

# Appeal Tribune

50 CENTS • VOL. 136, No. 16

SILVERTONAPPEAL.COM

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5, 2017

## Cherriots unveils bus route changes

ANNETTE UTZ  
SPECIAL TO THE STAYTON MAIL

On Jan. 26, the Cherriots Board of Directors approved a restructuring plan of its CARTS service, which will now be referred to as Cherriots Regional. After 20 months of research and public outreach, the service changes have been finalized and are to take effect May 8.

According to Cherriots Director of Communication Patricia Feeny, outreach for the draft plan included 12 events, riding the CARTS buses, and conducting online outreach in order to get the word out about the proposal. For direct input, Cherriots staff spoke with approximately 650 people and received over 300 written comments. Changes are related to specific

routes, and fares will not be affected. In the East Valley, flex routes will be eliminated, meaning that buses will adhere to a regular schedule and passengers will no longer be able to request stops closer to their destination or to "flag" stops.

Stayton area residents will see an increase to four daily round trips to Salem. Route 30X will include Stayton, Sublimity, Aumsville and Turner. Twice daily service will extend further east to include Gates, Mill City, Lyons and Mehma. Route 35, a flex-ride schedule, will be discontinued.

In the Silverton area, Route 25 will be replaced by Route 20X running between Woodburn, Mt. Angel, Silverton and Sa-

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CHERRIOTS / SPECIAL TO THE STAYTON MAIL

Cherriots CARTS route changes will take effect on May 8.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF U.S. FOREST SERVICE

Access to popular Three Pools Recreation Area, on the Little North Santiam River, will be limited by the Forest Service.

## Campsite crackdown Feds propose alcohol ban and other rules

ZACH URNESS  
STATESMAN JOURNAL

Once upon a time, Three Pools Recreation Site was a little-known swimming hole tucked away in mossy forest northeast of Mehma.

But during the past five years — and especially the past two summers — the emerald pools have been overrun by growing crowds and marred by trash, vandalism and drunken behavior.

"On those really hot days, it basically becomes a booze-infested party zone," said Josh Weathers, developed recreation manager for Willamette National Forest. "Crowds have doubled there since 2014. It puts tremendous pressure on this fragile, natural environment."

While Three Pools has become the poster child for overcrowding, several other sites, including Opal Creek Trail, Elk Lake and the Breitenbush River have faced similar problems, said Weathers.

Now Forest Service officials are proposing a series of new regulations aimed reducing damage to some of the most beloved places in the Opal Creek and Detroit areas.

The steps include an alcohol and campfire ban in certain areas, along with increased restrictions on where people can camp. Fines for breaking the rules would run from \$50 to \$250 per citation.

The Forest Service is inviting public comment on the proposals from April 3 to 14. Comments can be logged online at: [management.org/Public/](http://management.org/Public/)

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Trash is an issue in the Opal Creek and Little North Santiam Area.

## Man given 22.5 years in abuse, porn case

His arrest came after 18-month investigation

WHITNEY M. WOODWORTH  
STATESMAN JOURNAL

A Marion County man was sentenced to 22 years and six months in prison after he pleaded guilty to seven child pornography and sexual abuse charges.

Ronald Heigh, 50, was arrested by Silverton police in September on seven counts of encouraging child sexual abuse. He was later indicted by a Marion County jury on additional charges.

A warrant was issued for his arrest in September, and he was detained by Silverton police the next day, taken to Marion County jail and held on \$120,000 bail.

His arrest came almost 18 months after Silverton police began investigating him, officials said. According to court records, agents with the Oregon Department of Justice were also involved in the investigation.

According to court records, Heigh was accused of sexually abusing and sodomizing a boy under the age of 12 between 2008 and 2009. He also allegedly sexually abused a girl under the age of 14 between 2011 and 2013.

Heigh pleaded guilty to three counts of first-degree encouraging child sexual abuse, second-degree sodomy and three counts of first-degree sexual abuse.

In his plea petition, he admitted to sexually abusing and assaulting two children as well as "duplicating at least three visual recordings of sexually explicit conduct involving a child and child abuse."

On Monday, Heigh was sentenced to 75 months each for the sexual abuse and sodomy charges and 45 months each for the child pornography charges.

Some sentences will run concurrently, giving Heigh a total prison sentence of 22 years and six months. He will be required to register as a sex offender upon his release.

For questions, comments and news tips, email reporter Whitney Woodworth at [wmwoodwort@statesmanjournal.com](mailto:wmwoodwort@statesmanjournal.com), call 503-399-6884 or follow on Twitter @wmwoodworth



Heigh

## New middle school principal selected

APPEAL TRIBUNE

Brett Davisson has been selected as the new principal for Silverton Middle School, pending School Board approval on April 10. He will begin in August.

Davisson returns to Silver Falls School Dis-

trict after spending the past three years as assistant principal at West Albany High School. Before that, he was a teacher in the North Santiam, Salem-Keizer and Silver Falls School Districts spending most of his teaching career at Silverton High School. He also served as

principal of Evergreen School for one year and completed a variety of administrative tasks in Silver Falls including an interim principal position at Robert Frost School.

According to Superintendent Andy Bellando, "Davisson brings a wealth of experience and knowl-

edge to this position, especially in the areas of special education, technology, student support programs, instructional leadership, curriculum and staff development. He is excited to begin this new chapter in his professional career."

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

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