

Much

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taught first and second grades in Kansas City, Kan., from 1996 through 2000. She said during that time she successfully wrote a grant application to help her school, John F. Kennedy Elementary, get wired with infrastructure to serve a growing phenomenon of the time known as the internet.

She's not in Kansas anymore, but Shelly insists that while you can move the teacher, but you can't remove the teacher within.

"I teach every day," she said. "Maybe not in a classroom, but I teach every day."

A big part of that is learning, and some things she learned helped prompted her to get involved. She points to issues that surfaced in Silverton following the November election and carried connotations of racial tension and bullying. She attended school board meetings following the election as an opportunity to learn.

"That (Silverton incident) made national news; my sister saw it in North Carolina saw it (on the news) and asked me about it," Shelly said. "I said I don't know, but I'm going to find out what's going on...As a lifelong learner, I was sparked by that."

Shelly has also served on Silverton boards and committees involved with the pool, Junior Baseball Organization, youth soccer and, briefly, transportation.

She underscores SFSD priorities for her would be: budgeting/fiscal responsibility; curriculum evaluation and development of education policy; class and school sizes; teacher/staff input; knowledge of local, state and federal changes in K-12 education.

Another student-oriented endeavor to sur-

face at the coffee house is Heather's work, which entails finding host homes for students from France and Spain visiting for a few weeks this summer.

Heather describes American Discovery as an international home-stay organization that partners with several French and Spanish programs that have been bringing families together for the past 25 years. She's working on matching this year's visitors with hosts.

"This summer we've got 20 high school students from France and Spain coming to the Willamette Valley for just 2 1/2 to 3 1/2 weeks, and they're looking for some wonderful families who are willing to open up their hearts and homes for the fun privilege of hosting them," she said, stressing that the experience has traditionally been equally rewarding for hosts and guests alike.

"Hosting is a really great opportunity to get to know someone from another country, find out about their life and their culture, and potentially develop a friendship that could last a lifetime," she added.

The exact dates to host a student from Spain would be from June 28 to July 22; students from France would be from July 31 to Aug. 18.

Heather said no special activities, trips or services are necessary, other than providing transportation to and from Salem on their arrival and departure dates. Hosts do provide meals and a bed or cot for the student.

"These students are mostly interested in becoming a temporary part of (a local) family dynamic, developing their English skills, and learning what it's like to live life in America," she said.

Anyone interested in hosting is encouraged to visit www.americandiscovery.net or contact Heather at 503-999-2386,

Next chat

What: Creekside Chat

Where: Silver Creek Coffee House, 111 Water St., Silverton

When: 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday, April 5 (First and third Wednesdays)

Questions and information: Contact Justin Much, jmuch@StatesmanJournal.com; 503-769-6338, cell 503-508-8157



JUSTIN MUCH | APPEAL TRIBUNE

Silverton Administrative Services Director Dianne Hunt and Silverton Senior Center Executive Director Dodie Brockamp examine a grant release that will enable the center to vote for an expansion of age eligibility.

heather-prince123@gmail.com.

Silverton Senior Center updates

Dodie advised that the center looks forward to hosting "Sharing the Caring," a community resource fair, taking place from 1 to 4 p.m. Friday, March 24, at the center, 115 Westfield St.

What is a resources fair?

Dodie describes it as a gather for providing resources and information on proactive aging. There will be a variety of entities on hand, including representatives from assisted-living facilities, retirement communities, resource guides, caregivers, support services, nursing care, senior services and possibly even alternative medical care options.

"We're all sharing the caring for all of us as we age," Dodie said.

There will also be door prizes and freebies.

The Hawaiian Quilt Show mentioned in a February Creekside Chat

is on schedule for April 17-20, and there are still some spaces available.

Titled "The History, Traditions and Superstitions of Hawaiian Quilts" and presented by the renowned Nancy Lee Chong, this four-day workshop includes an introductory lecture and a swansong Hawaiian luau dinner.

There are options available to attend just a piece of the entire program; the lecture or the luau.

Organizer **Connie Barkley** and Dodie both feel the timing for this type of event is just right as they noted the Oregon Garden's has previously hosted a quilting event that is no longer held. Connie welcome's anyone who would like to learn more about it to contact her at 503-989-1473 or conbrk12@gmail.com.

Keep abreast with Silverton Senior Center activities at silvertonseniorcenter.org or contact 503-873-3093, dodiebrockamp@gmail.com.

Spill

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"pigs."

"We have round, hazardous-material pigs - pigs in a blanket - we use to soak up oil," Grambusch said. "We used about 100 of those white pads, about 180 to 200 pounds of absorbent granules and 36 of those pigs."

Officials stressed that the absorbent materials kept the oil at bay until the business represented by the truck, BrucePac, could engage in a clean-up process. The Oregon Emergency Response System also provided input regarding fire crews, noting that attention to details ensured that additional oil leakage did not occur nor did contamination or damage to the surrounding environment.

The truck driver suffered minor injuries and was treated on scene then transported to Silverton Hospital for further evaluation. Barnett said he was later arrested for reckless driving and DUI.

Grambusch said any leakage or spill situation can potentially jeopardize waterways. This one did not. There was a dicey gear-oil spill in recent years that proved a closer call.

