

Silverton's Town Square Park builds a pole for peace

CHRISTENA BROOKS
SPECIAL TO THE APPEAL TRIBUNE

Silverton's Town Square Park has joined more than 130 locations in

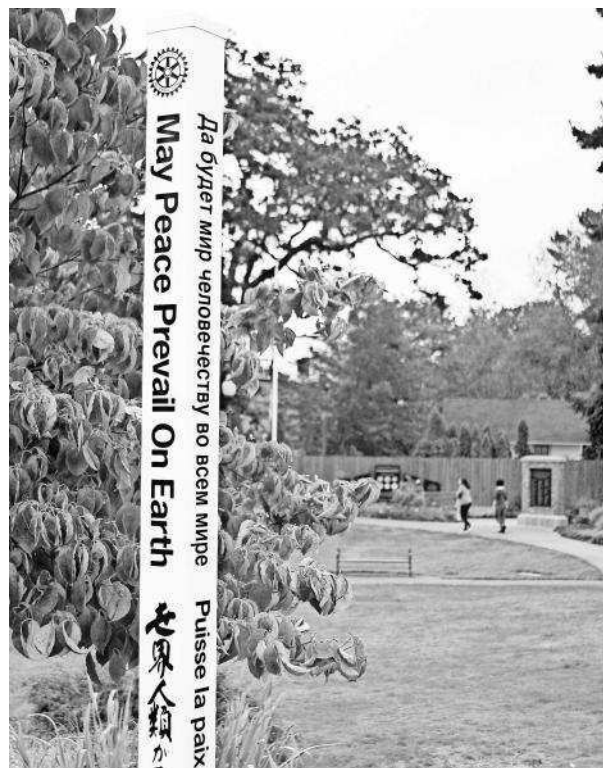
this part of the Pacific Northwest to be the site of a "peace pole."

About 50 people gathered at the park along the banks of Silver Creek on Sept. 19 to watch Silverton Rotary Club representatives unwrap the pole and its message of peace written in eight languages. The words, "May Peace Prevail on Earth," are prominently displayed in English, Spanish, German, Russian, Norwegian, French Japanese and Chinese.

"We talked about the languages that people in this community know," said Rotary President Cindy Jones. "We tried to pick languages that we've heard over the years... we hope we didn't leave any out."

Rotary International's District 5100 challenged clubs in northern Oregon and southwestern Washington to install 100 peace poles, and now there are already more than 130, Jones said. Some communities have more than one.

Installing a "peace pole" is another way to promote worldwide harmony, which Rotary members try to achieve "one small step at a time," Jones said, through efforts such as the organization's famous exchange student program, college scholarships, and a nearly



Silverton's newly installed peace pole. CHRISTENA BROOKS / SPECIAL TO THE APPEAL TRIBUNE

No, he said, explaining, "I have to believe that - reality non-withstanding - each of us would prefer a world free of war where peace is the rule rather than the exception."

"I think it's an important community statement, especially during these times, that the citizens of Silverton value peace and security in our world," Palmer added.

Town Square Park seemed a natural location for the pole because the land is publicly owned visible and the site of 15 years of regular vigils by Silverton People for Peace. The group, which meets there on the last Monday of every month, has no official connection to the project, but its members were happy to see the pole go up.

"We're delighted that Rotary did this," said longtime member Rose Hope. "Our group is about solving problems non-violently - and in particular on the national level - by diplomacy."

Silverton Rotary Club meets every Monday over the lunch hour, noon to 1 p.m., at Legacy Silverton Medical Center. On the last Monday of each month, members meet at Main St. Bistro & Coffee Shop.

and is also within throwing distance of the city's brand new Fallen Heroes Memorial, which commemorates Silverton-raised veterans who died in our nation's wars.

Silverton Mayor Kyle Palmer said he received one citizen inquiry about whether sitting a peace pole and war memorial so close together could cause conflict.

40-year-old polio vaccination outreach.

"We are an international community, and we strive for peace one person at a time," she said.

With the help of a corporate donor, the cost of the pole to Silverton Rotary was less than \$200.

The Peace Pole's location corresponds to the site of an ongoing vigil by Silverton People of Peace

NASA scientist to speak in Stayton

ANNETTE UTZ
SPECIAL TO THE STAYTON MAIL



Dr. Norman Chaffee

Housed inside the historic Gardner House Cafe and Bed and Breakfast on N. Third Ave. in Stayton is the Joseph Phillip Loftus Jr. Mobile Museum.

A micro space museum, it was established in 2015 and is stocked with original NASA artifacts collected by Gardner House owner James Luftus's father, Joseph, who had a 47-year career with NASA. Joseph envisioned the Mobile Museum Exhibition Platform, which provides a hands-on, user-friendly learning experience.

To further this vision, JPLMuseum.org is sponsoring a visit from NASA's Dr. Norman Chaffee Oct. 11-19 to provide a unique educational opportunity.

He will be speaking at the Stayton Public Li-

brary at 7 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 13, and at Regis High School at 8:45 a.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 18.

James is currently working with other schools in the Stayton and Silverton area to schedule more speaking engagements.

