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Appeal Tribune

Silver Falls challengers running strong

JUSTIN MUCH
STAYTON MAIL

In one of the most highly-contested school board races of the region, Silver Falls School District Board appears to be headed toward some changes if Tuesday's returns from the Marion County Election Clerk's Office hold to their trend.

Two new candidates, Jennifer Traeger and Shelly Nealon held leads over their incumbent opponents; Traeger had a fairly comfortable lead.

Incumbent Ervin Stadeli maintained a steady lead over challenger Michele Stone-Finicle.

The race featured challenges to all three incumbents (two in Zone 4), and in one form or another, each challenger's resume included a background in education.

Traeger, 42, is an elementary school teacher in Woodburn with strong ties to Silverton's Montessori community. Lierman, 55, has served 20 years on the board.

Nealon, 45, is co-owner of Nealon Medical Properties in Silverton. The Midwest native spent five years as a teacher and has a wealth of school-related volunteer experience.

Koch, 39, is the board's current vice chairman after securing a vacant seat in 2015.

Stadeli, 54, is a longtime Silverton resident who has service on the Silver Falls School District board for eight years.

Stone-Finicle, 41, is the development director for NWV Habitat for Humanity and taught high-school English in Tillamook.

This race took on an intriguing complexion with the addition of a newly-formed political action committee, Silverton Opportunity, which on its website described its mission as one supporting "Silverton area women in their efforts to strengthen our community and its families through leadership and involvement. We support women through fundraising, grants, outreach, and education." The PAC actively supported Nealon, Stone-Finicle and Traeger.

Verified final results for the school district seat, and other close races around the region, will not be official until June. Marion County Clerk Bill Burgess said votes can filter in throughout May from a variety of sources.

"We will certify this election by June 5," Burgess said on Thursday. "Voters who forgot to sign their ballot-return envelope or who's signature did not match have until 5 p.m. on May 30 to come into our office and resolve their signature issue. Then we will open the ballot envelopes that

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CREEKSIDE CHAT




Participants fish from the dock during Free Fish Day on June 4, 2016, at the Silverton Reservoir.

PHOTOS BY DANIELLE PETERSON / STATESMAN JOURNAL

Reeling in family fun

Silverton's Free Fish Day to return June 3



JUSTIN MUCH

That first fish of the day caught a year ago at the Silverton Reservoir deserved a certificate.

Free Fish Day 2016 coincided with unseasonable, blistering-hot temperatures, **Jan Holowati** said, which crimped the annual event's turnout somewhat; lots of folks were heading to the coast or to cooler high grounds.

But "a little girl with a little Barbie pole," was undeterred, Jan recalled. The pole bowed with the strike, and the youngster reeled in a nice prize and lifetime memory in the process.

"It was a really nice fish – a nice trout," Jan said, adding that the first fish caught is among the handful of certificates provided at the

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Nick Robinson helps Skip Bouskill fish during Free Fish Day in 2011.

Chaplains provide hope for patients

CHRISTENA BROOKS
SPECIAL TO THE APPEAL TRIBUNE

Maybe it's the little room's uncommonly loud air conditioning. Or the torch-like lamps glowing on the table that holds the Bible, Torah and Quran. Or the bubbling waterfall and shrubbery that blocks the outside view to the parking lot. But the chapel at Legacy Silverton Medical Center is a cocoon of quiet inside a busy hospital, a place where time seems to stand still.

Anyone seeking a moment of peace can step inside. For those who can't – or don't – a team of chaplains takes spiritual care out into the hospital's halls, rooms and offices. Four chaplains, mainly volunteers, provide 24-7 coverage for patients, their families and staff.

"Our goal is to meet people's spiritual needs and offer them spiritual hope in times of crisis and stress," said Betty Jo Steele, coordinator of Silverton's chaplains.

They are Quaker, Baptist and Catholic. Among their collective qualifications are several master's degrees and pastoral ordinations, crisis training, past medical careers, and hours of hands-on service at the hospital. Steele is a part-time employee, while Harold "H" Nelson, Barbara Harrend and Don Murdy are volunteers.

"It's pretty amazing what they do," said Dr. Keith Haugen, Legacy Silverton's hospitalist. "They support and serve everybody, not just the patients. Those of us on the front lines don't always have the expertise or emotional space at the moment when it's critical to sit down with people."

Both Steele and Nelson know what it feels like to be in a moment of desperate medical need, with life-and-death thoughts and questions dominating their consciousness.

Nelson calls it a "holy moment," a time of desperation where "God can meet you," he said. "People never leave the hospital the same way they came in – and I don't just mean medically."

For Steele, the moment was when her young son was being wheeled away for a major operation. In the waiting room, a local pastor asked, "Are you OK?" and she knew she wasn't. For Nelson, it was discovering, just a few years ago, that he had a brain tumor and other complications from his exposure to Agent Orange in the Vietnam War.

"You're scared and exposed," Nelson said.

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Lockett named Silverton High principal

JUSTIN MUCH
APPEAL TRIBUNE

Silver Falls School District announced that Silverton High School Assistant Principal/Athletic Director Wade Lockett has been named as the school's new principal.

Lockett will replace Justin Lieuallen who submitted his resignation to the SFSD Board March 13 with the intention of serving through the end of the school year, which was his first year in the position.

A district news release said Lockett brings more than 16 years of public education experience to the post. He previously served as a vice principal, athletic director and teacher in the Oregon Trail and North Marion school districts in addition to coaching athletics, mock trial and serving as a National Honor Society advisor.

District officials stressed that Lockett's experiences weave well with his new position.

"Mr. Lockett lets his students and colleagues know that they are his highest priority," said Silver Falls School District Superintendent Andy Bellando. "He has strong skills in building and maintaining relation-

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