In February of 2014 heavy duty gear oil was discovered in a catch basin, and crews found that it spread through the storm sewer and began entering Silver Creek through a discharge gate.

Fire crews used several absorbent booms and pads to keep that oil from spreading through the water while Public works crews then removed the oil from the catch basin and storm sewer.



SILVERTON FIRE DISTRICT

Silverton Fire District and other public safety crews attend to an oil spill connected with a semi-truck accident.

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Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Church

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being ripped from them by their community church, and a plea to reinstate its Hispanic Ministry's recently uprooted religious director Sister Rocio Moreno Soto.

"This letter is to beg and ask you to open your eyes and heart to the Latino community," wrote a church member and Canby High School student, who makes the 21-mile drive to the Silverton church for confirmation classes every Sunday. "We the Hispanic community has given more than what you think to make this a strong church. Just remember we are stronger united."

In addition, more than 300 church members signed a separate letter that was shared with the Archdiocese of Portland and St. Paul Catholic Church pastoral staff. The letter said canceling Spanish programs is akin to cultural oppression. Two of the nine pastoral council members are Spanish-speaking.

"By forcing us to assimilate to the Caucasian community's language and culture, you are not crafting a single more united community, but instead are widening the gap, which presently, because of the country's turbulent political climate, separates us," said the letter. "This forced 'unity' we feel is an attack on our culture and favoring one community's customs over another."

Lawrence said no decision has been made on the Spanish language classes.

"At present, we are in a period of transition as we work with the Archdiocese to transition that (Hispanic Ministry) program," Lawrence said. "I think it's fair to say that we're going to look at the programs in a long-term and comprehensive manner."

Lawrence would not confirm if this long-term

discussion included the possibility of canceling Spanish programs.

A majority of the roughly 100 letters written by church goers referenced Soto's impact on the Latino community during her 14-year tenure. Members believe Soto was pressured to step down from her role because she did not support the prospective cancellation of Spanish programs.

"We understand that (Sister) Rocio has resigned from her position due to failure to negotiate," said one letter. "She has been committed to this church for years."

More than one letter referred to Soto as the backbone of the Latino community who held the community together with her motivation, inspiration and support.

Deacon Felix Garcia confirmed the Archdiocese received the letter and is reviewing it as a formal complaint. He said, however, that the concerns are an "internal matter" among St. Paul staff, and would not comment on the possibility of the Spanish programs being discontinued.

"We are still in conversation with (Father Lawrence) about the programs and how they can integrate children in Spanish classes to English," Garcia said. "I don't think there is a problem, but there is always room for improvement."

Hispanic Ministry's legacy

The church's Hispanic Ministry program began in 1992 when Father Ed Coleman decided to launch a Spanish Mass every other weekend. The Spanish mass quickly started occurring weekly due to growing membership. Spanish educational programs launched in 1999.

Currently, there are Spanish programs that focus on baptism, first communion, confirmation, classes for new parents and for couples preparing to marry in the church.

Some family church members have taken advantage of the ministry's programs for two generations, including one parent who wrote their children feel unwelcome now that the fate of the Spanish programs is unknown.

"I have been in this parish for 15 years and as I hear what is happening, (it) breaks my heart," said one letter. "I have done classes here and now my children are in the process of doing them as well. They, my kids, feel they are not wanted for being Hispanic and speaking another language."

The Hispanic Ministry's classes have been largely run by Soto since 2003, as the program's religious educator.

Soto left that job in February. There are discrepancies regarding the circumstances of Soto's departure. The church said she resigned from her position after 14 years of teaching religious education, but the Spanish-speaking members said Soto was pressured to leave after not agreeing to the potential cancellation of Spanish classes.

Lawrence said the Soto's departure creates "difficulty in fluidity" in maintaining programs with no leader at the helm.

"I don't want anyone to fall through the cracks or have their program canceled because an employee has left," Lawrence said.

The Archdiocese said Soto was not dismissed by Lawrence or the parish council.

Lawrence said he hopes to maintain these classes and the "status quo" through May. Until then, the church is working with the Archdiocese to maintain the programs with volunteers, but said it will be a slow process to determine the "future of the Hispanic ministry."

The Archdiocese of Portland released a statement stating it denied any allegations of racism, saying the Catholic church has always been dedicated to "walking in faith with our Hispanic broth-

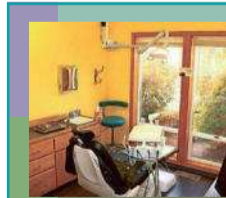
ers and sisters."

The Archdiocese said it is working with the Portland Office of Hispanic Ministries, the Office of the Catechesis and Faith Formation to work with St. Paul Catholic Church staff to "discover new and better ways of serving the Spanish-speaking community in Silverton."

Although there are discrepancies within the church community regarding the future of the Hispanic Ministry and its Spanish programs, members of the church reminded Lawrence of the impact of the Latino community's decades-long commitment to the church.

Some letters inform the church of the decades spent worshipping in the Silverton church, others wrote about their children's experience learning in the Spanish programs, but many of the pleas were wrapped up with a parting thought:

"Que dios te vendiga hoy y siempre." May God bless you now and always.



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