

# Prison

Continued from Page 2B

report, Disability Rights Oregon and the Oregon Department of Corrections signed a memorandum of understanding in 2016. In the memorandum, prison officials promised to increase staffing, access to psychiatric care and out-of-cell time.

Within four years, inmates inside the behavioral health unit were expected to receive an average of 10 hours of structured time and 10 hours of unstructured time outside their cells every week. Time out of their cells could include meals, phone calls, playing games, receiving mental health treatment and taking classes.

Now at the midpoint of that four-year goal, Disability Rights Oregon Executive Director Bob Joondeph said he's troubled by the lack of progress toward reducing the number of hours spent in solitary confinement.

During the final quarter of 2017, behavioral health inmates spent an average of almost 23 hours a day in confinement. In that same time period, almost three of every four inmates spent less than an hour out of cell per day.

"We're very concerned that we're not going to reach our goal," Joondeph said. "We haven't really moved the needle."

With the hiring of four additional qualified mental health providers — bringing the total assigned to the unit in 2017 up to nine — and a new space for therapeutic activities, Joondeph is hoping to see some progress.

However, it seems unlikely prison officials will reach their goal of protecting inmates with serious mental health conditions from the cruel and unusual punishment of solitary confinement, he added.

"People shouldn't be subjected to things that are akin to torture," Joondeph said.

In a letter, Oregon Department of Corrections Director Colette Peters said the department has worked digitally at laying

the foundation to meet the goals and has made "substantial strides" reaching them.

She outlined successes such as increasing treatment space with the addition of a new \$2.1 million building for group and individual therapy in June 2018.

Peters also said because of nice weather and additional outdoor recreational opportunities, the department exceeded its 10-hour goal unstructured time goal for two weeks this past fall.

In January 2016, the unstructured out-of-cell time for inmates averages 1.53 hours a week. The time had increased to 6.1 hours by March 2018, she said.

Peters cited the success of the BHU Bucks Program, a system to reward positive behavior.

Using funding from the legislature, the department will be able to recruit for or fill positions for 15 additional security staff, five mental health professionals, four support staff and one correctional counselor by May.

"Although we have not reached our goals yet, we knew at the beginning that there would be substantial known and unknown hurdles to overcome," Peters said.

"We believe all of our efforts are the foundation to meet the MOU commitments by the end of 2019."

Joondeph said excuses of bad weather and inmates unwilling to leave their cells are unacceptable.



A previous investigation found that prisoners were housed for months at a time, even years, in cells 6-feet-wide and 10-feet-deep with only a thin mattress on a concrete platform and a stainless steel plumbing unit. PHOTO COURTESY OF DISABILITY RIGHTS OREGON

"If we are going to have an effective prison system, we can't blame the rain," he said.

And if prisoners are reluctant to leave their cells, Joondeph added, officials need to analyze the reasons why. Are they afraid for their safety? Do they need therapeutic interventions? Do they have any incentive to come out?

Positive progress has been made since 2016, the report pointed out.

The department of corrections has reduced the number of incidents involving the use of force by staff and self-mutilation by inmates. Increased training and collaboration between secu-

developmental disabilities by Dec. 31, 2019.

Isolation exacerbates mental health symptoms and can result in lasting harm, according to the report. It makes the behavioral health unit a more dangerous place to work, and it does nothing to prepare inmates to return to society.

Reducing confinement and increasing the availability of treatment will

make prisons and communities safer, Joondeph said.

"That's something we should all be behind," he said.

For questions, comments and news tips, email reporter Whitney Woodworth at [wmwoodworth@statesmanjournal.com](mailto:wmwoodworth@statesmanjournal.com), call 503-399-6884 or follow on Twitter @wmwoodworth

developmental disabilities by Dec. 31, 2019.

Isolation exacerbates mental health symptoms and can result in lasting harm, according to the report. It makes the behavioral health unit a more dangerous place to work, and it does nothing to prepare inmates to return to society.

Reducing confinement and increasing the availability of treatment will

**Harcourts NW Oregon Realty Group**

Want to make an offer before auction day?  
Submit an "Auction Stopper!"

#AUCTIONSWORK

**SOLD! before the gavel hit!**

**Gorgeous Country Estate!**

→ Non-Distressed Auction Date Set  
→ Multiple Offers Received → Accepted Offer  
→ Auction CANCELLED!

Call 503-873-8600 or visit [www.harcourtsauctions.us](http://www.harcourtsauctions.us)  
to learn more about Non-Distressed Auctions!

