Shelter

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funded and, for fiscal year 2016-17, had a budget of more than \$1.3 million.

Over the past year, a shelter manager with no experience at dog shelters was hired and subsequently fired, a position focused on coordinating volunteers was left vacant for nearly six months and conflict between paid and unpaid staff grew to the point of protests.

The shelter manager, Dean Freeze, was ousted in late June. He was the first to occupy the position when he was hired in August 2016.

Volunteers said that relations deteriorated under his management.

Tamra Goettsch, community services director at Marion County, acknowledged that part of the issue may have been that Freeze lacked shelter experience prior to being hired, although she said that wasn't the primary reason for his firing. Goettsch said his release was not disciplinary, but that he just wasn't a good fit.

"It could've been that somebody who had shelwould experience ter have the same issues," said Goettsch. "I don't believe it to be a Dean issue. It's just a communication issue.

Dahl said that Freeze often didn't seem to want to be around the dogs.



Marion County Dog Shelter volunteer Sandy Weaver walks three-year-old Elsa on Tuesday

against him," said Dahl. 'He's not into dogs at all.' Freeze couldn't be

experience is "at the top of the list" in the hiring of a new manager. Although the position's online description lists that experience as a preference and not а requirement, Goettsch "That said, doesn't mean it won't be required."

Freeze's hiring, In Goettsch solicited input

two finalists had a majority approval among staff, but said neither candidate was a unanimous choice.

According to Schachtsick, the majority was

"It was not a good hire. He was not a right fit,' said Schachtsick. "I will tell you that every volunteer but one was in on the interview process and everv volunteer but one voted for the other guy, and not for Freeze."

What volunteers and shelter representatives agree on is that there was a serious communication problem. Volunteers also claim to have been left out of the loop when it comes to dogs being euthanized, as well as other duties performed by paid employees.

"We have all seen dogs disappear, and we know they were killed," said Schachtsick. "We don't get that information.'

Goettsch said that there is no reason volunteers shouldn't have access to this information. 'We're government, we need to be transparent," she said.

But Dahl agreed with Schachtsick, saying that employees at the front desk were friendly until she began asking more questions about euthanasia decisions. She said that the process of assessing the "adoptability" of dogs seemed to be an arbitrary process.

"It was heartbreaking. There were some top-quality dogs," she said. "And then boom, they were gone quicker than I could blink."

Dahl said later when she asked about assessment practices or specific dogs, employees told her, "We've been instructed teers' questions any-more." not to answer the volunhind the scenes to determine a dog's health. She said she would never tell employees not to communicate with volunteers, but acknowledged that information sharing had to be streamlined.

"It's hard to say how communication happens, not being there and not hearing that directly," said Goettsch. "I have told staff that in complicated cases, or in cases where you don't know information, we need to have a single point of contact.'

Goettsch said that they've added a white board in the volunteer area, which may be used to make announcements in the future, saying it is a "communication tool that we're looking to implement."

But volunteers argue that, despite their necessity to the functions of the shelter, their input isn't wanted.

Besides Freeze's hire, volunteers said their opinions were left out of major policy decisions at the shelter, including a recent change in dog walking protocol, which blindsided Schachtsick and resulted in his departure.

"It didn't go over good with me," said Schacht-sick, who was asked not to return after getting into a dispute with employees over the policy. New training was required, even for volunteers who had long been walking the most unstable dogs.

"Not every person is a fit for a volunteer situation," said Goettsch. "It is a balancing act.'

The core group of volunteers is made up of 15 to 20 members, while the paid staff will be 12, once a new manager is hired.

Shelter management acknowledged that part of the issue with communication may have been the absence of a program specialist, a position which focuses on volunteer management and was left vacant from February until mid-July for budgetary reasons.

"With any change, I think there is some bumpiness in communication. said Allison Barrows, shelter operations lead.

Goettsch and Barrows both said that a good shelter manager hire and the recent filling of the prospecialist gram role should improve communication. Goettsch said she appreciates when volunteers raise concerns.

One of the things I love about the volunteers is that they're alwavs challenging us to be thinking beyond what we're

CPR

Continued from Page 1A

hands and began compressions, stopping to breathe into her lungs. Muscle memory took over; he'd practiced the movements hundreds of times on dummies.

"Doing that repetition over the years was super helpful," he said. "I knew what to do."

Five minutes after Brad called 911, Silverton Police Officer Bryce Mintz arrived, running into the house from the snow, carrying an automated external defibrillator, or AED. Every patrol car in the fleet carries one, and all Silverton officers have CPR training, said Capt. Jim Anglemier.

'CPR is a lifesaving skill all should learn," he said. "With a society as mobile and active as ours, a heart attack victim could be miles, if not hours away from medical help. A person trained in CPR gives a heart attack victim a fighting chance to survive."

Over the last two years, Anglemier recalls the department's officers using AED technology a dozen times, with about 60 percent of patients regaining a pulse. That includes both heart attack and cardiac arrest patients, although the two conditions are vastly different.

