

Appeal Tribune

WEDNESDAY, MAY 23, 2018 ■ SILVERTONAPPEAL.COM

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Cameron leads votes in Marion County

Battle for positions on Board of Commissioners begins to heat up

Pete Martini Salem Statesman Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

Kevin Cameron appeared to be winning his primary May 15 for Position 1 of the Marion County Board of Commissioners, setting up a battle in November against Shelaswau Crier.

Cameron, the Republican incumbent, led challenger Mark Pease by a wide margin in early returns; Crier ran unopposed in the Democratic primary.

Cameron was appointed to the board of commissioners in June 2014, and then elected in November of that year. Before becoming a county commissioner, Cameron was a member of the Oregon House of Representatives from 2005 to 2014, where he rose to House Republican Leader.

Crier is a Yale graduate and former Willamette University law professor who says she is "walking as many neighborhoods in Marion County as humanly possible, including the small towns and the farms, including the places where people speak Russian or Spanish as a first language" to hear concerns from a diverse population.

One of Crier's main focuses is on tackling mental health issues in Marion County, something that is personal for her — she lost her son to suicide three years ago.

"Although talking about it brings me enormous pain, I cannot be silent," Crier told the Statesman Journal in April. "If my work can save someone else's son or

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Kevin Cameron

Shelaswau Crier

Colm Willis

Bill Burgess



Brad Nanke



Sadie Carney



Matt Plummer

Mom warns others after baby's death



Blaize Wheeldon, 7-months-old, died from bacterial meningitis on May 11, 2017.

PHOTOS SPECIAL TO THE STATESMAN JOURNAL

Salem resident urges parents to trust instincts after son passes from bacterial meningitis

Whitney Woodworth Salem Statesman Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

Summer Poff knew something was wrong with her 7-month-old son, Blaize, early May 11.

He was fussy, feverish and wouldn't go to sleep. The Salem mom tried to soothe her baby and gave him Tylenol, but at 3 a.m., she knew she needed to take him to the hospital.

She said staff at Legacy Silverton Medical Center also treated Blaize with Tylenol. They sent him home after a few hours, despite her concerns.

At the time, she didn't "think they should've sent him home," she said.

Over the next few hours, Blaize's fever and fussiness persisted. Something wasn't right. Poff rushed him back to the hospital, and he was flown to OHSU Doernbecher Children's Hospital in Portland.

His condition quickly deteriorated.

Blaize's heart stopped. He was resuscitated and put into an induced coma. Doctors considered surgery.

"They tried everything they possibly could," Poff said.

Before the end of the day, her son had died from bacterial meningitis, a contagious, sometimes deadly, infection.

Poff spent her first Mother's Day in shock, planning the cremation and memorial for her once smiling, happy first-born.

"No mother should feel the way I feel right now," she said.

Brian Terrett, spokesman for Legacy Health, which operates the Silverton hospital, said he could not comment specifically about Blaize.

"First, and most importantly, our heartfelt sympathies go out to the family because the death of a child is always tragic," Terrett said.



"No mother should feel the way I feel right now," Summer Poff said after losing her son to bacterial meningitis. An average of 4,100 cases of bacterial meningitis resulting in 500 deaths are reported every year, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

He added that federal and state patient privacy laws, along with hospital policies, prevented him from commenting on a specific care and treatment.

"Given the complexity of this case, it would also be speculative to talk about any potential course of treatment," Terrett said.

Poff said she is sharing her story because she wants parents to trust their instincts and make sure their children get medical treatment immediately, especially when they have a fever.

Babies at increased risk

An average of 4,100 cases of bacterial meningitis resulting in 500 deaths are reported every year, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Pre-

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Callahan has uphill battle against Schrader

Bill Poehler Salem Statesman Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

Republican candidates have been lining up for the chance to take on Kurt Schrader in a general election for a decade and all have failed.



Mark Callahan

Mark Callahan is the latest to have a go at the five-term incumbent Democrat. Callahan has name recognition with voters and has proven he can run a campaign without a large amount of money.

If he shows promise in the early polls for the race for the fifth district U.S. Representative, Callahan could find himself with enough money to make it a race.



Kurt Schrader

"They've got to see some strong evidence he can win," said Jim Moore, assistant professor at Pacific University and Director of Tom McCall Center for Policy Innovation.

Compared with Schrader's significant campaign war chest, Callahan has pennies.

In the David vs. Goliath metaphor, Callahan is the distinct David and he has a big fight ahead of him.

"I am Christian and I have read that story in the Bible and I'm proud of it. I go out there and I put on my armor of God every day," Callahan said.

Callahan has never held a public office and his only previous election win was the Republican primary for U.S. Senate in 2016.

"I don't know that much about him, other than he's run several times before, most recently against Senator Wyden," Schrader said. "His name familiarity is significant."

"My job in the next six months is going to be to reintroduce folks with Kurt Schrader."

Callahan will have a big hurdle in the general election in money.

His campaign had \$7,840 on hand as of April 25; Schrader had \$2.1 million.

Callahan points out that despite a modest budget in his 2016 race against Wyden, he got 651,000 votes.

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Marion County judge candidates headed to runoff

Jonathan Bach Salem Statesman Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

Two candidates to fill the post of suspended Marion County Judge Vance Day are headed for a runoff election in November.

Daniel Wren, a judge pro tem at the Marion County Circuit Court, and Anthony "The Bear" Behrens, senior policy adviser and legislative liaison for the state of Oregon, secured the most votes of three contenders, but not enough to tip the May 15 election completely in either's favor.

"To win, you have to win by 50 percent plus one vote," said Deb Royal, chief of staff for Secretary of State Dennis Richardson.

Wren led in the unofficial tally Thursday, earning about 43 percent of the vote, while Behrens trailed with about 36 percent.

A third candidate, Jon Weiner, a Salem Municipal Court judge pro tem, won't be included in the runoff, which is limited to the top two vote earners. Weiner received about 21 percent of the vote.

Judge Day's seat is open after he was charged with two felonies and underwent a judicial misconduct in-

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Vol. 137, No. 22

Serving the Silverton Area Since 1880
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