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Bobbie the Wonder Dog to be featured in film

Scotch Collie from Silverton is said to have traveled up to 3,000 miles from Indiana to Oregon in 1924 to find family

CHRISTENA BROOKS
SPECIAL TO SALEM STATESMAN JOURNAL
USA TODAY NETWORK

Before the movies "Lassie Come Home," "The Incredible Journey," and "Milo and Otis," came the story of Bobbie, Silverton's own long-trekking wonder dog.

Bobbie, the Scotch Collie, said to have traveled up to 3,000 miles from Indiana to Oregon to find his master, appears to be getting his own modern movie at last.

The remarkable canine's sixth-month journey over plains, deserts and mountains made international news in 1924 and has been featured in newspapers, books and even a silent film.

Now Bobbie, and the people of small-town America that surrounded him, are the subject of a new full-length drama conceptualized by a Washington State native with strong ties to the film industry.

A trained actor and studio guitarist who works as a

financial advisor to moviemakers and musicians, Steve Lundquist is putting his talent and connections to work on a film of his own. Fifteen years after hearing Bobbie's story from a relative of the dog's owners, he's written a screenplay and pulled together financing to put Bobbie on the big screen as an independent film.

"This movie is not just about a dog's 3,000-mile journey," Lundquist said. "It's about relationships. I am trying to make a statement about being better neighbors and better friends at all community levels."

Lundquist was in Silverton last month, scoping out filming locations, meeting with local historians, and researching at the Silverton Country Historical Museum.

This winter, he plans to film many of the scenes from Bobbie's cross-country journey at the Sundance Institute campus in Utah, where he works part of the year.

Filming in Silverton – for which he's seeking extras

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Steve Lundquist, of Blue Spruce Productions, posing with the statue of Bobbie the Wonder Dog during his fact-finding trip to Silverton last month. SPECIAL TO THE STATESMAN JOURNAL

REMEMBERING RANDY TRAEGER

Mount Angel community mourns beloved Kennedy football coach

PETE MARTINI
SALEM STATESMAN JOURNAL
USA TODAY NETWORK

Randy Traeger never believed that coaching high school athletes was simply about X's and O's, or even that it was just about performance on the field.

For Traeger, a coach's role was more about developing student-athletes into young adults, and that meant focusing on not only the responsibilities in the classroom and on the field, but also making right choices in their daily lives and giving back to the community.

His largest impact was on his alma mater, Kennedy High School, and around the Mount Angel community.

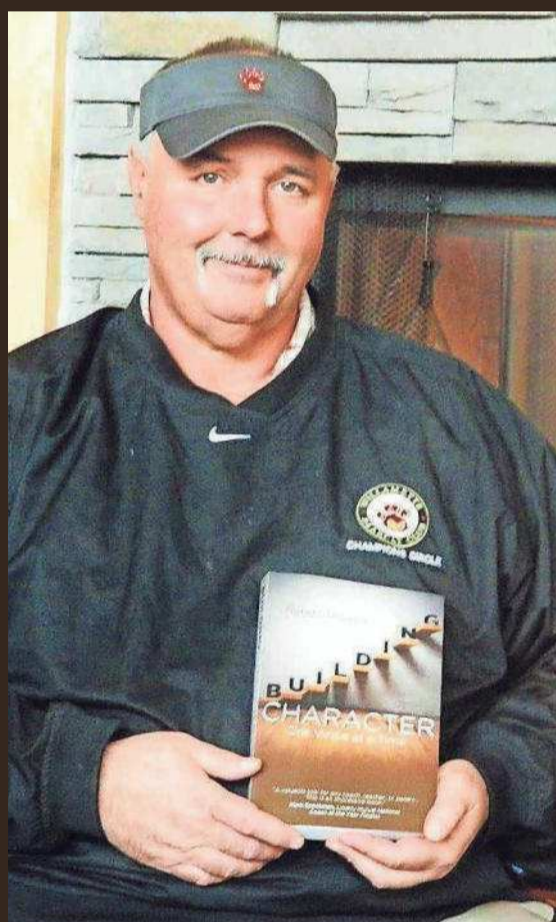
Traeger passed away early Oct. 30 at the age of 60 after a long battle with health issues, but his message will live on in the community he loved.

"He has had a massive impact on our school," said Kevin Moffatt, Kennedy's athletic director. "You don't get much better than him. He was a great football coach, but an even better human being. No matter the situation, you knew that Randy always cared and had the best interest of the kids in mind."

A funeral for Traeger was held at 10 a.m. Friday at St. Mary Catholic Church in Mount Angel.

