Man sentenced for stealing \$60k from nonprofit

Whitney Woodworth Salem Statesman Journal USA TODAY NETWORK

A Mt. Angel man was sentenced Jan. 9 to two years probation for stealing more than \$60,000 from an area nonprofit.

James Byron Hall Jr., 64, was arrested on two counts of first-degree aggravated theft and two counts of first-degree theft in August.

He was convicted of two felony counts of first-degree aggravated theft and sentenced by Marion County Judge Lindsay Partridge.

Hall, a longtime community fixture, was accused of stealing from the Mt. Angel Community Foundation. The local nonprofit raises funds for the public library, scholarships for graduating seniors and Mount Angel's famous glockenspiel.

According to a Woodburn Independent article, Hall

served as the nonprofit's treasurer since its creation in 1995. He was awarded the Mount Angel Chamber of Commerce First Citizen Award in 2014 for his community volunteer work.

The Oregon Board of Accountancy website lists Hall as a certified public accountant licensed since 1984. No disciplinary actions are listed in his file, and his license

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Smoking

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Once you start regulating that out, you do change the dynamic," she said. "It's going to be great for the bars that are further out (of downtown) and not regulated by that."

Silverton resident Harry Douglas said he felt the ordinance, or the way it arose, would be out of sync with Silverton's small-town character. He said any issues with smoking could be handled without requiring legislation or bans.

'We all know each other here," Douglas said, advising that the council seek a more "small-town friendly" approach.

Councilor Jim Sears recommended that his peers look at the process "before we all jump on this train."

Sears stressed options that won't be explored if the council approved the ordinance.

"Why don't we go out in the downtown area and have more of a dialogue about...options that we can solve," Sears said. "What we want is the outcome, which is to curb the amount of smoking on the sidewalks downtown. (See) if we can make that happen without spending the money (on signs and law enforcement)."

Materials and installation for required signs notifying of the no smoking zone cost \$382 each, and the ban would require anywhere from 36 to 82 signs, depending on which zone boundary the council applied. Sears also urged the council to question "why we

are doing this?' "It looks like we are trying to have a zero tolerance on smoke; don't want to see any or smell any," he said. "I guess I just want to discuss to see if the council would be open to an option of working with the downtown businesses, because they're the ones who are going to be directly impacted.

"I think that, perhaps there are creative ways to get where we want to be, where we don't' have to go out and spend the money, worry about the enforcement. I think there is a lot we can do if we go down that path, rather than pass the ordinance tonight."

Mayor Kyle Palmer and councilors Dana Smith and Rhett Martin also expressed reservations about the ordinance — signs, expenses, impacts to businesses aligning with Sears' suggestion of working to find a less heavy-handed solution.

Palmer emphasized that finding solutions outside of government intervention is always a preferred path.

Martin acknowledged the issues, such as cigarette butt litter, but also acknowledged that since those issues have emerged and the council has been presented with a ban proposal, strides have been made voluntarily by downtown businesses to rectify those issues. He also alluded to the cost of the ban.

"If there is already an effort in motion, something that we can work on collectively and not spend a mini-

What's next

What: Next scheduled Silverton City Council meeting

When: 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 5

Where: Silverton City Council Chambers, 421 S. Water St.

Phone: 503-874-2216

Web: www.silverton.or.us

mum of \$13,752 to do that, that's what I am more in favor of.'

Councilors Matt Plummer and Laurie Carter favored giving the ordinance a first reading, both voicing their arguments primarily on the grounds of general health. But theirs were the only council votes in favor the ordinance, and it failed.

One option expressed by some councilors was to refer the issue back to the city's Environmental Management Committee to engage with downtown businesses in working out solutions.

The ban on smoking in the parks passed unanimously with minimal discussion.

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Fires

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vast number of resources, in some cases from mid-July through September and even October."

The number of acres burned in 2017 wasn't a record, or even particularly close. In 2012, more than 1.2 million acres were blackened, but most of it was in southeast Oregon grassland.

The major fires of 2017, however, burned primarily in forestland often close to homes and infrastructure, driving up cost, officials said.