119 N. Water St. Silverton, OR 97381 • [www.nworg.com](http://www.nworg.com)

**CROWN MEMORIAL CENTERS CREMATION & BURIAL**  
*A New Tradition™*

**LOW COST CREMATION & BURIAL**

**Simple Cremation \$595**  
**NO Hidden Costs**

<b>SALEM</b> 412 Lancaster Drive NE (503) 581-6265	<b>TUALATIN</b> 8970 SW Tualatin Sherwood Rd (503) 885-7800
<b>PORTLAND</b> 832 NE Broadway (503) 783-3393	<b>TIGARD</b> 12995 SW Pacific Hwy (503) 783-6869
<b>EASTSIDE</b> 1433 SE 122nd Ave (503) 783-6865	<b>MILWAUKIE</b> 17064 SE McLoughlin Blvd (503) 653-7076

Privately owned cremation facility.  
A Family Owned Oregon Business.

[www.ANewTradition.com](http://www.ANewTradition.com)

# CLASSIFIEDS

Appeal Tribune  
silvertonappeal.com

The Stayton  
**Mail**

Place an ad online 24/7 at [StatesmanJournal.com](http://StatesmanJournal.com)  
or call 503-399-6789 • 1-800-556-3975

Find a new job or career

**JOBS**

**the job network**  
JOBS.STATESMANJOURNAL.COM

Discover your new home

**HOMES & RENTALS**

**Homes**  
STATESMANJOURNAL.COM/HOMES

Turn here for your next vehicle

**AUTO**

**cars.com**

Auctions, pets, services & stuff

**STUFF**

[StatesmanJournal.com/classifieds](http://StatesmanJournal.com/classifieds)  
in print Wednesday through Sunday

## TRUST THE HOMETOWN EXPERTS AT SILVERTON REALTY

<p><b>SILVERTON REALTY</b> SERVING THE EAST VALLEY SINCE 1975</p>		<p><b>Kristen Barnes</b> Broker 503.873.3545 ext. 326</p>	<p><b>Marcia Branstetter</b> Broker, GRI 873-3545 ext. 318</p>	<p><b>Micha Christman</b> Office Manager 503-873-1425</p>	<p><b>Becky Craig</b> Broker 873-3545 ext. 313</p>	<p><b>Karen Gehrt</b> Broker 873.3545 ext 312</p>
<p><b>Michael Schmidt</b> Principal Broker, GRI 873-3545 ext. 314</p>	<p><b>Ryan Wertz</b> Broker 873-3545 ext. 322</p>	<p><b>Meredith Wertz</b> Broker, GRI 873-3545 ext. 324</p>	<p><b>Chuck White</b> Broker 873-3545 ext. 325</p>	<p><b>Christina Williamson</b> Broker 873-3545 ext. 315</p>	<p><b>Mason Branstetter</b> Principal Broker, GRI 873-3545 ext. 303</p>	
<p><b>#A2458</b> GREAT CHARACTER 3 BR, 2.5 BA 1838 SQFT. CALL BECKY AT EXT. 313 OR MARCIA AT EXT. 318 \$284,500 (WVMLS#729975)</p>	<p><b>#A2467</b> BEAUTIFUL 1950'S HOME 3 BR, 2 BA 2986 SQFT. CALL BECKY AT EXT. 313 \$315,000 (WVMLS#731323)</p>	<p><b>#A2440</b> LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION HIGHLY MOTIVATED! 4 BR, 1.5 BA, 2247 SQFT CALL MASON AT EXT. 303 \$344,000 (WVMLS#725845/729057)</p>	<p><b>#A2466</b> ENERGY EFFICIENT GEODESIC HOME 4 BR, 3 BA 3112 SQFT CALL KIRSTEN AT EXT. 326 OR CHUCK AT EXT. 325 \$449,900 (WVMLS#730954)</p>	<p><b>#A2457</b> HWY 213 FRONTAGE .30 ACRES CALL MEREDITH AT EXT. 324, RYAN AT EXT. 322 \$99,900 (WVMLS#729177)</p>	<p><b>#A2341</b> 2 HOMES ON 2 ACRES 3 BR, 2 BA 1367 SQFT, 2.630 ACRES CALL CHUCK AT EXT. 325 \$549,900 (WVMLS#709561)</p>	

Brokers licensed in Oregon

[WWW.SILVERTONREALTY.COM](http://WWW.SILVERTONREALTY.COM) | 303 OAK STREET | SILVERTON

Call us today! 503.873.3545 | 1-800-863-3545

**FOR RENT**  
Call Micha at 503-873-1425 or see them on our website.