

# Silverton Seniors set their April highlights

JUSTIN MUCH  
STAYTON MAIL

There's a host of quilting and a hefty breakfast on Silverton's horizon in April.

Silverton Senior Center will be hosting a mid-month, four-day Hawaiian quilting workshop, but the center's Executive Director Dodie Brokamp reminds people who may not have time to attend a 4-day event that an evening option is available. "The History, Traditions & Superstitions of Hawaiian Quilts" is the topic at 6 p.m. Monday, April 17, in the Orchid Room at the Oregon

Garden Resort. Cost is \$10 and includes door prizes. Tickets are still available; inquire at the Silverton Senior Center 503-873-3093, 115 Westfield St.

Silverton Seniors will also host the "Community Pancake Breakfast," 8 to 10:30 a.m. Saturday, April 29. That's an all-you-can-eat feast of pancakes, but also includes sides of scrambled eggs, sausage, fruit and beverages. Cost is \$5; 12 and under \$3; children younger than 4 eat free.

Brokamp dubs it "A delicious way to show your support" for the Silverton Senior Center.

## Appeal Tribune

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## OBITUARIES

### Mary Jane Worthing

May 24, 1938 — March 29, 2017

Mary Jane Worthing, 78, passed away March 29 in Silverton.

She was born May 24, 1938, to Harvey and Cora (Randall) Trainer in Atchinson, Kansas. She was one of six children. Mary grew up in Kansas, and moved to California at the age of 16. She graduated high school in California. She later met Richard Calvin Worthing, and

they were married March 16, 1957. They had three children.

Mary enjoyed shopping, and going to garage sales and the beach. She loved her family and dogs very much.

Mary is preceded in death by her husband and daughter, Debbie Worthing.

She is survived by daughter Kathleen Worthing of Silverton; son Ron Worthing of Mt. Angel; sister Katherine Jaspersen of Belle, Missouri;

grandchildren Jessica Impcoven and Trevor Worthing; and three great-grandchildren.

A celebration of Mary's life will be held at a later time.

Arrangements by Unger Funeral Chapel, Silverton

### Obituary Policy

Free obituaries run on a space-available, first-come, first-serve basis, and are subject to editing. Maximum length is 250

words. Photos may be submitted, but are not guaranteed to be published.

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# Education bills at the Capitol

NATALIE PATE

STATESMAN JOURNAL

As Oregon Promise bills make progress, budget negotiations still have months to go and bills about vaccination, college mergers and civics appear stalled.

Nearly three months into the 2017 session of the Oregon Legislature, senators and representatives have held public hearings and work sessions for dozens of bills concerning education.

Vaccinations, state funding, and civics education are only a few of multiple topics broached so far.

The deadline for bills to have a work session scheduled or die is April 7. Lawmakers are working to make sure their bills are among those that survive.

Meanwhile, more substantive legislation is making its way to the House and Senate floors.

Here are some of the education highlights of the session thus far and a look ahead into the remaining months of the session.

### Debate on vaccinations

After a one-year hiatus in the legislature, three bills concerning vaccinations were presented in February this year.

Senate Bill 579 addresses consent required before administering vaccinations, Senate Bill 580 would require a written notice of vaccinations, and Senate Bill 687 would clarify the definition "abuse" so that it cannot include refusal to vaccinate or delaying the vaccination of a child.

Proponents considered these bills as "necessary steps to protect the rights of parents (and their families)," said Bob Snee, director and legislative policy consultant for Oregonians for Medical Freedom, a coalition that supports parents' rights to not have their children vaccinated.

However, vaccine advocates such as Stacy de Assis Matthews of the Oregon Health Authority said, "Immunization is the best way to protect children against vaccine-preventable diseases such as whooping cough and measles ... It helps keep schools and the entire community safe and healthy."

None of the three bills have made it past public hearings and there are no meetings or floor sessions scheduled at this time.

### Merging colleges and universities

Senate Bill 8, which was presented to the legislature in February, would allow community colleges and public universities to merge into one institution.

Oregon Senate President Peter Courtney, D-Salem, who testified at the public hearing on the bill, said the bill would provide more options for students at a lower cost.

"The two institutions could be leaner and stronger," he said.

Should the bill pass, community colleges and public universities interested in merging would submit a proposal to Higher Education Coordinating Commission for approval. If the commission approves the merger, the commission would



COURTESY OF THE OFFICE OF GOVERNOR KATE BROWN

Loving Beginnings was the first site in Oregon to implement the Preschool Promise program, which will help 1300 kids statewide.

submit a report on the merger to the Legislature.

