by a unanimous City Council vote. Palmer will serve out the term of Rick Lewis, who resigned after being appointed to the Oregon House District 18 seat.

Former Mayor Lewis leaves post after being named to state legislative seat

CHRISTENA BROOKS
SPECIAL TO THE APPEAL TRIBUNE

Silverton's new mayor, Kyle Palmer, is so quick to say he's "nothing special," you might actually believe him.

Until you learn he's been a city councilor for more than a decade, coached baseball for two, helped plan the new high school, and is the outgoing Rotary Club president. He also works full-time managing a veterinary practice and has four part-time jobs.

A healthy dose of self-deprecating humor makes Palmer, 50, a politician whom his fellow councilors say has "zero ego," is "a fabulous listener," and "believes that diverse opinions are better than a single group opinion on any issue." Thus, they unanimously voted on Feb. 27 to make their council president Silverton's new mayor following Rick Lewis' resignation.

"Being mayor is surreal - I do not take it for granted," Palmer said. "There's nothing special about me. We could've picked any one of us (councilors), and they would've done a good job."

Lewis resigned from his mayor-



PHOTOS BY JUSTIN MUCH/APPEAL TRIBUNE
Kyle Palmer was appointed as Silverton's mayor by a vote of the city council.

al post last month after being appointed to Rep. Vic Gilliam's seat in the Oregon State Legislature and learning that serving in both positions could cause conflicts of interest. Gilliam stepped down from the District 18 seat earlier this year due to having Lou Gehrig's disease.

Lewis' appointment and resignation came suddenly for Silverton residents, who'd just elected

him to a term in office that ends in 2018. The former mayor said it all happened suddenly for him, too.

"My decision to file for the House seat started in February, just a few weeks ago. I had no consideration to do so before then," he said. "Even after reaching that decision, I had planned to continue serving as mayor through the remainder of this term."

One of Lewis' last acts in office was to help vote Palmer in as Silverton's new mayor, although Councilor Dana Smith said Palmer's selection was a group decision.

"I'm as happy as I could be to have Kyle as our next mayor," she said. "I think it's long overdue."

In the past, Palmer ran for major twice, once in 2010 and again in 2012, losing first to Stu Rasmussen and then to Lewis. Palmer recalls his pride taking a beating, but he accepted the losses and looked for other ways to be involved in local politics, including sitting on the budget committee and pool task force. He's since been reelected to the council.

"A lot of people would've

See **MAYOR**, Page 2A

Silverton Fire District honors commitment

APPEAL TRIBUNE STAFF

Silverton Fire District held their annual Awards Banquet on Feb. 18th. The evening celebrated commitment to the Silverton Fire District and recognized a few outstanding members of the organization.

Firefighter Keith Veit was named Firefighter of the Year.

Veit volunteers and responds to calls from the District's Main Station. He is known for participating in the annual food drive for Silverton Area Community Aid as well as his numerous responses to calls. According to a press release, Veit "is an outstanding firefighter who we count on to help day and night for anything we need. Volunteer personnel are our number one resource and Keith is a dedicated member who puts the community first."

Captain Jesse Hulett was named Officer of the Year. Hulett volunteers and responds out of the District's Main Station. He has been a volunteer with Silverton Fire since January 2004 and since that time his efforts include responding to calls, training and overseeing the Rescue and Aerial Division of the Fire District.

Firefighter and Paramedic Tyler Smith was named Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) of the Year.

Smith has been a volunteer with the Fire District since 2011 and started in the Fire District's youth Explorer Post.

He recently achieved the paramedic level of certification and spends countless volunteer hours going on calls, helping with public education events and assisting with training.

Firefighter James Ruks was named Rookie of the year.

Ruks is assigned to the District's Main Station. He started with the Fire District with no fire experience but excelled in the District's training program. According to the release, Ruka "is also very active in our annual food and toy drive. James is also a full time member of the military but still finds time to volunteer to for his community."

With 25 years of service, Firefighter Dennis Messman was presented with the lifetime membership award.

Outstanding Service awards were given to Assistant Chief Gordy Jensen, Captain Ed Grambusch, Lt. Ray Dandeneau, Firefighter Keith Veit and Firefighter Danielle Bowman.

This award is given to members who go above and beyond the call of duty to support their community.



Keith Veit



Jesse Hulett



James Ruks

Online at SilvertonAppeal.com

NEWS UPDATES

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

PHOTOS

- » Photo galleries

INSIDE

- Life.....4A
- Obituaries.....3A
- Police logs.....3A
- Sports.....1B



0 40901 07403 8

©2017

Printed on recycled paper

Harcourts NW Oregon Realty Group
Silverton Business of the Year 2016

Top Listing Agents - February 2017

#1 Joe & Dana Giegerich
503-931-7824
Victor Point Farm!
120.06 Acres - 4 miles from Downtown Silverton!
3bd/2ba - 1512 SqFt - 120.06 Acres
MLS#704672 Silverton **\$1,280,000**

#2 Rosie Wilgus
503-409-8779
A READY TO MOVE!
Charming Cottage!
Friendly Front Porch - Lovely Deck - Unfinished Basement!
2bd/1ba - 947 SqFt - 17 ac
MLS#714714 Silverton **\$189,000**

#3 Ginni Stensland
503-510-4652
Victorian Charm!
Turn of the Century Home - Peaceful Countryside!
3bd/2ba - 1897 SqFt - 2.2 Acres
MLS#714508 Silverton **\$370,000**

119 N. Water St. Silverton, OR 97381 • 503.873.8600 • www.nworg.com
OR-000384690