

Course

Continued from Page 1A

Gen qualifier, its first major tournament since reopening.

The group of volunteers that includes Moore, property manager David Jackson, Ira Burgess and Matthew Coll have spent thousands of hours over the past two years to restore the course.

It took a year of work to get the course to the point where it was suitable to reopen to the public.

The disc golf course still needs work, and the project's scope has grown to improving the facility, but the impact is visible in the dozen players playing the course on a sunny Monday afternoon in March.

"People stepped up, and one year later, I am personally just amazed at what people have done," said Janet Johanson, board chairwoman of Camp Taloali.

"The community is back. They're here because they enjoy being here at Camp Taloali, that magic feeling that

you feel when you come up here."

The camp for deaf and hard-of-hearing children east of Stayton opened in 1973 on a 110-acre parcel of heavily wooded land on the banks of the Santiam River.

The Oregon Deaf Disc Golf Association built the course on the western part of the land starting in 2008.

The course opened to the public in 2010.

A few years later, the Oregon Deaf Disc Golf Association left the course and the decline started.

Fewer players came to the course, and the whole place turned into a hazard.

The worst came when someone dumped a recliner on a fairway.

"And this is a summer camp, so our first priority is the children's program," Johanson said. "The rest we depend on volunteers to help with."

The volunteers have essentially come up with a three-year plan to refurbish and improve the existing course.

The group received donations: bark chips from Freres Building Supply and stone from Knife River Corporation,

among many.

New tee boxes already have been added, and more are planned as funds allow. The goal is to make the course longer and more challenging so it will be suitable for bigger tournaments.

"We put in a lot of work to make it the most well-groomed course in the valley," Jackson said. "Our plan in the next couple years is to have this the best course with the best features in the valley."

The restoration has helped the disc golf course become one of the few in the area that remains playable year-round.

Players come to the course when it's snowing or it's 100 degrees. The grass is always green in the lush forest, and the greens remain surprisingly stable when wet.

"Even when it is raining we have what I would call the best conditions out of any of the courses around," Coll said.

A portion of the \$5 day fee to play the course goes to maintain it, and a portion raises money for the Camp Taloali.

The course is open to the public from dawn to dusk seven days a week, except when Camp Taloali is in session from



Steve Moore kneels on the raised tee box on hole No. 16 at the course.
BILL POEHLER/STATESMAN JOURNAL

the middle of June through August.

More tournaments along the line of the Next Gen qualifier are planned for the future to raise money but also to improve the visibility of the course among the disc-golf community.

"This is a little hidden gem," Moore said.

bpoebler@StatesmanJournal.com or [Twitter.com/bpoebler](https://twitter.com/bpoebler)

Grief

Continued from Page 1A

"There are a lot of hurting people who need someone to walk alongside them," said Julie Young, one of Silverton's new Stephen ministers and a former law enforcement professional. "I don't have all the answers, but I can listen and care."

Currently, Stephen Ministries is in 12,000 congregations from 170 different denominations in the U.S., Canada and 29 other countries. According to the organization's website, 1.5 million people have received service in a formal one-on-one "caring relationship."

"Christ caring for people through people," is the organization's slogan. Ministers like Yount are taught to see

themselves as "caregivers, not cure-givers ... Christ is the cure-giver," she said.

In fact, the bulk of the seven local caregivers' training has focused on effective listening – and learning what not to say, more than anything. They are not psychologists or pastors, but they can serve someone who's hurting in a more informal capacity, they said.

"When someone suffers grief, nobody knows what to say, but they all have to say something," caregiver Donna Merriman said. "We've been learning the listening skills to draw out someone's feelings. That's hard for people like us – who are problem-solvers – but we're learning how important it is to just let people talk and get their feelings expressed."

"Our job is to listen, to point to the real caregiver – which is Christ – and to

try to bring a focus on spiritual healing," added Jim Sinn.

When asked at a recent training session if they've suffered grief themselves, all seven caregivers in the room nodded, and a few shed tears.

"Part of the reason we're doing this is because of the things we've been through," Mark Merriman said.

Each Silverton caregiver signed up for two years of service and committed to meeting twice a month with leaders in the church to get support and guidance. They also promised to keep their care-receivers' information confidential.

A cadre of volunteers trained in listening and confidentiality is a resource Pastor Tom Smith is excited to have available. After 33 years of ministry, he and his wife, Sherie, have served people

in crisis more times than they can count, so this kind of "after care" is valuable, he said.

