

# Appeal Tribune

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## Four challengers for school board seats

**CHRISTENA BROOKS**  
SPECIAL TO THE APPEAL TRIBUNE

Three incumbent Silver Falls School District board members are facing challengers in the upcoming May election.

In the Silver Falls district, candidates must live within the area they represent, but voters get a vote in each of the open races, regardless of where they live.

A look at the races:

### Zone 4: Southwest District



Lierman

Board for two years before it, and a

**Wally Lierman, 55,** is the longest-running member of the school board as a 20-year member. In fact, his school board experience precedes the Silver Falls School District itself. He was a member of the Central Howell School

handful of other local schools, were required by the state of Oregon to unify with the high school. He ran for election onto the newly unified board and been a part of it ever since.

Currently board chairman, Lierman is a fiscal conservative who's encouraged the district to go that way, ranging from holding back 10 percent of its budget for emergencies to using newer portions of the old high school to house middle schoolers when voters panned a bond

to fund new construction. He said a board member's role is to "budget, set goals and policies, participate in collective bargaining, and hire and evaluate the superintendent," and he attempts to work within that role.

Lierman is the married father of four grown children; one is a teacher in the district. He recently retired from a 32-year career as a project manager for In-

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PHOTOS SPECIAL TO THE APPEAL TRIBUNE

Silverton High School is one of seven high schools among 55 teams nationwide where students are building high-altitude balloon systems to launch on the day of the solar eclipse, Aug. 21. Pictured are members of the school's build team and journalism team.

## SKY IS THE LIMIT

### Silverton students work on NASA project

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SILVERTON - The NCAA basketball tournament is playing on the big screen, boxes of pizza steam on the table, and children are chasing balls out in the hall.

In teacher Creighton Helms' high school classroom, it looks, sounds and even smells like March Madness on this rainy Saturday, but the main event here is the jumpstart of a real-life NASA-sponsored science project.

Silverton High School is one of seven high schools among 55 teams nationwide where students are building high-altitude balloon systems to launch on the day of the solar eclipse, Aug. 21. They'll film the historic event from roughly 90,000 feet, an altitude where the darkness of space and the curvature of the earth are visible.

NASA will stitch together live-

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Junior Jason Orr is on Silverton High School's build team.

## Mt. Angel recognizes volunteers at banquet

### Chamber celebrates their contributions

**CHRISTENA BROOKS**  
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MT. ANGEL - Four individuals and one business received the community's top honors at Mt. Angel's annual First Citizen Award Banquet last week.

Lori Pavlicek, Ryan Kleinschmidt, Randy Wavra, Kathy Wall and Columbia Bank were all recognized by the Mt. Angel Chamber of Commerce for their contributions to the community in 2016. They received awards at a banquet at the Festhalle on March 20.

As Mt. Angel's First Citizen, Lori Pavlicek was honored for serving 18 years on the Oktoberfest Board of Directors, as well as being president of the Mt. Angel Community Foundation, secretary for the Providence Benedictine Nursing Center Board and an active member of St. Mary's Catholic Church.

Volunteer of the Year Ryan Kleinschmidt was commended for serving as a volunteer firefighter for 23 years, chairing the city's planning commission, participating on the high school football team's "chain gang," and coaching baseball, basketball and football coach for many years.

Randy Wavra received the Distinguished Service Award for chairing the Farmers Auction that raised money for the Festhalle, serving 20 years as a volunteer firefighter, 16 years on the Oktoberfest Board and many others as a festival volunteer.

He's part of the Knights of Columbus serves the homeless every Thanksgiving.

The Distinguished Service award went to Kathy Wall for planning and promoting community events. She volunteers at Mt. Angel Senior Center, is chamber treasurer, chair of Wurstfest and a regular volunteer at Oktoberfest and Hazelnut Festival. She has also been a Meals on Wheels driver.

Columbia Bank is Business of the Year. Branch Manager Kristi Brackinreed received the award, recognizing her and the bank for its many contributions of time and money to the community.

She sits on a wide variety of clubs and boards in Mt. Angel including the chamber and Lion's Club.

The bank sponsors Oktoberfest and the Father Bernard Youth Center Auction and supports the library and St. Joseph's Shelter with money and supplies.

## SACA secures new executive director

**CHRISTENA BROOKS**  
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Sarah DeSantis is the new executive director of Silverton Area Community Aid (SACA).

"The board is pleased with Sarah's advocacy and communication skills," said SACA Board President Andy Bellando. "She has a passion for ser-



DeSantis

vice, non-profit work and will be a great fit for our community."

DeSantis grew up in Silverton and has worked in human services, project management and education. She is also partners with new

City Councilor Matt Plummer.

In its selection process, SACA's board interviewed multiple candidates before selecting DeSantis for the job, Bellando said. She'll start in mid-April. SACA's main mission is to provide food items to low-income families and individuals, as well as those in crisis, who

live in the Silver Falls School District.

It operates out of the basement of Silverton's Community Building on Water Street. In addition to help with food, it also offers limited emergency financial assistance, gas vouchers and prescription medication assistance.

Online at [SilvertonAppeal.com](http://SilvertonAppeal.com)

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Silverton Business of the Year 2016

**Top 3 Selling Agents for February!**

**#1 Mike Gerig** **SOLD**  
503-510-5041  
Immaculate!  
Backs to Eyre Elementary - Near Santiam Park!  
2 units - 2bd/1ba ea. - 960 SqFt ea. - 24 ac  
MLS#704889 Salem \$242,000

**SOLD #2 Donna Paradis**  
503-851-0998  
Picturesque Farm!  
Versatile Small Acreage, setup for Livestock!  
3bd/2.5ba - 1597 SqFt - 3.2 Acres  
MLS#707173 Silverton \$366,000

**#3 Nick Ayhan** **SOLD**  
503-314-1651  
Great Location!  
Awesome Updated! Near Pool, Park, Downtown!  
2bd/1ba - 1326 SqFt - 15 ac  
MLS#708926 Silverton \$219,500

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