Two of Oregon's largest fires, Chetco Bar and Eagle Creek, were declared the nation's top priority during late August and September. Both fires were managed by fire crews that reached 1,500 people and required deployment of the Oregon National Guard.

"At one point, we had more than 10,300 firefighting resources assigned in the Pacific Northwest," Baker said. "Many of the regional air tanker bases also had record-breaking seasons."

The reason for the heavy wildfire season was multifaceted, said Kari Cobb, spokeswoman for the National Interagency Fire Center.

The previous winter brought above-average precipitation and snowpack, which led to the growth of extra fuels, she said. But those fuels quickly dried out with above-average and often scorching temperatures in early summer, "which becomes really combustible," Cobb said.

Add two major lightning storms to the mix, as occurred statewide in June and July, and you had a recipe for trouble. Cobb said.

"There was a lot of fuel, and it dried out quicker than it normally would," she said. "That's often going to lead to a bad wildfire season."

Cost of fire suppression in Oregon

2017: \$454 million 2016: \$53 million 2015: \$218 million 2014: \$269 million 2013: \$183 million 2012: \$102 million 2011: N/A 2010: \$50 million Source: Northwest Interagency Coordination Center

Acres burned in Oregon

2017: 664,824 acres 2016: 219,509 2015: 685,809 2014: 984,629 2013: 350,786 2012: 1,256,049 2011: 285,712 2010: 93,731 2009:100,668 2008:136,572 2007: 648,046 2006: 545,870 2005: 155,331 2004: 30,018 2003: 160,191 2002: 1,010,952 Source: National Interagency Fire Center

Zach Urness has been an outdoors writer, photographer and videographer in Oregon for 10 years. He is the author of the book "Hiking Southern Oregon" and can be reached at zurness@StatesmanJournal.com or (503) 399-6801. Find him on Twitter at @ZachsORoutdoors.

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Edward **Jone**s

MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

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He worked for Hartman Chevrolet and L.K. Ferguson Construction Company, two local companies whose owners served as volunteer firefighters. And as a teen, he'd learned to run heavy equipment, a skill that translated nicely into fire service.

As a young man, Klaus became a certified electrician and landed a fulltime day job as maintenance supervisor at Agripac, Inc., in Woodburn.

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His know-how and industry connections were invaluable to Silverton Fire in the days when equipment was old, breakdowns commonplace, and money tight, Miles said.

For example, at a farmer's pond near the Victor Point Station, Klaus helped upgrade the drafting pipe - a permanent connection for water fill-ups – by employing a Salem foundry to cast a custom fitting and

Appeal Tribune

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Agripac to make it fit the newly installed pipe, Miles said.

"We had a lot of old equipment, and there were always parts needing built from scratch, he added. "Bob was like a walking Yellow Pages; he knew who to take stuff to when it broke."

Later Klaus assumed the task of outfitting the district with a commercial-grade kitchen from which to serve the annual Mother's Day Breakfast. He seemed to enjoy combing the Internet for buys and traveling to pick them up. The purveyor of

district, he was a teacher, an adviser and the voice of reason. He is going to be sorely missed."

Chief Bill Miles,

regarding longtime volunteer firefighter Bob Klaus

the perfect pancake, he cooked too.

"There wasn't a person who could make a perfect pancake, Miles said, chuckling.

At 70, Klaus was honored at for 50 years of fire service, and he just kept coming, ready to serve. An invaluable part of the district's interview panels, he had a knack for seeing what recruits and potential hires were made of.

He was always good for a story, a tidbit of history or a political discussion. At association meetings, the agenda included a standing invitation for "Bob to share something for the good of the order," at which time he'd "pull a newspaper clipping out of his pocket or start telling a funny story," Miles said.

In death, he's survived by his wife of 17 years, Kay Klaus; daughters, Verlene Stadeli of Silverton and Janet Coleman of Woodland, Wash.; grandchildren, Zachary and Morgan Stadeli of Silverton; and brothers, Don of Corvallis and Jim of Claremore, Okla.