During his long coaching career, Traeger developed the Virtue First Foundation, designed to set

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Randy Traeger wrote several books about virtue. COURTESY OF VINCE TERESI



Kennedy coach Randy Traeger shares a laugh with players during a football camp in 2011. PETE MARTINI / STATESMAN JOURNAL FILE

Dollar General growing in region

ANNETTEUTZ
SPECIAL TO THE STAYTON MAIL

For the past couple of years, Dollar General has been marching at a rapid pace through the Mid-Willamette Valley.

In 2015, the Tennessee-based company decided to move into untapped territory in Maine, Rhode Island and Oregon.

"Increasing Dollar General's footprint in these states gives us a presence and opens further growth opportunities in both the Northeast and Pacific Northwest, where we see tremendous growth potential for

Dollar General," said Rick Dreiling, the retailer's chairman and CEO, said in announcing the store openings at that time.

The surge began in southern Mid-Valley towns such as Sweet Home, Drain, Cresswell, Oakridge, Harrisburg and Philomath and moved north into Mill City on Sept. 16.

The Jefferson store is the most recent to hold its grand opening, which took place on Saturday, Oct. 28.

As is custom with the company's official store celebrations, free prizes and special deals were available.

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Teen, deputies involved in fatal shooting are identified

17-year-old carjacking suspect from Silverton shot near Grand Ronde

WHITNEY WOODWORTH
SALEM STATESMAN JOURNAL
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Polk County District Attorney's Office released the identities of the three deputies and teen carjacking suspect involved in the Oct. 28 fatal shooting near Grand Ronde.

Baltazar Escalona-Baez, 17, of Silverton, was shot and killed during a confrontation with Polk County Sheriff's Office deputies following a vehicle pursuit on Highway 18.



Baltazar Escalona-Baez

Polk County District Attorney Aaron Felton identified the three deputies involved as Sgt. Kevin Haynes, Deputy Kelly Lorence and Deputy Mike Stevenson.

According to the Oregon State Police, Polk County deputies were notified of an armed carjacking and robbery early Saturday morning. The carjacking suspect sped away from the parking lot of a Safeway grocery store located on Silverton Road NE and Lancaster Drive NE in a black 2015 Toyota Corolla.

Deputies were warned the suspect was reportedly armed.

They spotted the Corolla and attempted to pull the vehicle over. The pursuit ended on Highway 18 near Grand Ronde.

When the deputies attempted to take Escalona-Baez into custody, shots were fired. Escalona-Baez was pronounced dead at the scene.

Oregon State Police officials said investigators found a weapon at the shooting scene. Information about who fired shots during the confrontation and what kind of weapon was recovered was not released.

Escalona-Baez attended Silverton High School as a junior during the 2016-2017 school year, according to Andy Bellando, Silver Falls School District superintendent. He did not register as a student for the current school year.

Felton said Haynes joined the department 18 years ago and has 27 years law enforcement experience. Lorence became a sheriff's deputy about 18 months ago and Stevenson joined two years ago.

The three men from the Polk County Sheriff's Office were placed on paid administrative leave per state and sheriff's office protocol.

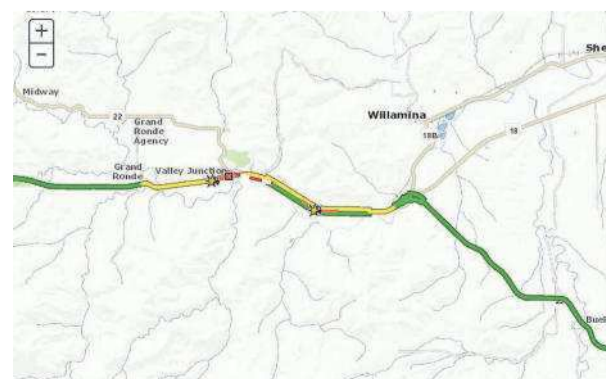
Felton said the investigation remains ongoing and a Polk County grand jury will review the case to determine whether the shooting was justified. No date has been set for the grand jury review.

The incident is the third officer-involved shooting involving the Polk County Sheriff's Office in the past 18 months. In October, a Marion County grand jury ruled Polk County Deputy Martin Watson was justified in firing his weapon during a traffic stop in Salem.

During that incident, Watson fired two shots after a vehicle pursuit through the city. No one was injured during the shooting. Two men were later arrested on firearms and attempted assault charges.

Joshua Bolster, 29, was shot and killed by Polk County Deputy Casey Gibson during a traffic stop along Highway 22 in July 2016. A five-inch folding knife was found at the scene. A Polk County grand jury unani-

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A map shows the part of Oregon Route 18 in the Grand Ronde area where the incident took place. TRIPCHECK