

# Appeal Tribune

50 CENTS • VOL. 137, No. 3

SILVERTONAPPEAL.COM

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2018

## 'I wasn't safe anymore in my own home'

### 'Grimm' crew supports coworker attacked by her dog

CHRISTINE PITAWANICH KGW

A Silverton woman, attacked by her own dog, was worried she was in store for the worst Christmas of her life.

But now Morgan Muta is taking the first steps toward recovery. She had a lot of support as she got ready for her first facial surgery on Jan. 2.

Muta worked as a makeup artist on the show 'Grimm' for a few years.

Once her 'Grimm' family found out what happened, they didn't waste any time to help. One of her former coworkers set up a GoFundMe page to help Muta pay for medical bills.

It all started about two weeks ago when Muta said her dog attacked her face while they were watching TV on the couch. She said there was no warning.

"It was extremely scary and there was a lot of blood, and I could tell that part of my face was missing," she recalled. "Even after getting my dog down off the couch, he still came back again."

It was a scary situation that Muta is still processing. "I think in that moment too, I understood that I wasn't safe anymore in my own home," said Muta.

Her dog Wally was a rescue. She said he may have been abused and was probably in some sort of dog fighting situation. Muta said Wally had been by her side for the last eight years and had never acted so extreme.

"I just think that as he entered his senior years, a lot of that hardwiring had probably come to show in him again," she said.

Now, a portion of her upper lip is gone.

"Basically the portion near the bow of my lip was completely splayed," Muta said.

Two days before Christmas, she put him down. It was a decision made even tougher because she lost her other dog in July.

"It's already been a very difficult six months for me," she said.

When her 'Grimm' coworkers heard about everything that had happened, they took action making the GoFundMe page. Donations began pouring in.



Morgan Muta was bitten by her dog before Christmas.

CHRISTINE PITAWANICH/KGW

"As I continued to see the donations pouring in, I just sobbed," said Muta.

She has insurance but with the start of a new year,

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## How the Mid-Valley fared during 2017



The Eagle Creek wildfire as seen from Stevenson, Washington, burns in the Columbia River Gorge above Cascade Locks. It began in September. ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Last year was dramatic, from massive fires to an awe-inspiring eclipse

ABBY LUSCHEI SALEM STATESMAN JOURNAL  
USA TODAY NETWORK

### The solar eclipse

More than one million spectators were estimated to have traveled to Oregon to witness the 62-mile-wide path of darkness caused by the Solar Eclipse on Aug. 21. The eclipse touched land along the Oregon Coast first, raced across the state in 11 minutes and then streaked across the U.S.

Local and Federal agencies planned for the event for more than a year. With good reason. There was a lot to consider in regards to the eclipse such as traffic, fires and accidents that could potentially occur with that many people heading to the state.

In reality, many of those fears never came to pass. According to public land managers, there was less trash and damage than anticipated. Aside from some traffic congestion, it was relatively calm.



The nation turned their eyes to the sky to catch a glimpse of the full solar eclipse Aug. 21. RICHARD LUI/USA TODAY NETWORK

### Distracted driving bill

As of Oct. 1, it became illegal to drive with your phone in your hand in Oregon under the new distracted driving law. This includes texting, navigation, social media and any other "hands-on" applications. The fine for violation went up \$500 to \$2,000.

The new law was a response to the number of automobile crash fatalities in Oregon, which reached almost 500 in 2016. Oregon State Police and the Marion County Sheriff's Office saw a significant increase in violations in the first month of the new law.

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## Silverton Grange preps for MLK Day



**CREEKSIDE CHAT**  
JUSTIN MUCH

Elevating community participation while observing Martin Luther King, Jr., Day can be a tasty experience.

That's one aspect of a planned Silverton event that **Rob Sisk** imparted at Live Local Marketplace and Café when

he and **Rose Hope** stopped in for a Creekside Chat on Wednesday, Jan. 3.

The 15th Annual Silverton Dr. Martin Luther King,

Jr. Observance is scheduled for 6 p.m. Monday, Jan. 15, at the Silverton Grange, 201 Division St., located about a 1.5 miles south of downtown off Water Street.

Hosted by the grange in conjunction with Silverton People for Peace, this year's theme is "Building Community in a Time of Divisiveness," and the hosts stress that all are invited to attend. The event begins with a social and a southern-style potluck featuring some of King's favorite dishes.

Sisk said about the only apprehension he's had in

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## Monitoring Silverton's water flows

JUSTIN MUCH SALEM STATESMAN JOURNAL  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Between Silver Creek, Silverton Reservoir and Silver Falls State Park, the impact water has on the physical character of Silverton is readily apparent.

What is less apparent is infrastructure that ensures water flows effectively to maintain livability and provide for growth in the city.

During a recent Town Hall hosted by city of Silverton and its city council, attendees received a clear overview of how the water flows beneath the surface of city streets, and what projects are on tap to make sure that flow continues smoothly.

"Obviously, water and wastewater (infrastructure) are two of our biggest needs; we have to have the water and we have to get rid of the water," said Silverton Public Works Director Christian Saxe.

City Councilor Dana Smith broached the topic as it tied into a frequently discussed theme around Silverton, including at the Town Hall: growth. The councilor conveyed that city representatives recently toured the water-treatment plant and have sights set on keeping the infrastructure apace with the need.

During that tour Saxe unveiled a "package plant" that could potentially replace the city's 60-year-old "Plant 1," which is nearing the end of its serviceability -- and is not serviceable at all during the winter.

"Plant 2," is a newer facility and can handle Silverton's peak draw of 3.2 million gallons of water a day. It provides all the city's water during the inclement weather months.

"We have two (water plants) right now; Plant No. 1 is 60 years old and is too old to be effective during winter months," Smith said. "Thank goodness that is not when we usually need the most water."

"This new plant that we're trying out will help us figure out a way to buy a similar one, if not that one," Smith added, stressing that once the city installs a new plant, it will "get us back to being ahead of the curve on water"

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Water is a key element in Silverton's character, and a key focus of the city's infrastructure developments.

JUSTIN MUCH/SILVERTON APPEAL TRIBUNE

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