"Many times ministry staff goes from crisis to crisis," Smith said. "So often, the long-term care that could be six months or longer is simply not possible for a ministry staff to do."

First Baptist's new Stephen Ministries caregivers are Chris Barrett, Donna Merriman, Mark Merriman, Spring Quick, Kathy Ross, Jim Sinn and Julie Yount.

Their leaders, who received 200 hours of instruction in order to teach, are Pastor Tom Smith, Sherie Smith, Harold "H" Nelson, and Lyla Irvine.

To learn more, contact the church at 503-873-6181 or read more about the organization at www.stephenministries.org.

Cougars

Continued from Page 1A

animal. Hunting cougars is still allowed, but it's more restricted and there's a

closely monitored bag limit.

In 1994, Oregon voters outlawed hunting cougars with dogs.

"Their numbers have continued to grow at a steady clip," Dennehy said. Around one cougar has been euthanized in the Silverton area each year since

2015.

Residents should call the Silverton Police Department Dispatch Center at (503) 982-2340 or Oregon State Police at (503) 731-3030 if they see a cougar in town.

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.

Appeal Tribune

Address: P.O. Box 13009, Salem, OR 97309
Phone: 503-873-8385
Fax: 503-399-6706
Email: sanews@salem.gannett.com
Web site: www.SilvertonAppeal.com

Staff

President
Ryan Kedzierski
503-399-6648
rkedzierski@gannett.com

Advertising
Terri McArthur
503-399-6630
tmcarthur@salem.gannett.com

Deadlines

News: 4 p.m. Thursday
Letters: 4 p.m. Thursday
Obituaries: 11 a.m. Friday
Display Advertising: 4 p.m. Wednesday
Legals: 3 p.m. Wednesday
Classifieds: 4 p.m. Friday

News Tips

The Appeal Tribune encourages suggestions for local stories. Email the newsroom, submit letters to the editor and send announcements to sanews@salem.gannett.com or call 503-399-6773.

To Place an Ad

Classifieds: call 503-399-6789
Retail: call 503-399-6728
Legal: call 503-399-6791

Missed Delivery?

Call: 800-452-2511
Hours: until 7 p.m. Wednesdays; until 3 p.m. other weekdays

To Subscribe

Circulation Manager
Art Hyson
ahyson@salem.gannett.com
503-399-6846

To subscribe

Call: 800-452-2511
\$21 per year for home delivery
\$22 per year for motor delivery
\$30.10 per year mail delivery in Oregon
\$38.13 per year mail delivery outside Oregon

Main Statesman Journal publication

Suggested monthly rates:
Monday-Sunday: \$22, \$20 with EZ Pay
Monday-Saturday: \$17.50, \$16 with EZ Pay
Wednesday-Sunday: \$18, \$16 with EZ Pay
Monday-Friday: \$17.50, \$16 with EZ Pay
Sunday and Wednesday: \$14, \$12 with EZ Pay
Sunday only: \$14, \$12 with EZ Pay

To report delivery problems or subscribe, call 800-452-2511

Published every Wednesday by the Statesman Journal, P.O. Box 13009, Salem, OR 97309.

USPS 469-860, Postmaster: Send address changes to Appeal Tribune, P.O. Box 13009, Salem, OR 97309. PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID: Salem, OR and additional offices.

Send letters to the editor and news releases to sanews@salem.gannett.com.

12 MONTH SPECIAL OFFER

Subscribe for about

99¢ PER WEEK!*

BILLED MONTHLY

LOCK IN THIS SPECIAL RATE!

VISIT StatesmanJournal.com/PPC
CALL 1-800-452-2511

statesman journal
PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

*Offer expires 3/31/2018. Certain restrictions apply. For complete details, Call or visit website. Price per week is based on a full access subscription including Sunday and Wednesday print delivery at \$4.30 per month for the first 12 months.

"Your friendly local dentist"



ENTER FOR OUR MONTHLY KINDLE DRAWING AT EACH APPOINTMENT

New Patients & Emergencies Welcome!



Cosmetic Implant Bridges/Partials
Extractions Crowns/Fillings Root Canals



Michael Kim, DDS

410 OAK ST, SILVERTON, OR, 97381

503-873-3530

KIMSILVERTONORDENTIST.COM

WE ACCEPT MOST INSURANCE