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CREEKSIDE CHAT

Seeing to students, seniors, visitors



JUSTIN MUCH

The timing may be about perfect for a membership and services expansion at Silverton Senior Center.

That's the kernel within the criteria shed by the center recently and shared at the Creekside Chat by Silverton Area Seniors Executive Director **Dodie Brockamp** and Silverton's Administrative Services Director **Dianne Hunt**.

Dodie and Dianne joined others at Silver Creek Coffee House on Wednesday, March 15, to share ideas, aspirations and projects, including Silver Falls School District Board Zone 5 candidate **Shelly Nealon**, and American Discovery Program Coordinator **Heather Prince**.

Dodie visited for a chat Feb. 1 to talk about a number of upcoming activities with Silverton Area Seniors, and at that time she mentioned possible changes considered at the center, including lowering age restrictions, currently 60, and availing the center's facilities to a broader range of groups and adding complementing activities, classes and programs.

Dianne apprised Dodie – with accompanying documents to the fact – that the community development block grant that stipulates the current age requirements has been released; the center's time obligations with that grant have run course and are no long requisite.

The means Silverton Area Seniors can alter its age stipulation. But it also means the group needs to plan more activities.

"This releases us from everything...now we will wait for the membership to vote on it," she said of changing age requirements. "It also means that we have to be more self-sufficient."

Dodie said conversations about lowering the age requirements seem to favor 50ish, but a clearer picture will come into view in April when membership, roughly 560 in number, votes on board selection as well as issues such as the age change.

"We just need to be cautious that we don't turn us into a community center," she added, stressing that senior-citizen status is paramount to the process.

Issues instrumental to a younger set were at the forefront with Shelly, who just that morning filed her paperwork at the Marion County Courthouse in Salem to run for the school board.

Shelly and her husband, local surgeon **James Nealon**, share membership as Creighton University Blue Jays alums as well as 14-year-denizen status in Silverton. Jim and Shelly, who reside in Abiqua Heights, called Silverton home from 2001 to 2011, at which time they returned to Jim's native (and Creighton environs) Omaha.

Two years later Silverton lured them back.

With three school-age kids, a solid background in education and an unquenchable thirst for learning, Shelly determined that directing her energy toward the local school district and its causes seemed most appropriate. That spearheaded her desire to run.

She holds a degree in education and

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ST. PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH



DANIELLE PETERSON/STATESMAN JOURNAL

Andrea Ponce, from left, Magaly Nino, Maria Mendez, Aliyah Romualdo, Remedios Ortiz, Executive Director of Somos Hispanas Unidas Susana Ghio and Gabriela Rodriguez stand in front of the Saint Paul Catholic Church in Silverton.

Concern over future of Hispanic Ministry

Church attendees fear Spanish class cuts

LAUREN E HERNANDEZ
STATESMAN JOURNAL

For more than 20 years, St. Paul Catholic Church in Silverton has offered Masses and religious education classes in Spanish -- a nod to the growing Latino com-

munity.

Latino members make up a majority of the church's attendees, accounting for at least two-thirds of the 600 members.

That community is in an uproar, worried that St. Paul's new priest is planning to eliminate the Spanish

religious education classes.

About 100 members sent hand-written letters to the church and Father Basil Lawrence, each expressing a message of shared fear of their culture

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Crews help clean oil spill in Silverton

JUSTIN MUCH
STAYTON MAIL

Fortunately, a hazardous-material spill is not a frequent occurrence that Silverton Fire District confronts. But when one does occur having the right means to handle it is vital.

The district was reminded of that at around 5:20 p.m. Monday when a call came in from the 800 block of N. First St., Highway 214 near Roth's Market.

Officials said a semi-truck and trailer crash on the major thoroughfare spilled a "large amount" of motor oil into the gutter, and that oil was heading for a waterway catch basin. Firefighters arriving at the scene discovered a heavily damaged semi-truck and roughly fifteen gallons of the heavy black oil oozing down the gutter.

Silverton Fire spokesman Cpt. Ed Grambusch said fire crews were joined by Silverton Police, Oregon Department of Transpor-

tation and the Department of Environmental Quality and worked on the scene for about 3 ½ hours.

Silverton Police Sgt. Josh Barnett said public safety crews installed a detour and had First Street closed for that entire time as well.

Heavy rains complicated the project as crews deployed several absorbent materials and devices, including granules, pads and

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