Chaffee began his career in 1962 as an aerospace engineer. He worked in senior engineering management at the NASA Manned Spacecraft Center/Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center until 1996. During that time, he was involved with the Mercury, Gemini, Apollo and Lunar/Mars programs. He also happened to work with, and become good friends with, Joseph Luftus.

Chaffee has over 20 awards and medals from

the Manned Spacecraft Center, the Johnson Space Center, the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics and NASA.

Even with all his experience and expertise, he stresses that his presentations are not chalkboards covered in equations.

"My talks are not a university classroom lecture," Chaffee said. "I am going to recount my career experiences, talk about the engineering challenges my era faced and how we solved them, and share stories about interesting things that happened to me along the way. I will demonstrate some principles, like Newton's Laws, using the Apollo 100 lb. thruster that I will bring with me, and will talk about the suite of pyrotechnics devices used on the Saturn V launch vehicle and will display a NASA Standard Pyrotechnic Initiator. If I

am able to borrow it, I will also bring an astronaut's EVA glove from the Apollo era to use when I talk about space robotics."

Chaffee's visit is part of the Rural Schools Education Initiative developed by James.

"We bring artifacts and expertise into schools to teach and excite students," he said.

"Right now, we are just in small Oregon schools but we hope to expand nationwide eventually. Our aim is to search out the next generation of engineers and grow new astronauts."

The JPL Museum is located in the Gardner House Cafe' at 633 N. Third Ave., Stayton.

Hours are 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. For more information, call 503-602-9128.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Review Body: Planning Commission
Hearing Date & Time: October 10, 2017. 7:00 p.m.
Hearing Location: Council Chambers, Silverton Community Center; 421 South Water Street.
Agenda Item #1: File Number PD-17-01. Planned Development Concept Plan application request to divide 608 North James Street into 56 lots. The site contains a total area of 9.51 acres and will be divided into 56 lots ranging in size from 4,002 square feet to 6,327 square feet, and contain 62,006 square feet of open space.. The application will be reviewed following the criteria found in Silverton Development Code (SDC) section 4.5.150.
Agenda Item #2: File Number CU-17-02. Conditional Use application to convert the existing single family dwelling into a duplex at 939 Western Avenue. The application will be reviewed following the criteria found in SDC section 4.4.400.
All interested persons and the general public will be given an opportunity to be heard relative to the application either by submitting material in writing to City Hall or providing oral testimony at the Public Hearing. Failure of an issue to be raised in a hearing, in person or by letter, or failure to provide enough detail to afford the decision maker an opportunity to respond precludes appeal to LUBA based on that issue. Additional information and/or review of this application, including all documents and evidence submitted, may be obtained at Silverton City Hall, 306 South Water Street, or by telephoning Jason Gottgetreu at (503) 874-2212. Copies of the staff report will be available seven (7) days prior to the public hearing and are available for review at no cost at City Hall, a copy can be provided on request at a reasonable cost.
Silverton Appeal September 27, 2017

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Rape

Continued from Page 1A

cutors failed to meet the required burden of proof, Marion County Judge David Leith acquitted Gerig of the three charges.

Board members said Gerig's conduct was derogatory to the standards of nursing. They also alleged he failed to maintain professional boundaries and acted outside his scope as a registered nurse.

His nursing license is now expired, according to the board's database.

Four months after he was acquitted, Gerig was arrested again on rape charges involving a different woman.

A probable cause statement filed in Marion County stated the following:

The victim was attending the same birthday party as Gerig. She told police she did not know Gerig, but he kept making advances toward her.

She told him she wasn't interested, had a boyfriend and wanted him to leave her alone.

She fell asleep on the couch and awoke to Gerig touching her. She pushed him away, and her friend told him to get off the couch.

She awoke later in the morning to Gerig pulling down her pants and having sex with her. She pushed Gerig away, scrambled off the couch, went outside and later contacted police.

Silverton investigators called a witness who gave

Gerig a ride home after the incident. The witness had asked Gerig if the victim had wanted to have sex.

Gerig said "not exactly," but said he knew she wanted it.

The victim told police she never gave Gerig permission to touch her.

He was taken to Marion County jail and held without bail.

Gerig's defense attorney requested that bail security be set. Prosecutor Katie Suver argued that Gerig was a danger to his victim and to the community.

In an opinion letter, Marion County Judge Lindsay Partridge wrote that the court believed Gerig posed a threat to the community if released.

"Certainly, Judge Leith's observations on the record in announcing defendant's acquittal referenced (Gerig's) willingness to prey upon a vulnerable woman and misrepresent his training and experience to satisfy his own desires," Partridge said.

Gerig's acquittal did not negate the manipulative way he obtained consent.

"Further troubling to this court, is that less than five months later (Gerig) put himself in a similar situation of taking advantage of another vulnerable woman to satisfy his sexual desires," Partridge said.

He denied the defense's motion to set bail security.

Following a two-day trial, Gerig was convicted of rape and sexual abuse. As part of his sentence, he

will be required to register as a sex offender.

For questions, comments and news tips, email reporter Whitney

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