The institutions submitting a proposal for the merger would have to explain how the combined institution would address things such as financial and legal procedures, the transfer of employees, combining a budget, and what academic programs would be offered.

However, some are hesitant this might actually be harder on students, especially students with lower grades.

Senate Bill 8 has not made it past public hearings and there are no meetings or floor sessions scheduled at this time.

### Civics education for graduation

In February, educators and legislators spoke about the importance of civics education and proposed the state require a certain level of proficiency in the subject for students to graduate high school.

If passed, House Bill 2691 would require school districts or public charter schools to only award a high school diploma to a student, at or before grade 12, who completes the requirements identified by the school district.

This could include successful completion of a course in civics, a passing grade on a civics test selected by the school district or a passing grade on a civics test developed by the Department of Education and the Secretary of State, according to the bill.

"For all the best intentions, we have prioritized other academic disciplines too often at the expense of civics," said Representative Paul Evans (D-Monmouth) in his testimony. "This was not purposeful, but it does have a consequence."

The bill has not made it past public hearings and there are no meetings or floor sessions scheduled at this time.

### Oregon Promise

More Oregon students are considering and attending college, particularly first-generation students, since the implementation of Oregon Promise.

Oregon Promise is a state grant program that covers most tuition at Oregon community colleges. Nearly 6,800 recent high school graduates and students who completed a GED enrolled using the program this year. An estimated 44 percent of Oregon Promise recipients were first-genera-

tion college students. More than 19,000 people in the state applied, said Michelle Hodara, the lead researcher on a study about the program by Education Northwest.

Currently, the state can only allocate \$10 million for the Oregon Promise program per fiscal year during the biennium ending June 30, 2017. If the cap is not removed, proponents of Senate Bill 55 and Senate Bill 1032, both of which amend the cap, said the program will not be able to fund both this year's students as well as next year's.

Senate Bill 55 has been signed by both the Senate President and the Speaker of the House. It is awaiting a signature from the Governor.

The Senate Committee on Education will have a work session on SB 1032 in Hearing Room C on 3 p.m. Tuesday, April 4.

### The fight for funding

Throughout March advocates for boosting education funding from the state have put pressure on the legislature.

The current K-12 state budget is \$7.4 billion. While proposed budgets for the upcoming biennium — including the co-chairs budget of \$7.8 billion, the Governor's budget of \$8 billion, and the Quality Education Model projections of \$9.9 billion — would maintain current services for K-12 education, and in some cases expand services, it isn't clear how much the legislature will approve or exactly how it will be used.

The Oregon School Boards Association used poll results to push for more funding. More than 90 percent of Oregonians see K-12 public education as a top funding priority facing the state legislature and more than 60 percent support raising business taxes to avoid cutting school budgets, according to the poll.

The state is currently facing a \$1.6 billion budget shortfall for the 2017-19 biennium.

Senate Republicans also sponsored an "Education First" package, consisting of two joint resolutions. Senate Joint Resolutions 18 and 20 seek to prioritize education funding in the state budget and hold elected officials accountable for the expediency of the budget.

Neither of the joint resolutions has moved past public hearings and there are no meetings or floor sessions scheduled at this time.

Additionally, educators, students, and other

advocates used this week as the perfect time to visit the Capitol to talk about state funding.

Oregon Education Association representatives and supporters talked about large class sizes, staff cuts and the lack of resources for students due to funding on Monday, March 27, the first official day of spring break.

The legislature has to have a balanced budget passed by June 30.

**By the numbers**

» Current K-12 budget: \$7.4 billion

» Co-chairmen's 2017-2019 budget proposal: \$7.8 billion

» Governor's 2017-19 budget proposal: \$8.0 billion\*

» OASBO service level estimate: \$8.4 billion

» QEM budget proposal: \$9.9 billion

\*This is supposed to maintain current levels of teachers and programs.

### Other bills

In addition to the above bills, the Oregon Legislature has considering many other ideas, including:

**Senate Committee on Education:**

» SB 20: Updates references to federal education law to reflect the passage of Every Student Succeeds Act.

» SB 55, SB 1032: Amends Oregon Promise program to remove the prohibition on awarding more than \$10 million in grants per fiscal year.

» SB 138: Requires Department of Education and Higher Education Coordinating Commission to establish career and technical education pathways.

» SB 207: Requires each public university and community college to provide credit to students who receive certain grades on advanced placement examinations.

» SB 318: Directs Department of Education to provide technical assistance and support to school districts and community colleges to prevent and respond to interpersonal violence.

» SB 351: Directs Secretary of State to conduct an audit on the use of statewide summative assessment in public schools in this state.

For more information, go to [www.oregon.gov](http://www.oregon.gov) or call 1-800-332-2313.

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