A heart attack occurs when blood flow to the heart is blocked; symptoms can go on for hours, days or even weeks, and the heart usually does not stop beating entirely. A sudden cardiac arrest is an electrical malfunction that shuts down a body's systems instantaneously and leads to death within minutes.

Outside a hospital, away from emergency services, it's nearly impossible to survive cardiac arrest and those who do often suffer brain damage. About 350,000 out-of-hospital cardiac arrests occur in the United States each year, according to the American Heart Association.

"I knew about heart attacks, but I didn't know much about cardiac arrest," Stacey said. "It was off my radar; I had no clue.'

As it turns out, Stacey has an enlarged heart, due, she expects, to the potent chemotherapy drug she took to fight non-Hodgkin's lymphoma in her 30s. Last summer, she learned her heart was compromised, but she didn't know she was in danger of cardiac arrest. She worked out the gym almost every day, ate well and had clear arteries.

She has no memory of the days leading up to or immediately following Dec. 15.

After Stacey received CPR from her husband, Officer Mintz used the AED unit to shock her heart twice, and it restarted. She was transported by ambulance to Legacy Silverton Medical Center and then to Salem Hospital, where she stayed for eight days and received an internal cardiac defibrillator via surgery. The ICD is programmed to shock her heart back into rhythm if it starts beating irregularly again.

"It gives me some security," she said.

Stacey has learned her heart is functioning at half-capacity, so she is adopting a new lifestyle. Among the changes, she's cranked-back her exercise routine, vastly cut her sodium intake and searched for ways to relax when she'd rather be on the go.

'It's hard to slow down now ... I still do everything I did before but just modified," she said.

To the observer, she hasn't suffered noticeable brain damage, although doctors told her it will take up to two years for her brain to recover.

As her memory and strength came back in the weeks following the cardiac arrest, she struggled with mental exhaustion, especially when calculating numbers. Now she's back at work for her family's insurance company in Lake Oswego part-time, taking up her life again, just at a slower pace.

"The whole thing was just surreal, but mostly I just feel blessed," she said. "CPR literally saved my life.'





"[He] definitely didn't want to get dirty, didn't want the dogs to rub The support you need to find quality

reached for comment on this story. Goettsch said shelter

clear.

from volunteers.

"They were involved at all stages of the public process," she said. "Ulti-mately I make that decision, but (volunteers) definitely had a weight factor in there." She said she didn't recall which of the

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Goettsch said that volunteers didn't see a lot of what was happening be-

currently doing," said.

Bond

Continued from Page 1A

tests and at the end, the doctors concluded that Lindsey was mildly mentally retarded - a phrase that thankfully is not used anymore - and from an unidentifiable syndrome. They said she had a short in her neurological system and would never process information the same as her peers.'

Linda spoke about recently picking up a friend at the airport who mentioned that Lindsey was "the most difficult special needs person she's ever met."

"You'd think it was an insult but I was relieved," Linda said. "I'm not a perfect mom and have made some mistakes but I do the best I can. Lindsey is on the autism spectrum and can be very combative and headstrong. But she's also always been very passionate and driven and the sweetest, kindest person. When she was 16, she 'adopted' two girls from the Philippines Children International and she has adopted two cats. These are her 'kids.'"

Linda noted that she didn't realize at first that Silverton was the perfect place to raise her daughter as it is such an open and accepting town, and embraces diversity. Lindsey has had opportunities for new experiences and has made many new friends. She has never been made to feel like an outcast, according to Linda

she

Lindsev was aware her mother was writing the

book and explains to peo-

ple, "My mom is telling

the good, the bad and the

ugly." But she told Linda,

"As long as you tell the

truth, I guess it's all right

because I'm pretty darn

both a number of those hu-

morous incidences but

also the more exhausting

times, such as when, at

age 20, Lindsey ran away

for over four years with a

man more than twice her

age. "It's really all about the

ships between mothers

and daughters and how do

you find an acceptance on

both parts?" Linda said. "It's also about how it has

(John) and son (Michael).

And it's not just a story

about special needs chil-

dren. As society changes,

it's becoming difficult for

sey, 'You can choose to be

happy or you can choose

to be sad' and she throws

it right back in my face.

Sometimes I've chosen to

be frustrated and sad but

working on a piece that

ties in with the calligra-

phy "Mothers hold their

children's hands for a

short while but their hearts forever."

With a lump in her throat, she said, "There's

a sadness in me and a

sense of loss that my child

will never be the grown-

up I imagined her to be. To some degree, I will be holding her hand for the

rest of our lives.'

Right now, Linda is

we keep going on.'

"I used to say to Lind-

relation-

husband

complicated

affected my

everyone.

The memoir includes

funny.'

COURTESY OF THE MCINNES FAMILY Stacey McInnes and her grown children.

Appeal Tribune

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